Consortium of Nursing Schools at
California State University,
Fullerton, Long Beach, and Los Angeles

Doctor of Nursing Practice Program

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ’s)

1. **What is the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program?**
   Assembly Bill 867 (AB867) authorized the CSU to offer the post-master’s Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) as a pilot program at three locations statewide. The consortium of CSU Fullerton, CSU Long Beach, and CSU Los Angeles is one location. The other locations are San Diego State University and San Jose State University in collaboration with CSU Fresno.

2. **Why is the DNP needed?** There are several factors that have created the need for advanced nursing education at the doctoral level. The changing demands of this nation's complex healthcare environment require the highest level of scientific knowledge and practice expertise to assure quality patient outcomes. The DNP is a practice-oriented doctorate, such as the Doctor of Pharmacy, Doctor of Medicine (MD), Doctor of Optometry, or Doctor of Physical Therapy, in contrast to the research-oriented PhD. The purposes of the DNP are to develop advanced competencies for increasingly complex practice, teaching, and leadership roles in nursing and to provide an advanced educational credential for those in practice.

3. **When will the DNP be required for practice?**
   The American Association of Colleges of Nursing has set the standard that the DNP will be the entry into practice for advanced practice nursing as of 2015.

4. **What are the unique features of the CSUF/CSULB/CSULA DNP program?**
   Differences between the private institutions and the proposed degree program offered by the consortium of nursing schools at CSUF/CSULB/CSULA include the following:
   - Inclusion of curriculum for preparation for faculty role, including courses in curriculum development and teaching methods, as well as an elective opportunity for practice teaching;
   - A broader selection of advanced practice practicum courses, building on the existing strengths of the member schools; and
   - A three-semester integrative clinical scholarship series, embedded in clinical practice as required by the accrediting body CCNE, to complete the scholarly project of the clinical doctorate.
5. **When will the program be available for application?**
   The target date for initiation of the program in the CSU system is Fall, 2012.
   Applications will be accepted during the 2011-2012 academic year for students interested in Fall, 2012 admission.

6. **What will be the required courses for the DNP? How many units are required?**
   The program will total 36 units of required coursework and one elective of 3 units.

   **Year 1 Fall**
   - NURS 600 Biostatistics for Advanced Practice Nurses (3 units)
   - NURS 605 Advanced Evidence-Based Practice in Nursing (3 units)
   - NURS 610 Leadership, Management and Economics in Advanced Practice (3 units)

   **Year 1 Spring**
   - NURS 615 Epidemiology and Clinical Prevention (3 units)
   - NURS 620 Informatics in Healthcare (3 units)
   - NURS 630 Healthcare Politics, Ethics and Advocacy for Nurses (3 units)

   **Year 2 Summer**
   - NURS 640 DNP Clinical Practicum: Professional Role Development (3 units)
   - NURS 697A Integrative Clinical Scholarship I: Evidence-based Practice (3 units)

   **Year 2 Fall**
   - NURS 697B Integrative Clinical Scholarship II: Evidence-based Practice (3 units)
   - NURS 512 Instructional Design in Nursing Education (3 units)

   **Year 2 Spring**
   - NURS 697C Integrative Clinical Scholarship III: Evidence-based Practice (3 units)
   - NURS 510 Development and Evaluation of Nursing Curricula (3 units)
   - NURS 516 Nurse Educator Practicum (*Elective – 3 units*)

7. **How can I get an application?**
   Applications will be available in Fall 2011 – please check the website [http://nursing.fullerton.edu](http://nursing.fullerton.edu) for information updates.

8. **What are the admission requirements/prerequisites for the program?**
   Prospective students must have a Master’s Degree and national certification as an APRN for doctoral preparation as a clinician OR a Master’s Degree in Nursing with a specialization in nursing management/leadership/administration, nursing education, or community health nursing for doctoral preparation as a nurse leader or educator.
   Prospective students must hold a current, unrestricted, California RN license.
Students must have completed graduate level nursing courses in Advanced Health Assessment, Advanced Pathophysiology and Advanced Pharmacology. A course in inferential statistics or research must have been completed within the past 5 years. If the master’s degree is in a field other than nursing, additional pre-requisites may include courses in Nursing Theory, Nursing Research, and Vulnerable Populations or Transcultural Nursing.

9. **What campuses will offer the DNP program?**
   The CSU Chancellor has designated CSU Fullerton as the lead campus for Los Angeles and surrounding area. CSU Fullerton is collaborating with CSU Long Beach and CSU Los Angeles to offer the regional program. Together the three universities form the consortium. Students admitted to the DNP Consortium program will be linked with one of the specialty tracks of the individual campus selected by the student.

10. **Will there be a distance education/online option?**
    There may be a limited number of online courses available throughout the program, but the program overall is not offered as a distance education option at this time.

11. **How long is the program?**
    The program will be 2 years in length. The DNP is a post-master’s degree program of 5 semesters, including summer. Thirty-six units of coursework is required.

12. **Will clinical practice be required?**
    Clinical practice will be a requirement and will vary based on the amount of clinical hours documented as eligible through the master’s degree. The DNP requires a total of 1,000 clinical hours upon graduation. Documentation of prior practicum hours in an advanced practice program will be reviewed for acceptance towards clinical hour requirements in the program.

13. **What will the doctoral project involve?**
    The doctoral project, the culminating experience, includes a three-semester Integrative Clinical Scholarship experience, embedded in a clinical setting, where the student prepares a scholarly doctoral product, such as a pilot study, translational research, program evaluation, consulting project or a quality improvement project. Students will accrue approximately 390 clinical hours during the doctoral project. Each student will work with a faculty chair and doctoral committee.
14. Can I work while attending the program?
   The program is designed so that the student can work full time and, with permission of current employer, the doctoral project may be completed within the students’ work setting.

15. What specialty faculty are available in the DNP Program Consortium?
   The consortium has faculty with specialization in the following areas:
   - Anesthesia
   - Clinical Nurse Specialist
   - Management/Administration/Leadership
   - Midwifery
   - Nurse Practitioner: Adult, Adult/Geriatric, Acute Care Adult, Acute Care Pediatric, Family, Pediatrics, Psych/Mental Health
   - Public Health Nursing

16. What will be the cost of the DNP program?
   Doctoral fees will be posted when available (anticipated date Fall, 2011) at http://nursing.fullerton.edu

17. Is the DNP program accredited?
   The program is pending Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and Council on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) approval. The program is not available for full nursing accreditation until implemented for at least one year.

18. How will students be admitted?
   Between 36 to 45 students will be admitted to a cohort each fall semester. Admitted students are expected to complete the degree within 5 consecutive semesters of admission. There will not be open enrollment.

19. Where will classes be offered?
   In the first year of the curriculum, core classes will be offered at one campus location in fall semester and at the other two campuses in spring semester. The second year, with the doctoral project as the focus, courses will be offered through individual campuses based on the student’s specialty and request. For example,
   a. A student entering with certification in nurse anesthesia will complete the second year at CSU Fullerton where specialty faculty are available.
   b. A student entering with a nursing administration/leadership/management specialty may request completing the second year at any one of the three campuses as all have the nursing leadership faculty expertise.