School of Nursing  
Doctor of Nursing Practice  
DNP

Program Coordinator: R. Morgan

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree at King is designed for nurses seeking a terminal degree in nursing practice. The DNP offers an alternative to the research-focused terminal degree in nursing, and prepares professional nurses to assume advanced roles in practice, executive function, quality and safety, informatics and other positions of leadership in nursing and health care. The graduate of the DNP program will develop sophisticated skills in the following highly desired areas:

- Leadership of teams and organizations
- Strategic planning and resource utilization
- Critical evaluation and application of current research and best practice
- Team building and inter-professional collaboration
- Measurement and analysis of health care outcomes
- Development and management of quality improvement initiatives
- Quantitative data management
- Information management and utilization in decision-making

Cohorts begin each fall and meet at the Knoxville Hardin Valley Campus one time each academic year for a two or three-day colloquium. The balance of the program is delivered in an online format. The 36-hour credit program is completed on a part-time basis, with degree completion in 2 calendar years (18 credits per year). The culminating learning experience in the DNP curriculum is the development, implementation and evaluation of a translational research project, with emphasis on dissemination of new knowledge for outcomes improvement.

Admission to the Program

The DNP program is open to qualified applicants who hold a master’s degree in nursing from an accredited school and a current unencumbered license as a registered nurse. All applicants must complete an online application. Each Candidate must complete all required sections of the application and upload all required documents before the application can be processed and sent to the DNP Admissions Committee for consideration. The application can be accessed at http://apply.king.edu

Applicants for the DNP program must submit the following documents to be considered for admission:

- King University application.
- A $125.00 non-refundable application fee.
- Official transcripts of all academic work demonstrating that the applicant holds a baccalaureate and master’s degree with a GPA of 3.25 or higher from
a master degree program accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) or the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

- A 300 word essay describing the reason for seeking a DNP completed in current APA format.
- A narrative description of past and current clinical practice.
- A 2-3 page proposal identifying an evidence-based practice project. This may be a practice improvement issue, a clinical management problem, or an area of clinical research that the applicant will address while in the program. The essay must identify key resources necessary to complete the project.
- Copy of current curriculum vitae or resume.
- Copy of current unencumbered RN license.
- Copy of advanced practice nursing license and specialty certification if applicable.
- Verification of Post-Baccalaureate Clinical and Practice Hours Document completed by the candidate’s graduate nurse program. (Appendix F)
- Professional scholarly accomplishments.
- Professional organization participation.
- Description of community service.
- Admission exam is not required but GRE scores may be submitted.
- Three letters of reference. At least one from a former dean or academic faculty and at least one from a current or former supervisor.
- An in-person or electronic interview with nursing faculty.
- A graduate level statistics course completed within 5 years prior to program matriculation is highly encouraged but not required.

**International Students**

King encourages application from students who are interested in pursuing a degree program. International students applying to King are required to submit a completed King International Student Application form along with a non-refundable $50.00 application fee. This application is available from the King Office of Admissions and is also available at [http://admissions.king.edu](http://admissions.king.edu). Any international student demonstrating a TOEFL score of 600 (paper) or 100 (Internet) may be admitted directly into the DNP curriculum. International students desiring F-1 student status are required by the United States Citizen and Immigration Services (USCIS) to provide to the institution:

- A completed and notarized Sponsor’s Statement of Financial Support along with financial documents proving financial ability;
- Original official transcripts of all high school and college/university grades and courses;
- Official TOEFL test scores;
- Official English translations of education transcripts and other documents (e.g. bank statements) related to the admissions process; and
- Each applicant must provide an official descriptive explanation of the grading system used for education transcripts.
When all of the documents described have been received, the application will be processed. Accepted applicants must make an enrollment deposit equivalent to the cost of tuition, fees, and health insurance for one year. Upon receipt of the deposit, the students will be issued an I-20, Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant (F-1) Student Status.

**The Application Process**

Applications for admission will be accepted starting January 1 and will continue through March 31 prior to the desired fall semester start date. Early application is encouraged in order to qualify for financial aid.

The DNP Admissions Committee will review all complete applications, select the candidates that meet the set criteria and rank them based on their ability to successfully complete the program. After evaluation of the candidates’ files, the DNP Admissions Committee will schedule interviews and administer timed writing samples with the candidates. Once interviews and writing samples are complete, the DNP admissions committee will assign one of the following four admission status:

- **Admitted**: The student meets or exceeds all required admissions criteria and, therefore, is fully admitted to the DNP program without any conditions.
- **Provisionally Admitted**: The Committee may grant provisional admittance to applicants who do not yet meet all of the admission requirements (anticipated completion of a final semester of a degree program or a single course) but have been able to demonstrate they have been academically successful in the past. The DNP Admissions Committee will work with such students to develop an action plan and timeline for achieving the admitted status.
- **Conditionally Admitted**: The student does not meet the minimum grade point average admission requirement; however, the DNP Admissions Committee will permit the candidate to enter the program as long as the agreed upon conditions are satisfactory met by the student. A signed learning contract is required for this level of acceptance.
- **Admission Denied** – the DNP Admissions Committee believes the applicant is not likely to succeed in the DNP program; therefore, the committee will deny acceptance.

The DNP Admissions Committee typically makes its decision within two weeks after the application submission deadline. The Admissions Office will notify applicants of the status of the DNP Admissions Committee review in writing or by e-mail. The DNP program is an academically rigorous program developed to prepare nursing leaders who integrate Christian faith, scholarship, service and career into their daily lives. King University seeks students who desire lifelong learning in a Christian environment. Admission to the DNP program is competitive but does not focus on a single factor to determine the best candidates. Decisions for admission will be based on demonstrated academic achievements, work history and performance, leadership ability, community involvement, writing ability, ability to successfully develop, implement and evaluate a translational research project.
DNP Transfer Credit
Upon acceptance to the DNP program, a student wishing to transfer courses from other institutions for credit may request that completed doctoral course work be considered for transfer. A maximum of 6 semester credit hours may be transferred in. To be considered for transfer credit, a course must have been taken for doctoral credit and must carry a grade of “B” or better. Courses considered for transfer credit must be from an accredited college or university program. Clinical coursework and courses graded as “pass/fail” cannot transfer.

The student must submit a completed course substitution form and a course syllabus which must show evidence that the completed course content and scope can be considered current and equivalent to the King University course to the School of Nursing. The faculty currently teaching the King University course will evaluate the course and make a recommendation to the Dean of Nursing regarding the course equivalency. The Dean of the School of Nursing must approve all transfer credit to the DNP program and the decision of the Dean will be final.

Fees:
There is a $100 technology fee per course.

Background Check
DNP students are responsible for following clinical agency protocol for background checks. Students may contact the King University Security Department (423-652-4333) with questions. Students are responsible for all costs associated with the criminal background check. Students are required to meet all clinical agency requirements for background checks, immunizations, safety, confidentiality, drug screening, and licensure/certification.

Religious Objections
A student has the right to refuse immunizations due to religious objections. If you select this option we do ask that you provide an official clergy statement and affirm your reason under the penalties of perjury.

Professional Liability Insurance
King University has a professional liability insurance policy that covers all nursing students while enrolled in a King University nursing program. The insurance covers the student only for activities directly related to King University. It does not cover an accidental injury to the student that may occur before, during, or after classroom activities. The policy also does not cover the registered nurse or the nursing student while working at their employment setting. Students may carry additional liability insurance at their own expense, but this will not replace the coverage purchased through the University.

The fees are included in the DNP student fees. No additional cost at this time to the students.
**Grade Requirements**
The school of nursing calculates grades as A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D, or F. Doctoral nursing majors must earn a “B” or higher in all NURS courses to maintain an overall GPA of 3.0/4.0 scale. In the DNP program a grade of “B-” or below is failing. If more than two grades of “B-” or lower are earned the student will be dismissed from the DNP program. A failed course must be repeated; a student is only allowed to repeat one course during the DNP program.

**Program Outcomes**
1. Provide advanced educational, leadership, and practice awareness in the expansion of nursing knowledge and actions to translate evidence into practice for outcomes improvement.
2. Prepare the advanced nursing leader, educator, and practitioner with the skills necessary to lead and participate on inter-disciplinary teams to improve outcomes among populations and across systems.
3. Create an environment of scholarly inquiry that provides self-directed learning and advancement, employing the tools of theory, research application, outcomes measures and quality management.
4. Undergird students in the philosophy of Christian principles for personal and professional growth that will serve to enhance both the student and society.

**Clinical Experiential Learning Hours**
All DNP students are required to complete clinical experiential learning hours (residency hours) in order to meet the requirements for the DNP degree. A minimum of 1000 hours of post-baccalaureate clinical practicum hours are required for completion of the DNP program and graduation. Specific hour requirements may vary for each student based on the number of practicum hours completed in their master’s program. The King DNP curriculum includes a total of 600 clinical experiential learning hours and offers students the opportunity to take additional semester hours of study to fulfill the required 1000 clinical experiential learning hours.

**DNP Student Handbook**
DNP students are required to follow polices set forth in the DNP Student Handbook, posted on the Blackboard Resource site after the start of each fall semester. All DNP students are required to read and follow university policies relative to appeals and grievances listed in the Student Handbook, *Twister*.

**Doctorate of Nursing Practice Requirements**
- **NURS 7000**
  - Theoretical and Philosophical Foundations of Nursing Practice .3 s.h.
- **NURS 7001**
  - Nursing Informatics.................................................................3 s.h.
- **NURS 7005**
  - Applied Statistics for Evidence-Based Practice ......................3 s.h.
- **NURS 7006**
  - Evidence-Based Practice/Translational Research ..................3 s.h.
NURS 7011  
Population Health Epidemiology & Data Analysis......................3 s.h.
NURS 7012  
Translational Research Project Development ............................3 s.h.
NURS 7016  
Leadership of Complex Health Care Systems & Organizations .3 s.h.
NURS 7017  
Healthcare Policy & Advocacy ..............................................3 s.h.
NURS 7022  
Ethical Issues in Advanced Nursing Practice ................................3 s.h.
NURS 7023  
Transformational Research Project Implementation ...............3 s.h.
NURS 7032  
Transformational Research Project Evaluation..........................3 s.h.

Choose from the following courses ........................................ 3 s.h.
NURS 7027  
Theoretical Foundations of Knowledge Development (3 s.h.)
NURS 7028  
Transforming Healthcare Performance Through Information Technology (3 s.h.)

NURS 7007*  
Clinical Experiential Learning I
NURS 7018*  
Clinical Experiential Learning II

NURS 7990  
Comprehensive Assessment..............................................0 s.h.

Total......................................................................................36 s.h.

*As needed to fulfill post-baccalaureate clinical hours