

# Doctor of Nursing Practice



Advancing **EXCELLENCE**. Improving **COMMUNITIES**.

## Lead. Educate. Advocate.

An alternative to research-focused doctoral programs, the DNP advances professional nursing roles in clinical practice (family nurse practitioner) and nursing leadership. The program is designed to produce leaders who

- Embrace health care reform.
- Advocate for vulnerable populations.

Graduates will integrate theory and practice in areas of health policy and law, administration, business, evaluation, systems, population health, and evidence-based practices. Our goal is to advance the highest level of excellence in clinical nursing that leads to improved health of the community.

## Expanding Opportunities

The program has 75 to 84 credits depending upon program concentration. Students will complete clinical requirements to meet the mandated minimum 1,000 hours of specialty training that is one of the hallmarks of the DNP degree. Shepherd's DNP program offers two concentrations:

- Nursing Leadership-Administration
- Nurse Practitioner-Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)

## Entry Points

The program has two entry points for admission: first, the baccalaureate in nursing to DNP and; second, a post-master's in nursing to DNP. These different entry points allow the curriculum to be individualized for candidates based on prior education, experience, and choice of specialization. Post-master's students entering the DNP desiring to change their area of professional practice will be evaluated on an individual basis and may require additional coursework from the professional core or concentration.

All applicants to the DNP program will be evaluated individually based on prior educational work and current employment experience. Programs of study will be designed to include additional coursework, if necessary, to meet the educational objectives of the program. Students applying to the post-baccalaureate option must have a B.S.N. from a Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), National League for Nursing (NLN), or Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (AACEN) accredited program.

## Admissions Criteria

1. Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 for baccalaureate degree and a minimum of 3.00 on all work beyond the baccalaureate level. Students without the minimum GPA requirement may be admitted conditionally per the policies listed on the graduate studies apply page.
2. Introductory courses in statistics and research will be completed prior to starting the DNP program. Nurse Practitioner-FNP concentration applicants must also have completed a course in pharmacology. (Most applicants will have met this requirement with the BSN program.)
3. Professional Nursing License: All students in the post-baccalaureate option must have a current unencumbered license as a professional registered nurse (RN) from the State of West Virginia prior to beginning their clinical practicum courses. Students may also need to have a valid nursing license for the state in which they will be completing the Internship and DNP practicum courses.
4. Submission of a résumé or curriculum vitae.
5. Submission of official transcripts of all college and university coursework.
6. A letter of intent that describes how the student envisions using the DNP degree to enhance his or her personal and professional goals (limit 500 words).
7. Two professional references, at least one of which is from a current or former clinical supervisor.
8. Qualified applicants will be contacted for an interview.
9. Upon evaluation of the student transcript(s), post-MSN applicants may need to verify clinical hours completed in order to enter the program. Applicants lacking in clinical hours will have the opportunity to take the transition to doctoral practice course through Shepherd's DNP program.

## Submission of Materials

Students will submit their materials through the Nursing Centralized Application Service (CAS). Nursing CAS is a partner with American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) and is a centralized application service for students applying to CCNE accredited programs. Go to the Nursing CAS website, [www.nursingcas.org](http://www.nursingcas.org), and click in the upper right-hand corner for a list of programs and click on Shepherd University. There is no application fee, only the fee for the Nursing CAS service.

Shepherd's DNP program adheres to the standards identified by the AACN titled the Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Practice Nursing (DNP Essentials). The DNP Essentials identify standard foundational curriculum content and outcomes-based competencies essential for all DNP graduates.

---

For more information, visit [www.shepherd.edu/dnp](http://www.shepherd.edu/dnp) or contact:

**Sharon Mailey, Ph.D., R.N.**

Director of Nursing Education

304-876-5344

[smailey@shepherd.edu](mailto:smailey@shepherd.edu)

**Office of Graduate Studies**

Byrd Science Center Room 212

304-876-5313

**Doctor of Nursing Practice Office**

Erma Ora Byrd Hall Room 224

304-876-5282

## Martinsburg Center

Our DNP program is conveniently located at Shepherd University Martinsburg Center in Martinsburg, West Virginia with easy access to I-81, Charles Town, Hagerstown, Winchester, and surrounding areas. Community facilities and restaurants are located nearby, and student services are offered on site.

## Shepherd University

Recognized for excellence in student-focused higher education by the Colleges of Distinction website, Shepherd University is a public liberal arts university situated on the western side of the Potomac River on the border between West Virginia and Maryland.

Accessing the academic, cultural, and career experiences in the nation's capital region, challenging academic courses, excellent faculty, and small class sizes provide more personalized education for the serious student. Internships and post-degree employment opportunities provide valuable practical experience. Named as one of the country's top 30 most affordable schools for outdoor enthusiasts by the Affordable Schools' website, Shepherd University is in a safe, historically and culturally-rich region also noted for four-season sports and recreation.

**Shepherd**  
UNIVERSITY