



The University of Akron
School of Nursing
Nursing Transforms

DNP Student Handbook 2021-2022

The University of Akron
College of Health and Human
Sciences
School of Nursing

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Introduction

This student handbook is designed for graduate students enrolled in The University of Akron, College of Health Professions School of Nursing, Doctor of Nursing Practice Program (DNP). The DNP program provides practiced-based doctoral education for advanced practice nurses.

Doctor of Nursing Practice Overview

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program at The University of Akron offers doctoral preparation to nurses whose career emphasis is on furthering their direct clinical advanced nursing practice skills (Clinical Nurse Specialist, Nurse Practitioner, Nurse Anesthetist, and Nurse Midwife) or whose practice is in areas that directly support clinical practice such as nursing administration and/or healthcare policy/program development. The DNP program at The University of Akron is a post-masters model and candidates therefore must be credentialed to be considered for acceptance.

The program is offered in a hybrid format. This means that there is a blend of intensive face-to-face, distance and/or asynchronous learning modalities that are determined based on the course/content/semester. The student can complete the program in two years of full time (two courses per semester) study. Part time options are also available.

The University of Akron has a long tradition of being home to one of Ohio's top ranked programs of nursing. One of the particular strengths of our DNP program is that unlike other DNP programs, the courses at The University of Akron are taught by a complimentary blend of DNP and PhD prepared faculty, thus offering the student exposure to the best of both clinical/professional and academic/research scholarship.

SCHOOL OF NURSING MISSION STATEMENT

The school offers diverse and comprehensive nursing education programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The programs of study, based on professional standards, prepare individuals to provide nursing care in a variety of settings. The School of Nursing supports nursing research that contributes to the health and well-being of society. The School is committed to serving culturally, racially, and ethnically diverse populations. Through academic and community collaboration, the school promotes excellence in nursing education, research, practice, and service.

GOALS

1. Prepare generalist and advanced practice nurses who are eligible for initial licensure and for certification.

2. Provide a foundation for lifelong commitment to professional development and scholarship through continuing education and advanced study at the master's and doctoral levels.
3. Prepare nurses who are sensitive in caring for diverse populations in a variety of settings.
4. Prepare professional practitioners who integrate leadership roles and ethical standards in a continuously changing health care arena and society.

DNP MISSION STATEMENT

To prepare doctoral level nursing leaders who will advance and transform nursing through evidence-based practice, leading to improved patient outcomes.

DNP PROGRAM OUTCOMES

- Use appropriate theories and concepts to identify health-related phenomena of interest
- Design and deliver interventions that can withstand scientific analysis
- Evaluate health care delivery and nursing practices using sound evaluation principles
- Use evaluation and other methods to account for quality of care and patient safety for focus populations
- Critically appraise and/or use sources informing best evidence, i.e. epidemiology, statistics, health data, and/or methodologies
- Deliver and evaluate care processes and outcomes based on best evidence
- Analyze and define critical choices among health care technologies and information systems toward the betterment of care processes and outcomes
- Understand the dynamics of health care policy and financing at the organizational and national levels
- Provide or assist in the leadership of collaborative, inter-professional teams in health care delivery

Plan of Study, Post-MSN Full-Time Option – 2 years

Semester/Yr	Course 1	Course 2	Delivery
Fall Yr 1	<p><u>Advanced Leadership in Healthcare (3 cr hr)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership competencies • Strategic Vision • Organizational effectiveness • Ethics • Interprofessional collaboration • Case studies • Individualized action plans 	<p><u>Synthesis and Application of Evidence for Advanced Practice Nursing (3 cr hr)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of clinical problems • Evidence-based solutions • Identification of healthcare outcomes • Identification of concepts and models • Critically appraise and synthesize evidence based resources • Evaluation of guidelines • Development of research questions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short intensives at start and mid-semester • Online activities and lectures to supplement intensive content
Spring Yr 1	<p><u>Clinical Nurse Scholar I (3 cr hr)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theoretical Frameworks • Literature Review techniques • Development of background and significance for DNP project • Development of literature review for DNP project 	<p><u>Advanced Healthcare Statistics (3 cr hr)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examination of underlying assumptions and statistical tests • Critically evaluate data analysis • Application of data analysis to answer research questions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short intensives at start and mid-semester • Online activities and lectures to supplement intensive content

Semester/Yr	Course 1	Course 2	Delivery
Summer Yr 1 (10 weeks)	<u><i>Fiscal Management in Healthcare (3 cr hr)</i></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop role as nurse leader • Understand business acumen and financials of healthcare 	<u><i>Fundamentals of Public Health Epidemiology (3 cr hr)</i></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examination of epidemiologic principles and application to advanced nursing • Interpretation of epidemiologic study results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short intensives at start and mid-semester • Online activities and lectures to supplement intensive content
Fall Yr 2	<u><i>Clinical Nurse Scholar II (4 cr hr)</i></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and implementation of interventions • Financial resources • Proposal development and presentation 	<u><i>Information Management in Health Care (3 cr hr)</i></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examination and application of information management systems in advanced practice nursing and research, e.g., SPSS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short intensives at start and mid-semester • Online activities and lectures to supplement intensive content
Spring Yr 2	<u><i>DNP Project I (3 cr hr)</i></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refinement of DNP project • Implementation of DNP project • Manuscript for publication 	<u><i>Program Evaluation in Nursing (3 cr hr)</i></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application of theories of evidence • Predict impact of change • Development of program plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short intensives at start and mid-semester • Online activities and lectures to supplement intensive content • Project Development/Refinement/Implementation

Semester/Yr	Course 1	Course 2	Delivery
Summer Yr 2	<u>DNP Project II (3)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuation of DNP Project 1 	<u>Clinical Scholar Residency 270 clinical hours (3 cr hr)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of DNP Project DNP Project Presentation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Completion and Presentation

Note: 37 Total program hours are required to graduate. Students must be enrolled each semester until the DNP Project is complete.

DNP Post-MSN Part Time Option-4years

Semester/YR	Part Time Option
Fall/ YR 01	Advanced Leadership in Healthcare (3 cr hr)
Spring/YR 01	Advanced Healthcare Statistics (3 cr hr)
Summer/ YR 01	Fundamentals of Public Health Epidemiology (3 cr hr)
Fall/ YR 02	Synthesis & Application of Evidence for Adv. Practice Nursing (3 cr hr)
Spring/ YR 02	Program Evaluation in Nursing (3 cr hr)
	No Summer Classes
Fall/ YR 03	Information Management in Health Care (3 cr hr)
Spring/ YR 03	Clinical Nurse Scholar I (3 cr hr)
Summer/ YR 03	Fiscal Management in Healthcare (3 cr hr)
Fall/ YR 04	Clinical Nurse Scholar II (4 cr hr)
Spring/ YR 04	DNP Project I (3 cr hr)
Summer/ YR 04	Clinical Scholar Residency 270 clinical hours (3 cr hr)
Summer/ YR 04	DNP Project II (3 cr hr)

Note: 37 Total program hours are required to graduate.

DNP Post-MSN Part Time Option – 3 YR

Semester/YR	Part Time Option
Fall/ YR 01	Synthesis & Application of Evidence for Adv. Practice Nursing (3 cr hr)
	Advanced Leadership in Healthcare (3 cr hr)
Spring/YR 01	Advanced Healthcare Statistics (3 cr hr)
	Clinical Nurse Scholar I (3 cr hr)
Summer/ YR 01	Fundamentals of Public Health Epidemiology (3 cr hr)
Fall/ YR 02	Clinical Nurse Scholar II (4 cr hr)
Spring/ YR 02	Program Evaluation in Nursing (3 cr hr)
Summer/ YR 02	Fiscal Management in Healthcare (3 cr hr)
Fall/ YR 03	Information Management in Health Care (3 cr hr)
Spring/ YR 03	DNP Project I (3 cr hr)
Summer/ YR 03	DNP Project II (3 cr hr)
Summer/ YR 03	Clinical Scholar Residency 270 clinical hours (3 cr hr)

Note: 37 Total program hours are required to graduate.

Core Courses

Doctor of Nursing Practice Program

8200:715 Fundamentals of Public Health Epidemiology. This course introduces principles, methods, and application of epidemiology. The course covers the history of epidemiology, concepts of disease causation and prevention, measures of disease frequency and excessive risk, epidemiologic study designs, causal inference, outbreak investigation and screening. Provides experience with calculation of rate standardization, measures of disease frequency, association and impact, and sensitivity and specificity of screening tests. The course highlights the applications of epidemiology to the understanding of disease etiology, transmission, pathogenesis, and prevention, evaluation and public policy development.

8200:710 Advanced Healthcare Statistics. This course focuses on an in depth examination of descriptive statistics, correlation, regression, multiple regression sets, scaling, nonlinear transformation, missing data, and interactive effects; including manipulation of data, integrating understanding of inference and probability.

8200:713 Advanced Leadership in Healthcare. This course focuses on advanced competencies of doctoral-prepared advanced practice nurses for transformational interprofessional leadership in healthcare to improve patient and population health outcomes. The five key leadership competencies including creating and leading change; self-knowledge; strategic vision; interpersonal communication; and organizational effectiveness are presented with examples and case studies.

8200:848 Program Evaluation in Nursing. This course analyzes theories and models of program evaluation and their relationships to designs, processes, techniques, and outcomes in nursing- related evaluations.

8200:714 Synthesis and Application of Evidence for Advanced Practice Nursing. This course focuses on concepts, models and methods for implementation of evidence-based nursing practice at both individual clinician and system levels. Competencies for the identification, analysis, synthesis and application of evidence relevant to nursing and health care practice are developed. Factors that facilitate and impede implementing and sustaining evidence-based practice are considered. Students learn skills for identification of clinical problems in advanced practice nursing and promoting adoption and implementation of evidence-based solutions to promote patient health outcomes.

8200:700 Information Management in Healthcare. This course focuses on nursing informatics to support clinical decision making in advanced nursing practice.

8200:712 Fiscal Management in Healthcare. This course examines the role and the required skills for the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) graduate as a nurse leader in the understanding of the business acumen and the financials of health care.

8200:705 Clinical Nurse Scholar I. This is the first of two seminar courses accompanied by clinical practice with expert preceptors. Focus is on transitioning to the clinical scholar leader role within an identified area of advanced nursing practice. Emphasis is placed on the epistemology underlying advanced nursing practice and the integration of theoretical frameworks and evidence-based practice principles in achieving optimal health outcomes for individuals and groups. This course is comprised of 2 didactic content hours per week and a clinical practicum of 7 hours per week.

8200:706 Clinical Nurse Scholar II. This is the second of two seminar courses that focuses on translating and integrating theory and scientific evidence into the clinical work of the advanced practice nurse. Culturally-aware approaches are developed to resolve a healthcare issue using theoretic models and principles of evidence-based practice to design innovative interventions. This course is comprised of 2 didactic content hours per week and a clinical practicum of 14 hours per week.

8200:708 and 709 DNP Project I and II. Faculty and preceptor directed project that contributes to nursing practice knowledge. The course culminates in an oral presentation and a publishable manuscript. DNP Project students must register for a total of 6 hours, 2 to 6 hours in a single semester, distributed over three semesters if desired.

Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) grading; In Progress (IP) grade permissible. Continuous registration is required until all degree requirements are met.

8200:707 Clinical Scholar Residency. This course is the synthesis of components of clinical scholar leader role that comprises this practicum. Students apply advanced leadership and clinical scholarship skills to developing and evaluating approaches to healthcare problems in a practicum setting.

DNP Project Committee Roles

The student, advisor, faculty co-advisor, and preceptor serve in various roles during the student DNP experience, which facilitates progression and attainment of the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree. For example:

DNP Academic/Project Advisor: At the start of the DNP program, each student will be assigned an advisor. The DNP Academic/Project Advisor may be a DNP/PhD prepared faculty member or administrator of the School of Nursing who holds graduate faculty status. All DNP advisors will be familiar with the DNP program and will have clinical/scholarly expertise. The DNP Academic/Project Advisor will provide academic advisement throughout the program. It is the right of a student to change advisors. Should a student wish to change an advisor, the student should contact the DNP Coordinator.

DNP Project Faculty Advisor: The DNP Faculty Advisor works closely with the student to support and assist with the development and revisions of the DNP Project.

Faculty Co-Advisor: The DNP Project faculty co-advisor is another DNP/PhD prepared faculty member who holds graduate faculty status. The faculty co-advisor provides clinical/scholarly expertise and provides comments/revisions for the DNP Project. The co-advisor works in collaboration with the advisor to provide feedback to the student.

Preceptor: The preceptor should hold a doctoral degree such as a DNP, PhD, MD, PharmD, etc. The preceptor can be from a variety of healthcare disciplines. The preceptor will serve in a consulting role and may be helpful in navigating the clinical setting. For example, a preceptor may facilitate advanced practice experiences and provide entry to various interprofessional team experiences in which they may or may not participate on themselves. Clinical preceptors may have varied skill sets, educational credentials, and expertise. Students cannot be precepted by a spouse or family member.

Course designated clinical experiences are facilitated by the preceptor and may include but not be limited to:

- Providing curricular, professional, or programmatic guidance
- Serving as a resource person and/or role model
- Enhancing the learning experiences of the DNP student
- Providing access to a setting or population of patients
- Providing leadership opportunities within the system
- Facilitating interprofessional team leadership experiences

Clinical hours are logged by the student. Clinical hours may include hours on the DNP Project proposal including development, clinical contact hours, and hours based on participation in leadership activities and committees. The faculty or DNP Coordinator may be contacted to clarify what constitutes clinical hours.

The following table outlines responsibilities of the student, advisor, co-advisor, and preceptor in selected courses of the DNP curriculum.

Course	Student Responsibilities	Advisor & Co-Advisor Responsibilities	Preceptor Responsibilities	Course Faculty Responsibilities
Synthesis and Application of Evidence for Advanced Practice Nursing	<p>Contact Advisor</p> <p>Share drafts of PICOT question with advisor</p> <p>Identify a list of potential preceptors</p>	<p>Provide feedback on PICOT question</p> <p>Facilitate the student progression plan, considering programmatic and professional development needs</p>	None	<p>Guide and critique the PICOT question</p> <p>Encourage student contact with the advisor</p> <p>Facilitate learning activities to achieve course objectives</p> <p>Facilitate the student transition to the next course</p>
Clinical Nurse Scholar I	<p>Develop goals and objectives for working with preceptor</p> <p>Choose preceptor and communicate goals and objectives</p> <p>Obtain preceptor vita/resume, contact information, and validate licensure. Provide documentation to faculty</p> <p>Develop preliminary background and</p>	<p>Maintain student contact during proposal development</p> <p>Serve as a resource to the student as they develop goals and objectives to share with the preceptor</p> <p>Review student's developing proposal and provide guidance related to content, the feasibility of the study and possible collaborations and resources</p>	<p>Provide agency orientation for the student, e.g., agency policies and procedures and other requirements</p> <p>Meet regularly with student to review goals and objectives and provide feedback</p> <p>Enhance the learning experiences of the student</p> <p>Provide entry to leadership opportunities and facilitate interprofessional opportunities at</p>	<p>Collect preceptor vitas, contact information, and validation of licensure; file in student record</p> <p>Review and approve goals and objectives for working with preceptor</p> <p>Identify if an affiliation agreement is needed and provide mechanism to obtain</p> <p>Contact preceptor as necessary</p>

	<p>significance</p> <p>Review the literature related to a healthcare issue or situation</p> <p>Collaborate with advisor during proposal development</p> <p>Maintain detailed clinical activities log according to course requirements</p> <p>Submit log to course faculty at end of course</p> <p>*Minimum of 90 clinical hours</p>		<p>the systems level</p> <p>May review student's developing proposal and provide guidance related to content, the feasibility of the study and possible collaborations and resources</p>	<p>File log of clinical hours in student records</p> <p>Send thank you letter to preceptors</p>
Clinical Nurse Scholar II	<p>Choose a second committee member (co-advisor) from the SON in addition to preceptor or external expert</p> <p>Develop/refine methods section of proposal</p> <p>Obtain IRB approval</p> <p>Send proposal to DNP project committee two weeks prior to proposal presentation</p> <p>PowerPoint presentation to defend proposal</p>	<p>Facilitate formation of a DNP Project Committee</p> <p>Read and provide feedback to the student regarding the proposal and/or assigned project for the course</p>	<p>Enhance the learning experiences of the advanced practice nursing student</p> <p>If a member of the DNP Project Committee, participate in proposal presentation</p>	<p>Collect preceptor vitas, contact information, and validation of licensure; file in student record</p> <p>Review and approve goals and objectives for working with preceptor</p> <p>Identify if an affiliation agreement is needed and provide mechanism to obtain</p> <p>Contact preceptor as</p>

	<p>to DNP Project Committee</p> <p>Submit log to course faculty at end of course</p> <p>*Minimum of 180 clinical hours</p>			<p>necessary</p> <p>File log of clinical hours in student records</p> <p>Send thank you letter to preceptors</p>
DNP Project I and II	<p>Submit log to course faculty at end of course of hours completed toward the 270 residency hours</p> <p>Complete DNP Project</p> <p>Schedule DNP Project Presentation</p> <p>Provide copy of DNP Project paper to committee members 2 weeks prior to DNP Project Presentation</p> <p>Develop PowerPoint to present DNP Project</p>	<p>Facilitate project implementation and final manuscript development</p>	<p>Facilitate project implementation</p> <p>Serve as a resource person and/or role model</p> <p>Provide access to a setting or population of patients</p> <p>If member of the DNP Project Committee, participate in DNP Project Presentation</p>	<p>Collect preceptor vitas, contact information, and validation of licensure; file in student record</p> <p>Review and approve goals and objectives for working with preceptor</p> <p>Identify if an affiliation agreement is needed and provide mechanism to obtain</p> <p>Contact preceptor as necessary</p> <p>File log of clinical hours in student records</p> <p>Send thank you letter to preceptors</p>

<p>Clinical Scholar Residency</p>	<p>Refine and implement DNP Project</p> <p>Submit final publishable manuscript to project committee</p> <p>Submit hours log to course faculty</p> <p>*Minimum of 270 clinical hours during DNP Project 1 & 2 and the Clinical Residency</p>	<p>Continue facilitation of DNP Project and final manuscript development</p> <p>Work closely with student and provide ongoing feedback</p>	<p>Provide guidance</p> <p>Serve as a resource person and/or role model</p>	<p>Collect preceptor vitas, contact information, and validation of licensure; file in student record</p> <p>Review and approve goals and objectives for working with preceptor</p> <p>Identify if an affiliation agreement is needed and provide mechanism to obtain</p> <p>Contact preceptor as necessary</p> <p>Validate that students have acquired a minimum of 1000 post-baccalaureate hours</p> <p>File log of clinical hours in student records</p> <p>Send thank you letter to preceptors</p>
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*All students must be able to validate 1040 post-baccalaureate hours upon completion of the program.

DNP Project Timeline

During the fall semester of the second year of full time study, the student will meet with her/his Project Advisor and form the DNP Project Committee. Once the committee is formed the student will download the DNP Project Committee Designation and Approvals Form, found on the DNP website, to be completed by the DNP Project Committee. Once completed, the student will file the form in the office of the Graduate Student Services Counselor. This timeline will be modified for part-time students.

After the DNP Project Committee is confirmed, the student will work closely with the DNP Project Advisor to develop and revise the DNP Project Proposal. Once the DNP Project Proposal is approved by the DNP Advisor, the student must send a clean copy of the DNP Project Proposal to the DNP Project Committee **3 weeks prior to the DNP Project Presentation** date. The student will work with the DNP Project Committee to determine a DNP Project Proposal Presentation date during the fall semester of the second year to be attended by the DNP Project Committee. The preceptor may attend the meeting via video conferencing. If the preceptor needs to cancel on the selected date of the DNP Project Proposal Presentation, the DNP Project Proposal Presentation will need to be rescheduled. The DNP Project Proposal Presentation is a 20-minute PowerPoint slide presentation of the student's DNP Project. Following the DNP Project Proposal Presentation, the DNP Project Committee will ask questions to determine the student's knowledge of the research process and readiness to move forward with the DNP Project. Often, revisions to the DNP Project Proposal are required before moving forward in the program. The DNP Project Committee will deliberate and return a decision to approve or disapprove the DNP Project. If approved, the DNP Project Committee Designation and Approvals Form will be signed by the DNP Project Committee. The student will file the form in the office of the Graduate Student Services Counselor.

If a student receives a vote of disapproval, the student will work with the DNP Project Advisor to address the concerns of the DNP Project Committee. Then the DNP Project Committee will meet for a second DNP Project Proposal Presentation. A second failure will result in student dismissal from the DNP Program.

Once the DNP Project Committee approves the DNP Project Proposal, the student will work with the DNP Project advisor/preceptor to apply for Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval, which must be obtained prior to the student initiating the DNP Project. IRB information can be found at <http://www.uakron.edu/research/ora/irb>. All students must complete CITI Training for the ethical conduct of research.

If a student is conducting the DNP Project at a healthcare institution, it may be necessary to seek IRB approval at both the healthcare institution and The University of Akron. The student has the responsibility to contact The University of Akron IRB to determine if reciprocity of approval is available. Once IRB approval is obtained, it is the

student's responsibility to ensure the IRB approval number is added to the DNP Project Committee Designation and Approvals Form and is on file in the office of the Graduate Student Services Counselor.

DNP Project Guidelines

The DNP Project documents the student's educational experiences, provides a measure for evaluating the achievement of the DNP Essentials and DNP program outcomes, and showcases the student's growth in knowledge and expertise as a future DNP scholar. The DNP Project results in 5 chapters as indicated below, and a publishable manuscript. The DNP Project should serve as a foundation for future scholarly practice as a DNP within the clinical setting.

The completed DNP Project will be written in APA format, typically 20 to 30 double-spaced pages in length excluding references, tables, and figures. The elements of the completed DNP Project are as follow:

Title Page

Abstract – 250 words

Chapter One: Nature of the Project

1. Introduction
2. Purpose and PICOT Question
3. Significance to Nursing and Healthcare

Chapter Two: Review of Literature

1. Theoretical Framework
2. Review of Current Research

Chapter Three: Methods

3. PICOT Question and Project Design
4. Sample and Setting
5. Procedures
6. Instruments
7. Data Analysis

Chapter Four: Findings

1. Results

Chapter Five:

1. Discussion
2. Limitations
3. Implications for Nursing Practice
4. Conclusions

At the completion of the DNP Project, the student will work closely with the DNP Advisor to develop and revise the 5 chapters of the completed DNP Project. Once approved by the DNP Advisor, the student must send a clean copy of the completed DNP Project to the DNP Project Committee 3 weeks prior to the Final DNP Project Presentation date. The student will work with the DNP Project Committee to

determine a DNP Project Presentation date. Please check the Graduate School website to determine the date all paperwork needs to be submitted in order to graduate in August/December. The preceptor may attend the Final DNP Project Presentation via video conferencing. If the preceptor needs to cancel on the selected date of the DNP Project Presentation, the DNP Project Presentation will need to be rescheduled. The Final DNP Project Presentation will occur via a 20-minute PowerPoint slide presentation followed by questions and discussion. After the Final DNP Project Presentation, the DNP Project Committee will deliberate and return a decision to approve or disapprove the Final DNP Project Presentation. If approved, the DNP Project Committee Designation and Approvals Form will be signed and the student will file the form in the office of the Graduate Student Services Counselor.

It is imperative to acknowledge the contributions of faculty who contributed to your project and manuscript by including them as co-authors on a manuscript you submit for publication.

Rules, Policies, and Procedures

The DNP requires 540 post-master's practice hours. DNP students enter the program with 500 or more hours from their master's program, or they need to complete extra clinical hours in the DNP program to meet these entry criteria. To be accepted, the hours must have been part of a supervised academic program (e.g., degree or certificate). Students must request written verification of the number of hours completed within their master's program. If a student has achieved 1040 post-baccalaureate hours in the master's program, a minimum of 270 hours must still be completed in the DNP residency. In addition, students must complete hours in Clinical Nurse Scholar 1 and Clinical Nurse Scholar 2. Plans will be individualized based on reported hours, and to meet *The Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Nursing Practice* (2006), available at <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/publications/position/DNPEssentials.pdf>

Achievement of the DNP Essentials may occur in the context of direct patient care but may also occur in other settings. It is possible for some practice hours to be met through the DNP Project while others are achieved elsewhere (e.g., work on a policy issue, leadership roles in professional organizations, etc.).

The primary reference for rules, policies and procedures concerning graduate education at The University of Akron is the Graduate Bulletin published by the Graduate School. You may access the Graduate School Bulletin at <http://www.uakron.edu/gradsch/docs/Gradbulletin.pdf>. It is expected that all graduate students become familiar with the policies and rules contained in this document.

Mandatory Onsite Attendance

Mandatory attendance is required for the weekend immersion classes twice a semester. Failure to attend a weekend may result in the student being withdrawn from the course. When possible, one class will be offered on Saturday and the second class will be offered on Sunday. If scheduling occurs using this pattern, part time students will meet one day of the weekend. If a student misses more than one weekend once the program has begun, the student may be withdrawn from the DNP program.

Computer Requirements

The DNP program is taught using synchronous, face to face meetings two weekends a semester and asynchronously during the semester via online discussions, posted assignments, and learning activities. All students must have a personal computer with sufficient memory, speed and software capabilities to participate in online activities. Helpful information on computer requirements and Technology Services can be found at <http://www.uakron.edu/it/>. The student may also contact the UA Computer Help Desk @ 330.972.6888 during hours of operation.

Withdrawing From a Course

Students who withdraw from a course must officially complete the process as described by UA policy found in the Graduate Bulletin. Failure to withdraw from a course will result in a grade of "F".

Entering the Program and Request for Program Leave

Once a student is accepted into the DNP program, if the student chooses not to enter in the semester and year accepted a new application is required for consideration in a subsequent year.

DNP students are admitted annually in August. Courses are offered fall, spring and summer. Full time students take two courses per semester and part time students take one course per semester. If a student steps out for personal, professional or academic reasons, the student must notify the DNP Coordinator in writing. When the student is ready to re-enroll, a written request must be submitted to the DNP Coordinator to join the next cohort. If the student plans to use previously earned credits, those must fall within the ten-year time limit for obtaining a doctorate. The 10-year timeline always begins with the first course the student takes that applies to the program. Should a student request a leave, the student will still need to enroll in at least one credit for each fall and/or spring semester of their leave per the Graduate School's continuous enrollment requirement.

Continuous Enrollment Requirement

The Graduate School requires that a doctoral student register for a minimum of one graduate credit as approved by her/his adviser during each fall and spring semester.

Residency Requirement

A DNP student may meet the residency requirements of the School of Nursing by full-time or part-time study. The residency requirements may be met through completion of DNP Project I and II and the Residency course as an immersion experience. In this residency the student works closely with a preceptor in the clinical area along with her/his DNP Project Advisor and DNP Project Committee. 270 or more clinical hours must be obtained toward the 1040 post baccalaureate hours required for a DNP at The University of Akron. In order to meet the residency requirements, the student must meet regularly with her/his DNP Project Advisor to review progress.

Before a DNP student begins residency, the student's DNP Project Advisor and the student shall prepare a statement indicating the manner in which the residency requirement will be met. Any special conditions must be detailed and will require the approval of the student's DNP Project Committee, the School Director, and the Dean of the Graduate School.

Grading Scale

School of Nursing Grading Scale: Grades will be based on a 100% scale. The grades will be carried out 2 decimal places. Rounding will be done on the final grade only, not on individual grades.

A = 94-100%	B- = 80-83%	D+ = 67-69%
A- = 90-93%	C+ = 77-79%	D = 64-66%
B+ = 87-89%	C = 74-76%	D- = 60-63%
B = 84-86%	C- = 70-73%	F = <60%

Grade Requirements

The minimum passing grade for each course is a "B". Students earning a grade less than a "B" will be required to repeat the course the next time it is offered. A student will not be permitted to enroll in the next course until the course is repeated. A course can be repeated only one time in the DNP program. A second course grade below the grade of "B" will result in dismissal from the DNP Program.

If a student thinks she/he cannot complete the course requirements prior to the end of semester, she/he should immediately notify the course faculty. Assigning a grade of incomplete is at the discretion of the course faculty. All coursework must be completed and an earned grade of "B" must be assigned prior to enrolling in the next course. Failure to complete the course by the beginning of the next semester will result in a grade of "F".

Grievance Procedure for Graduate Students

Graduate students should follow the grievance procedure outlined in The University of Akron Graduate Bulletin.

Plagiarism and Academic Integrity

The faculty members of the School of Nursing strongly support the University position on academic dishonesty and plagiarism. Should the faculty member discover plagiarism, a variety of actions may be taken. One action may be to contact the student to hear their side of the story. The consequence may be to redo the assignment, receive a lower grade, receive an F for the course, or in some cases be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards. Should the student disagree with a faculty member's decision, the appeals process should be followed as written in this DNP Handbook.

Student Code of Conduct: Please be aware of the Code of Student Conduct and the requirement of academic honesty; the availability of accommodations for students with disabilities; and the add, drop, withdrawal, and tuition refund policies:

http://www.uakron.edu/provost/faculty_staff/what-students-need-to-know.dot

Library Resources:

Nursing Databases http://libguides.uakron.edu/nursing_databases
LibGuides (for other ideas) <http://libguides.uakron.edu>

Clinical Agency Requirements

All DNP students are responsible for compliance with the rules and regulations of the healthcare agencies. Should the School of Nursing be required to submit an attestation form to the clinical agency, the student must provide all documentation to the School of Nursing Records Coordinator.

Accreditation

The baccalaureate degree in nursing/master's degree program in nursing/Doctor of Nursing Practice program/ and post-graduate APRN certificate program at The University of Akron is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (<http://www.ccneaccreditation.org>).