

Post-professional Doctor of Nursing Practice



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Curriculum

The DNP program at RMUoHP is designed to prepare advanced practice leaders 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 develop master healthcare professionals and leaders with advanced, evidence-based skills who critically review the literature, transform system processes at the point of care, participate in research, and advance knowledge through publications and presentations. 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.

The graduate will be a sophisticated consumer of research, as well as a socially responsible, competent, and innovative clinical leader who analyzes and works within 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, system change, 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 leader to maintain employment while obtaining a doctoral degree in a total of 38 credit hours. During the first 12 months, students will complete three semesters, each typically consisting of three modules of coursework. Modules 1 and 3 may include readings and assignments, as well as WebStudy participation (i.e., threaded discussions or chats). Module 2 in each semester requires attendance on campus 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. (For all other courses, students complete coursework

throughout the entire semester.) A capstone project is required with a focus on applying best current evidence to transform systems. The program, including didactic coursework and a system change 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.
- Demonstrate analytical methodologies for the evaluation of clinical practice and the application of scientific evidence.
- 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.

Program Module Calendar

Application Deadline: July 23, 2012			
	Semester Start	On-site Dates	Semester End
Semester 1 <i>Fall 2012</i>	September 4	TBA	December 20
Semester 2 <i>Win 2013</i>	January 2	TBA	April 18
Semester 3 <i>Sum 2013</i>	May 6	TBA	August 22
Semester 4 <i>Fall 2013</i>	Capstone	DNP 797A: September 3-December 19	
Semester 5 <i>Win 2014</i>		DNP 797B: January 2-April 17	
Residency		Student must register for Residency Credit (CC 811A, CC 811B, etc.) each semester until capstone is completed.	
<i>Four-year deadline from start of program is September 4, 2016</i>			

Semester 1: Fall 2012

(10 credits)

Semester Start	On-site Dates	Semester End
September 4	TBA	December 20

DNP 601 Creating an Evidence-based Practice Environment (2 credits; 1 day on-site)

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 602.2 Health Policy (2 credits; 1 day on-site)

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 617 Theoretical/Conceptual Thinking: Application for Clinical Practice (1 credit)

This course explores the theoretical foundations of practice, the conceptual models to implementation research, and strategies to implement evidence-based approaches to practice projects. Learning focuses on the application of theory-directed design, implementation, and evaluation while applying evidence to transform healthcare systems.

DNP 615.3 Writing for the Professions (1 credit)

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

DNP 619 Capstone Primer (1 credit)

This course is the first of a 3-course series designed to assist students in executing high-quality, successful evidence-based projects. The capstone project is the culminating learning experience in the DNP program. DNP 619 introduces students to the capstone process. Learning experiences familiarize students with capstone progression, project quality and scope, and doctoral-level communication requirements.

DNP 616.2 Directed Independent Study: Health Policy Residency (3 credits – WebStudy)

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. *Pre- or co-requisite: DNP 602.2.*

Semester 2: Winter 2013

(10 credits)

Semester Start	On-site Dates	Semester End
January 2	TBA	April 18

DNP 605.2 Data and Decision-making in the Healthcare Environment (2 credits)

This course focuses on critically and effectively applying data within the context of the student's capstone project. The course builds on research specific to methodology and statistics necessary for translating data into information. The critique of the reliability, validity, and relevance of data is emphasized.

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. *Prerequisites: DNP 601, DNP 617.*

DNP 622 Capstone Project Seminar 2 (2 credits; 1 day on-site)

This course is the second of a 3-course series designed to assist students in the development of an evidence-based capstone project. The capstone project is the culminating learning experience in the DNP program. Learning

outcomes add to the skills developed in DNP 619. Learning focuses on project planning including emphasis on project management, gathering evidence, developing vision/goals/outcomes for the project, and applying theories/frameworks to structure the overall process. Students work with faculty to plan, design, and evaluate evidence-based changes in selected clinical settings. *Prerequisites: DNP 601, DNP 602, DNP 603, DNP 615.3, DNP 617, DNP 619.*

DNP 614 Outcomes Management and Evaluation (2 credits; 1 day on-site)

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. *Prerequisites: DNP 601, DNP 602, DNP 615.3, DNP 617.*

DNP 606.2 Directed Independent Study: Specialization Residency (3 credits – WebStudy)

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: Summer 2013

(8 credits)

Semester Start	On-site Dates	Semester End
May 6	TBA	August 22

DNP 600 Transformational Leadership in Advanced Practice (2 credits; 1 day on-site)

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. *Prerequisites: DNP 608.2, DNP 610, DNP 614, DNP 617, DNP 619.*

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

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 623 Capstone Project Seminar 3 (2 credits)

This course is the third of a 3-course series designed to assist students in executing high-quality, successful evidence-based projects. The capstone project is the culminating learning experience in the DNP program. Learning outcomes add to the skills developed in DNP 619 and DNP 610. Final project planning emphasizes interdisciplinary leadership, workable schedules/timelines, project management, and effective evaluation methods. Students finalize project plans with course faculty and clinical mentors and deliver professional presentations of projected capstones to faculty and peers. *Prerequisites: DNP 610, DNP 619.*

DNP 613 Healthcare Economics (2 credits; 1 day on-site)

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.

Capstone Project Phase

(Four-year deadline from start of program is September 4, 2016)

(10-credit minimum)

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 a system change based upon your needs assessment using the current evidence on the topic; (c) implement the system change; and (d) evaluate the outcomes of the project. The evaluation should include financial, clinical, or educational components as appropriate to the project. An oral presentation of the project will be held on site at the completion of the project.

DNP 797A	Capstone Project 1 – Semester 4: Fall 2013	(5 credits)
DNP 797B	Capstone Project 2 – Semester 5: Winter 2014	(5 credits)

Semesters of Doctoral Residency Credit (CC 811A, CC 811B, etc.- one course per semester) as needed

DNP Program Faculty

Susan Callahan, MEd

Robert E. Cornette, DNP, ARNP

Karla Dalley, PhD, RN, CNE

Patricia Ann Watts Kelly, PhD, RN, FNP-C, GNP-C, FAANP

Marthe Jean Moseley, PhD, RN, CCRN, CCNS, CNL

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

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

Cindy Parsons, DNP, ARNP, BC

MaryEllen Roberts, DNP, RN, APNC, FAANP

Gayle Roux, PhD, RN

Ron Scott, PT, EdD, LLM