

Transitional Doctor of Nursing Practice



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Curriculum

The DNP program at RMUoHP is designed to prepare advanced practice leaders able to affect change through system redesign and evidence-based decision making in a variety of clinical settings. Through coursework, directed independent study, and capstone project implementation, the DNP graduate is well prepared to influence health and social policy for diverse populations in a variety of settings. The program outcomes are consistent with the vision of RMUoHP: to develop master healthcare professionals and leaders with advanced, evidence-based skills who critically review the literature, participate in research, and advance knowledge through publications and dissemination of scholarly/clinical endeavors. A higher level of clinical skill and knowledge provided by the degree can advance clinical nursing practice and help keep pace with demands for clinical leaders and advanced practice educators. This preparation is also consistent with the recent move by the nursing profession towards the DNP as the entry-level degree for advanced practice nurses by 2015.

The graduate will be a sophisticated consumer of research, as well as a socially responsible, competent, and innovative clinical leader who understands and appreciates the financial, political, clinical, and social factors that influence care models and population based delivery systems. The core courses and directed independent study residency courses offer expanded study in the areas of leadership and management in advanced practice, evidence-based practice, leadership in establishing clinical excellence, information technology, ethics and social responsibility, expertise to inform health policy, and interdisciplinary collaboration.

The DNP program with its limited-residency model will provide the flexibility for the advanced practice nurse to still work while obtaining a doctoral degree in a total of 40 credit hours. During the first 12 months, students will complete three semesters, each consisting of three modules of coursework. Modules 1 and 3 may consist of required readings and assignments, as well as participation in threaded discussions, online "chat" discussions, and/or phone

conferences. Module 2 in each semester requires attendance on-site for lecture, demonstration, etc. As part of Module 3 in Semesters 1 and 2, students will complete a directed independent study residency (one per semester) from the student's location. A capstone project is required with a focus on applying best current evidence. The program, including didactic coursework and clinical capstone project, will require approximately two years to complete.

The DNP Program is committed to the development of the nursing professional who can:

- Design and implement integrated care delivery models based on clinical evidence and best practice literature.
- Initiate evidence-based practice and policy strategies that optimize access to care and clinical outcomes.
- Apply ethical theories and legal standards to decision making regarding healthcare issues.
- Collaborate with interprofessional teams necessary to improve clinical care for populations of clients.
- Introduce and manage technologies that improve communication, foster collaboration, and support integrated approaches to care management.
- Integrate leadership expertise with clinical perspective and sound business practices to help transform the evolving healthcare system at local, regional, national, and international levels.
- Demonstrate analytical methodologies for the evaluation of clinical practice and the application of scientific evidence.

Program Module Calendar

	Module 1 (Distance)	Module 2 (On-site)	Module 3 (Distance)
Semester 1 2008-2009	October 5-November 1	November 2-8	November 9-February 7
Semester 2 2009	February 8-March 7	March 8-14	March 15-July 11
Semester 3 2009	July 12-August 8	August 9-15	August 16-December 16
Capstone Phase	<i>Four-year deadline from start of program is October 5, 2012</i>		

Semester 1: October 5, 2008-February 7, 2009

(11 credits)

Module 1 (Distance)	Module 2 (On-site)	Module 3 (Distance)
October 5-November 1	November 2-8	November 9-February 7

DNP 600 Transformational Leadership in Advanced Practice (2 credits)

This course examines the emerging literature on evidence-based management, and the use of evidence in decision-making, resource management, and strategic planning. Issues of power, innovation, interprofessional collaboration, change, and leadership/healthcare delivery models are addressed. Self-reflection, self-mastery, professional integrity and credibility, interprofessional collaboration, and other leadership-related concepts are themes that underpin the course.

DNP 601 Creating an Evidence-based Practice Environment (2 credits)

Evidence-based clinical practice to achieve the most effective outcomes is a major focus in healthcare. This course underscores the synthesis of the best research evidence with clinical expertise and client values to direct practice decisions for the best health outcomes. An emphasis will be placed on how research questions are formed, finding and appraising evidence, and how research can be transformed to develop new clinically relevant knowledge. Models and processes of evidence-based practice will be introduced to promote strategies for best practice and quality improvement of healthcare.

DNP 602 Health Policy (1 credit)

Students will be given the opportunity to weigh the impact of organizational, professional, and governmental policies on their practice and lead changes in the broader policy arena to improve practice.

DNP 615 Scientific Writing (1 credit)

This lecture course reviews PubMed and search methodologies, American Psychological (APA) editorial format, the composition of the introductory paragraph, and the style of scientific writing, its construction and formats.

DNP 604 Data and Decision-making in the Healthcare Environment 1 (1 credit)

This course begins with an overview of evidence-based practices and advances to discussions of skills that are necessary to effectively utilize data in the healthcare environment. Critical thinking, related to problem identification, PICO question development, data validity and reliability, and outcome evaluation, will be promoted using professor and student generated examples. The course provides the opportunity to utilize published evidence with a special population related to the student's current area of interest. Quantitative and qualitative methods will be reviewed. The IRB process will

be introduced in this class. Note: This course builds upon master's level nursing theory and research courses.

DNP 616 Directed Independent Study: Health Policy Residency (4 credits – Module 3 Only)

This DIS provides the student an opportunity to develop competence in health policy. The student, in coordination with the GPD, will select an area of local, national, or international focus and emphasis on building coalitions and working with a public or private organization to create policy-level changes for practice. The student will be given the opportunity to weigh the impact of organizational, professional, and governmental policies on practice and lead changes in the broader policy arena to improve practice. The DIS supplements the theory coursework and includes opportunities to synthesize prior learning while observing, testing, and evaluating the effect of health policy on evidence-based clinical practice. The DIS requires the selection of one or more approved advanced practice leader as a preceptor. Learning activities are agreed upon by the student, preceptor, and faculty to meet the objectives of the DIS.

Semester 2: February 8-July 11, 2009

(11 credits)

Module 1 (Distance)	Module 2 (On-site)	Module 3 (Distance)
February 8-March 7	March 8-14	March 15-July 11

DNP 603 Informatics and Evidence-based Information (1 credit)

This course is designed as a survey course for the advanced clinician to explore major existing and emerging technologies and their potential impact. Systems are addressed that support patient centered, safe, effective, timely, efficient and equitable care. An emphasis is placed on the role that information technology supports these systems and on development and use of technologies in 21st century healthcare. Electronic medical records (EMRs), patient safety systems such as bar-coding medication systems and event reporting systems, tele-health modalities from remote monitoring in ICUs to patient homes, web-enabled implantable devices, and web-based patient and professional education are among the topics explored.

DNP 605 Data and Decision-making in the Healthcare Environment 2 (2 credits)

This course continues the discussion on skills necessary to effectively utilize data in the healthcare environment. Problem identification, assessment of data, and outcome evaluation will be examined so that critical thinking is maximized. The course provides opportunity to synthesize evidence targeted to the student's capstone project topic. Application of data for quantitative and qualitative methods will be highlighted in this class.

DNP 608.2 The Advanced Clinician as Communicator (1 credit)

This course is designed to provide a broad introduction to human communication in a healthcare context. The course will highlight issues such as provider-client communication, intraprofessional communications, intercultural health communication, and alternative medicine. The course explores the use and critiques of various communication strategies in the change process. The course will address effective communication strategies to implement change. Topics: marketing, conflict management and use of communication media for various audiences.

DNP 607 Legal and Ethical Issues in Advanced Practice Nursing (1 credit)

This course focuses on approaches to implement recent Institute of Medicine recommendations within an ethical context. Patient safety and privacy, developing interdisciplinary systems and structures to improve the quality of patient care, risk management, and ensuring compliance with laws and healthcare regulations such as HIPAA will be explored. The course highlights the development of effective strategies for managing the ethical dilemmas inherent in organizing evidence-based healthcare delivery at the individual, organizational, or systems level.

DNP 609 Advanced Practice and the Entrepreneurial Role (1 credit)

The course provides the student an opportunity to understand the subtleties and legal and business reality of advanced practice. This course will serve as an introduction to the skills necessary to manage and market a practice in today's ever changing and fast paced healthcare environment.

DNP 610 Capstone Project Seminar 1 (1 credit)

In this course, an overview of project planning will be highlighted including emphasis on project management, planning the project and developing a mission, vision, goals, and objectives for the project. Each student will contract with the GPD to plan, initiate, and evaluate a research-based change in advanced practice nursing that is evidence-based and involves applied research.

DNP 606 Directed Independent Study: Specialization Residency (4 credits – Module 3 Only)

This DIS provides the student an opportunity to develop competence in a specialty area of interest. The student, in coordination with the GPD, will select an area of specialization (i.e., wellness, executive leadership, systems, pharmacology, gerontology) with an emphasis on interdisciplinary collaboration. The DIS supplements the theory coursework and includes opportunities to synthesize prior learning while observing, testing, and evaluating theories and evidence-based clinical practice. The DIS requires the selection of one or more approved advanced practice leaders as a preceptor. Learning activities are agreed upon by the student, preceptor, and faculty, and meet the objectives of the DIS.

Semester 3: July 12-December 16, 2009

(7 credits)

Module 1 (Distance)	Module 2 (On-site)	Module 3 (Distance)
July 12-August 8	August 9-15	August 16-December 16

DNP 612 Role Transformation (2 credits)

This symposium course explores role socialization, advancement of clinical and leadership abilities, new opportunities, and marketing the advanced practice role. Additional discussion will occur regarding how to organize care to address emerging clinical problems. Cost effectiveness for evaluating clinical initiatives will be focused.

DNP 613 Healthcare Economics (2 credits)

The course will explore the principal ways US healthcare is structured and financed at the national, state, and local levels, and how policy affects the healthcare environment. Current and emerging issues and principles of business finance related to clinical care delivery will be analyzed using case studies and participative learning experiences. Implications for advanced practice leaders will be explored.

DNP 614 Outcomes Management and Evaluation (2 credits)

This course outlines the impact of the advanced practice nurse on healthcare delivery and fulfillment of care structures outcome measurements in the advanced practice setting from an evidence-based practice model. Topics include the history and evolution of quality of care measurement and improvement and their influence on contemporary methods for assuring high quality care in the United States; approaches to and challenges of assessing patient outcomes, especially self-reported outcome; and use of outcome measurement frameworks, selection of outcome measures and use of outcome data in the clinical practice setting. Practice improvement, innovation and testing of interventions and care delivery models, and evaluation of healthcare outcomes are explored.

DNP 611 Capstone Project Seminar 2 (1 credit)

Continued project planning will occur including emphasis on project management, producing a workable schedule, and project control and evaluation. Final planning of the capstone project will occur. Each student will finalize with GPD and mentor his/her plan to structure a change project in advanced practice nursing that is evidence-based and involves applied research.

Capstone Project Phase

(Four-year deadline from start of program is October 5, 2012)

(11 credits)

DNP 797 Capstone Project

(10 credits)

Each doctoral student will be required to complete a capstone project that is an evidence-based practice project and involves applied research. There are four steps that are completed after IRB approval of the capstone project. These steps include: (a) conduct a needs assessment; (b) design an intervention based upon your needs assessment using the current evidence on the topic; (c) deliver that intervention; and (d) evaluate the outcomes of your intervention. The evaluation should include financial, clinical, or educational components as appropriate to the project.

DNP 798 Capstone Oral Presentation

(1 credit)

Each student will share his/her completed capstone project in an oral presentation. The oral presentation must be completed within 6 months of capstone project completion or the student must enroll in additional capstone course credit(s). Policies and guidelines are posted online.

DNP Program Faculty

Jim Grout, MA

Ruth Kleinpell, PhD, RN, FAAN/P

Pam Koob, PhD, APRN, BC, FNP

Marthe Jean Moseley, PhD, RN, CCRN, CCNS

Susan Newbold, PhD, RN-BC, FAAN, FHIMSS

Marie-Eileen Onieal, PhD, MMHS, RN, CPNP, FAANP

Cindy Parsons, DNP, ARNP, BC

Linda Roussel, RN, DSN, CNAA, BC

Ron Scott, PT, EdD, LLM