I. Overview of Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

Today's quickly evolving health care environment demands professionals who have the knowledge and skills to get the job done. The DNP program is designed to prepare clinicians with the knowledge and skills to provide the highest standard of care for individuals, families and communities and navigate today's complex health care systems. Nurse Managers and administrators will gain the knowledge and skills necessary to develop, implement and monitor programs of care and policies in complex organizations. The purpose and vision of the DNP program in Iowa is to:

- Prepare the next generation of nursing leaders
- Position graduates to be national leaders in the translation of nursing knowledge into practice
- Engage in strategic partnerships with the nursing and health care communities in Iowa, nationally and globally

The post-BSN to DNP program is 73-83 semester hours depending on the specialization/focus area. The post-master's DNP program is 29-55 semester hours depending on the focus area of your master's degree as well as the focus area of the post-master's DNP. Dual certification programs are also available and range from 91 - 102 semester hours depending on the specialization/focus areas combined. The plans of study reflect the national educational standards developed by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF), and the American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE). The courses will deepen the knowledge and skills of persons preparing for an advanced practice role with an emphasis on evidenced-based practice and the evaluation of practice to improve health care outcomes and cultivate expertise in health policy and organizational and systems leadership.

The only pre-req is an upper-level stats course. This pre-req only applies to the BSN-DNP program. Information can be found at this URL: https://nursing.uiowa.edu/admissions/dnp/prerequisites.

II. Outcomes

The DNP program is built on the DNP Essentials and AONE essentials. The graduates of the DNP curriculum will be able to:

- Utilize scientific underpinnings for nursing practice
- Demonstrate organizational and systems leadership
- Evaluate clinical scholarship and analytical methods for evidence-based practice
- Evaluate information systems and patient care technology for the improvement and transformation of health care
- Influence health care policy for advocacy in health care
- Collaborate inter-professionally to improve patient and population health outcomes
- Design clinical prevention and population health interventions
- Demonstrate expertise in advanced nursing practice

III. Advising

The Directors, or a doctorally prepared faculty member certified/prepared in the student's specialty/focus area, are assigned as the initial advisor to the BSN to DNP students. Post Masters students are assigned to a DNP faculty member to support students' synthesis of the post master's curriculum. The role of the faculty advisor is to mentor and provide career guidance to students. Advisors support the student as they synthesize the critical elements of a program of study toward

a successful conclusion. Additional student support is provided by Student Services related to course enrollment, understanding important deadlines, and complying with CON requirements such as licensure, HIPPA, or criminal background check.

IV.   Plan of Study

All DNP students will receive individualized plans of study. Duplicates can be requested from the Office Student Services Graduate Programs Office. Template plans of study may be found at the site below.
http://www.nursing.uiowa.edu/academic-programs/dnp/plans.

The DNP plan of study is developed in accordance with national standards that reflect the area of specialization. Practice Experience hours support clinical specialization, practicums, and the DNP project. Students may not change their plan of study without approval of the Associate Dean for Graduate Practice Programs. You may request a change in your plan of study by contacting Jen Clougherty via e-mail or phone (jennifer-clougherty@uiowa.edu or 319-335-7021) or Kara Avis (kara-avis@uiowa.edu or 319-467-4405). Changes in your plan of study could elongate it one semester to one year, based on the changes made.

V.   Academic Registration Requirement

BSN-DNP: All doctoral programs will contain a minimum of 72 semester hours of graduate work. Of the minimum 72 semester hours required for the degree, at least 39 s.h. must be earned while registered in The University of Iowa Graduate College and after formal program admission. The academic registration requirement cannot be fulfilled by coursework completed under the non-degree or non-departmental student classification or with transfer credit, etc.

Post-APRN-DNP: Student's plan of study requires 72 s.h. post-BSN with a minimum of 29 s.h. of University of Iowa College of Nursing DNP coursework.

Post-Health Systems-DNP (both those with an MSN in administration and those with an MSN in a focus area other than administration): Student's plan of study requires 72 s.h. post-BSN with a minimum of 39 s.h. of University of Iowa College of Nursing DNP coursework.

VI.   Compliance

Students must be compliant in CastleBranch during clinical and practicum courses as well as courses that utilize the NCEC/simulation.
1) The items that need to be documented for compliance are at this URL https://nursing.uiowa.edu/academics/dnp/clinical-requirements
2) If a student becomes non-compliant during their clinic/practicum rotation, they will not be allowed in the clinic/practicum site or to accumulate hours until they become compliant in CastleBranch and/or Exaat.
3) If a student becomes non-compliant during a course that utilizes the NCEC, they will not be allowed in the NCEC until they become compliant in CastleBranch and/or Exaat.

VII.   Clinical Travel

You will be expected to travel up to 100 miles for preceptor experiences, and if you live in an area that has limited providers in your specialty, you may be required to travel further. Travel arrangements to these sites is the responsibility of the student. Also, note that there is an expectation that your preceptor/provider is in the state of Iowa.

VIII.   **Doctoral Student Office and Kitchen**

The doctoral student office area is in room 134 CNB. It has computers and workstations. The doctoral student office will be kept unlocked so please be cognizant of what you leave in the office when you are not there. A kitchen area located in 133 CNB for student use.

IX.   **DNP Project (NURS: 6826-6829) Doctor of Nursing Practice Project I-IV)**

The Doctor of Nursing Practice Project provides the student the opportunity for in-depth analysis and synthesis of a practice, system, or policy problem related to advanced nursing practice; development of an evidence-based proposal to benefit a group, population, or community; and demonstration of leadership in assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation. This is a series of four courses taken over the last 2 years of the DNP program and includes five s.h. and 370 hours supporting the Doctor of Nursing Practice Project. The student must complete and document a process to ensure ethical conduct of the DNP project, including protection of human subjects and private health information, when applicable. Guidelines and forms can be found on the appropriate course site.

Final course grades:

- Satisfactory – used when the student has invested an appropriate amount of effort to make satisfactory progress on the project, as indicated by satisfactory grades on all semester assignments.
- Unsatisfactory – used when the student has not invested an appropriate amount of effort and/or does not make satisfactory progress on the project, as indicated by not completing all semester assignments with satisfactory grades.
- Incompletes - The grade of "I" is to be used only when a student's work during a session cannot be completed because of illness, accident, or other circumstances beyond the student's control and must be approved by the Associate Dean for Graduate Practice Programs. A student cannot advance to the next project course semester without first satisfactorily completing the previous semester.

Doctor of Nursing Practice Project	
Purpose	Perform an in-depth analysis and synthesis of a practice, system, or policy problem related to advanced nursing practice; develop an evidence-based proposal to benefit a group, population, or community; and demonstrate leadership in assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation of the project.
Eligibility	All DNP students.
Role of Project Course Faculty	Course faculty will provide feedback and grade all course assignments, which vary according to project semester. Students should contact their course faculty for any questions regarding assignments, grading, or course content. Course faculty will monitor student progress through the course and will interface with the project chair and/or academic advisor as needed. Course Faculty should be the first point of contact for students who have questions about course objectives, content, or assignments. Course faculty will consult with the Project Chair if there are student specific concerns, and may escalate it to the Academic Advisor, if needed. At times, a student's course faculty may *also* be the student's advisor or chair, but the roles are different. Course faculty will provide feedback and considerations regarding the project, as applicable to course assignments, but do not give final approval for the project concept topic, site, project feasibility, adequacy of the literature synthesis findings, or outcome measures unless they are assigned as the Project Chair and/or Academic Advisor.

Role of Advisor	The Academic Advisor, who is most often the program director, is responsible for overall student progression through their specialty program. The Academic Advisor will serve as a consultant if there are questions, concerns, or student issues raised by the Project Chair or the DNP Student. The Academic Advisor is responsible for co-signing the DNP Project Approval Form with the Project Chair.
Role of Project Chair	The Project Chair is a College of Nursing faculty member who provides guidance and oversees project development, implementation, and evaluation throughout the course of the project (4 semesters). The Project Chair will serve as the lead on student defense committees and make recommendations for the DNP Defense Committees during NURS:6829. Students are expected to communicate and/or meet face to face on a regular basis with their Project Chairs. Project Chairs should be the first point of contact for students who have questions or concerns regarding project development or progression. Project Chairs will review your documents submitted for each project course and provide feedback on the content of each assignment. However, Project Chairs will not provide pre-grading of your assignments. Students are responsible for proof reading, editing, and seeking help from the writing center, as needed. The Project Chair's feedback will not replace, or influence grading assigned by other faculty in the course. However, the Project Chair will give final approval for the project concept topic, site, project feasibility, adequacy of the literature synthesis findings, and outcome measures. *The final accountability for progression in completing satisfactory work of the project rests with the student.*
Role of Mentor	Mentors are usually not faculty (but may be) and provide students with site access and/or topic expertise relevant to conduct of the project. Students are responsible for finding a mentor; mentor agreements and evaluations are required during the course of the project.
Proposal	Upon approval of the advisor and project chair, the student will submit a written proposal for review. The advisor and chair must sign the approval form. Course faculty approval is noted by a passing grade in the proposal development semester. The student must submit a signed project approval form to the Graduate Program Office.
Evaluation of Final Projects	Evaluation teams consisting of a minimum of three doctorally-prepared clinical or tenure track faculty, two of whom hold primary appointments in the College of Nursing, will jury the oral defense and defense products. The team includes the advisor, chair, and course faculty.
Approval	The project will be evaluated by the Evaluation Teams as satisfactory or unsatisfactory, with two unsatisfactory votes making the result unsatisfactory. The College of Nursing Report of Final Examination DNP Project must be signed and returned to the Graduate Program Office.

X.   Policy for unsuccessful completion of NURS:6829 registration:

If a student is not successful in defending the Doctor of Nursing Practice Project or chooses not to pursue a defense, the student will be given a grade of U. The student would then register for another one semester hour of NURS:6829 the following spring semester. The Graduate Programs Office will prepare a new plan of study with the assistance of the Associate Dean for Graduate Practice Programs and will let the student know the consequences of not successfully completing NURS:6829 (i.e., financial aid) The student will not be allowed to register for the Doctoral Continuous Registration GRAD:6002.

Incompletes:
There will be instances when a student can receive an incomplete instead of a U, for example, illness or family emergency. We would need to be able to prove that the student had progressed

satisfactorily through at least 60% of the semester and would have a timeline in place for completion of the course. Please see below regarding degree conferral dates.

X.   **Graduation Information**

Note: Defenses will be in the spring. **Incompletes need to be resolved before the Graduate College can confer degrees.** If an incomplete is not resolved, the student's degree conferral will be moved to the summer semester. Contact the Graduate Programs Office to determine the last date an incomplete can be resolved and still have a spring degree conferral. After that date, a student would need to register and defend in the summer with a summer degree conferral. This is also dependent on a defense committee being able to be convened during the summer. Students must be registered in the semester they graduate.

The final examination will be evaluated as satisfactory or unsatisfactory. Two unsatisfactory votes will make the committee report unsatisfactory. In case of a report of unsatisfactory in the final examination, the candidate may not attempt a reexamination until the next session. The examination may be repeated only once, at the option of the major department.

Upon graduation you will need to complete a Project Close Form through HawkIRB. If you are employed by the University of Iowa and plan to continue using your data, keep your project open but remember to file the Project Close form when you are done.

To facilitate your graduation, we have listed the pertinent paperwork below. If you have any questions, please contact the Graduate Programs Office staff Jen Clougherty via e-mail or phone (jennifer-clougherty@uiowa.edu or 319-335-7021) or Kara Avis (kara-avis@uiowa.edu or 319-467-4405)

All forms must be completed by the deadlines posted each semester. Final responsibility for meeting graduation requirements resides with the student. If you have filed these forms previously, all must be refiled by the deadline listed except the Degree Audit. This form will be reviewed by the Graduate Programs Office.

More information regarding dates, commencement, and other pertinent information can be found at the Registrar and Graduate College websites.

A. **Graduation Forms**

APPLICATION FOR DEGREE – completed online via MyUI.

Registration for Commencement – completed online at the Graduate College Graduation Checklist.

Degree Audit – the Graduate Programs Office will review your degree audit the semester before you graduate. Note that the prerequisite(s) cannot be applied toward your degree. Any credit over 10 years old cannot be applied toward your degree without consent of the Graduate College; if needed, the Graduate Programs Office will prepare and submit.

REQUEST FOR FINAL EXAMINATION FORM (for defense of DNP Project) – the Graduate Programs Office will prepare this form and submit to the Graduate College.

REPORT OF FINAL EXAMINATION (report on Doctor of Nursing Practice Project defense) – this form will be sent electronically via DocuSign to the Chair by the Graduate College for committee signatures. The Graduate Programs office will verify whether the defense was satisfactory or unsatisfactory and will submit the final approval electronically via DocuSign

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