

POST-MASTER'S DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE CARE OF POPULATIONS

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The Post-Master's Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program is for MSN-prepared nurses who want to further their skills in using evidence to change practice. In addition to the DNP core classes, students take select classes in a population health specialty as well as electives supporting their career goals. Two, three, and four-year pathways are available to students in the program. To enhance learning, students participate in 500 hours of clinical practice related to their interest in population health. A total of 1000 clinical hours are required for the DNP degree which includes hours from the master's degree. For any student bringing fewer than 500 hours from the master's degree, NUR 821 may be taken for additional clinical practicum hours.

Post-Master's Doctor of Nursing Practice Care of Populations Program

Code	Title	Credits
Course Listing		
Core Courses:		
NUR 514	Epidemiology and Population Health	2
NUR 516	Health Policy and Organizational Systems	2
NUR 602	Principles of Ethical Theory in Nursing	1
DNP Project Courses:		
NUR 800	Evaluation and Synthesis of Scientific Evidence for Practice	2
NUR 810	Clinical Scholarship and Inquiry in Nursing	2
NUR 810PBL	DNP Project I	2
NUR 812	Leadership and Collaboration for Change in Healthcare	2
NUR 812PBL	DNP Project II	2
NUR 814PBL	DNP Project III Based Healthcare	1
NUR 811PBL	DNP Project Continuation (if needed)	0-3
Care of Populations Track Courses:		
NUR 820	Principles of Population-Based Healthcare	2
NUR 822	Population Health: Factors Affecting Specific Populations	3
NUR 823	Global Population Health	3
Elective Courses		
NUR 821	Post-Master's Additional Graduate Clinical <small>As needed to reach 1000 hours</small>	0-4
Total Credits		30-37

Curriculum Note:

Sample curriculum. Minimum of 30 credits required, including 6 credits of electives.

The semester-by-semester Learning Pathway for this program is available in the School of Nursing.

The curriculum for this program is subject to modification as deemed necessary by the nursing faculty to provide students with the most meaningful educational experience and to remain current with professional standards and guidelines.

Student Learning Outcomes

The objectives of the DNP program are designed to prepare graduates for advanced nursing practice who are capable of providing holistic health care for diverse individuals, families or populations in a variety of settings. Specifically, the program seeks to produce graduates who:

1. Evaluate critical thinking and decisions of individuals and teams, leading actions to improve decision making and the use of high-quality information and evidence.
2. Role model adaptive thinking when faced with challenges by exhibiting expert flexibility, creativity, and critical analysis.
3. Advocate for ethical advanced nursing practice and adhere to ethical principles in the conduct and dissemination of scholarship.
4. Evaluate equitable, holistic, person-centered, and evidence-informed care coordinated to improve the health of diverse communities and populations.
5. Evaluate and critique systems to create evidence-based interventions for delivery of safe, equitable, and high-quality care.
6. Lead and participate in system-level change that utilizes individual, organizational, and community level data to deliver and direct innovative, holistic patient-centered care that improves health outcomes leveraging healthcare technologies and informatics.
7. Role model holistic self-care practices that promote well-being, resilience, and lifelong learning of self and others in complex care environments and healthcare systems.
8. Model and mentor others in professional growth while leading strategic advocacy to shape health policy and transform care systems.

Admission Requirements

- At least one year of full-time RN or APRN experience (approximately 2000 hours).
- Earned BSN with 3.0 GPA
- Earned MSN with 3.0 GPA
- Graduate statistics with grade B- or better (or conditional acceptance & take at Quinnipiac)

Applicants should submit the following to the Office of Graduate Admissions:

1. Official transcripts from all schools previously attended.
2. Official recent results of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS) for international applicants.
3. CV or resume.
4. Copy of unencumbered and unrestricted RN or APRN license.

5. Competitive applicants will provide a minimum of one reference from professional supervisors or faculty who can speak specifically to the applicant's professionalism, strengths and opportunities, and an example of practice excellence. Please indicate the applicant's potential for doctoral level study.
6. Personal Statement (see application)
7. Optional: Submission of publication or presentations (maximum of two)

Applications for full-time and part-time study are accepted on a rolling basis. Final deadlines are generally two weeks prior to the start of classes. Applications are evaluated once all materials are received by Quinnipiac. Students are encouraged to submit their applications as early as possible for their desired semester. Class sizes are limited.

All accepted students are required to complete a background check and urine drug screen following acceptance and before the start of classes. Acceptances are conditional until satisfactory completion of both.

After acceptance students must also submit a MSN Hours Verification Form from their MSN program indicating the total number of supervised clinical practice hours, if any, that they completed. Up to 500 hours are accepted.

Note: For QU MSN NP graduates, no new admission application is required within a two-year period from MSN graduation. Contact the graduate program director to continue into the Post-Master's DNP.

Transfer Credits

Graduate course credit completed with a grade of B or better at another regionally accredited institution may be considered for transfer credit in place of a similar course. Courses must be at the same level (i.e., an undergraduate course may not be transferred in place of a master's level course) and taken within the past five years. Transfer credit is granted upon admission to the program only. The course description and/or syllabus and a copy of the transcript with a request for transfer credit must be sent/emailed to the program director of the graduate nursing programs.

Progression Requirements

Students are expected to take courses in the order they are presented on the curriculum pathways.

According to Quinnipiac University policy all graduate students are expected to maintain a grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.00 on a 4.00 scale. Full-time graduate students are required to achieve a 3.00 GPA each semester. Part-time graduate students must have an overall GPA of 3.00 upon completion of nine credit hours and must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.00 thereafter. The grading scale of the Graduate Nursing Program is consistent with that of the university.

A student who earns less than a 3.00 in a semester (after nine credits for part-time students) will be automatically placed on probation and must achieve both a semester and cumulative GPA of 3.00 or greater in the following semester in order to progress in the program. Failure to achieve and maintain a semester and cumulative GPA of 3.00 in all following semesters results in dismissal from the program.

The minimum passing grade in nursing courses is a B minus (B-). A student who earns less than the minimum passing grade in one nursing course, but who has a semester GPA of at least 3.00, will be required to retake the course when it is offered again at Quinnipiac University. The

student may not proceed into courses for which the deficient course is a prerequisite. Thus, the student will be placed in another student cohort and the student's program completion date will be delayed. The student must achieve the minimum passing grade or better and must also achieve the minimal passing grade in all subsequent nursing courses. Failure to meet this requirement results in dismissal from the program.

A student who earns unsatisfactory grades in two or more nursing courses in any semester is not eligible to repeat the courses and will be dismissed from the program. At the end of each semester, the directors of the graduate nursing programs reviews the cumulative GPA and academic record of all graduate nursing students. The directors of the graduate nursing programs notifies both the senior associate dean and the student in writing, of the student's failure to meet academic requirements. Students who are performing at an unsatisfactory level will be: a) placed on probation, b) suspended, or c) dismissed in accordance with the terms of the Academic Progression Policy. Students placed on academic probation remain in their program but must also complete a learning plan to help them achieve the academic standards of the School of Nursing. A copy of this learning plan, signed by the director of the graduate nursing program and the student, will be placed in the student's file and should be reviewed periodically with the advisor. Students should meet with their advisors to identify learning strategies to help them accomplish the goals in the learning plan. In order to promote student success, students may be asked to audit courses if there has been an interruption to the continuity of their curriculum plan.

Clinical progression policy

In addition to course grade requirements, unsafe clinical practice and/or unprofessional conduct are grounds for failure in any clinical course and may result in immediate removal from the clinical site. Students who demonstrate unsafe or unprofessional conduct in a clinical practice site will undergo academic review and may be dismissed from the program.

Appeal Process

1. A student wishing to appeal a progression decision must write a letter via email to the appropriate program director within 5 business days of receiving notice of their inability to progress.
2. Appeals will be considered by a Progression Appeals Committee and chaired by the senior associate dean. Results will be communicated in writing to the student via email.
3. A student wishing to appeal a course grade should follow the grade appeal process (<http://catalog.qu.edu/university-policies/procedure-appeal-final-grade/>).

NUR 514. Epidemiology and Population Health. 2 Credits.

This course introduces epidemiologic principles, methods and data used in advanced nursing practice. Data and evidence from research are used to: assess acute and chronic population health problems/topics, provide effective possible interventions; and address and examine outcomes.

Prerequisites: None

Offered: Every year, All Online

NUR 516. Health Policy and Organizational Systems. 2 Credits.

This course provides an introduction to various social and political policy environments impacting advanced nursing practice and healthcare systems. Students examine issues that inform healthcare policy, organization and financing. Nursing's advocacy role in shaping policy in organizational, social and political venues is emphasized.

Prerequisites: None

Offered: Every year, Fall and Summer Online

NUR 602. Principles of Ethical Theory in Nursing. 1 Credit.

This course facilitates the student's formulation of a theoretical basis for ethical judgment at an advanced level of practice. Students analyze ethical theory and debate responses to ethical problems in advanced nursing practice.

Prerequisites: None

Offered: Every year

NUR 800. Evaluation and Synthesis of Scientific Evidence for Practice. 2 Credits.

Students review selected processes to identify current best scientific evidence including formulation of asking an answerable question. Students also conduct a review of the literature, critically appraise individual studies, and synthesize the evidence collected. Various methods to evaluate statistical analyses and scientific rigor are emphasized. Discussions focus on strengths and limitations of existing evidence, and application to direct and indirect practice. Iterative writing is a major component of this course.

Prerequisites: None

Offered: Every year, Fall Online

NUR 810. Clinical Scholarship and Inquiry in Nursing. 2 Credits.

This course focuses on improvement methods used to identify organizational systems' process problems affecting practice (direct and indirect care). Building on prior knowledge of evidence-based practice and appraisal of scientific evidence, students critically evaluate additional relevant information and consider cost implications to create meaningful, substantive innovations intended to improve systems. This course provides the opportunity for students to identify a health organization or system's opportunity for process improvement based on available aggregate data. There are required 20 clinical practice hours associated with this course.

Prerequisites: Take NUR 800.

Offered: Every year, Spring Online

NUR 810PBL. DNP Project I. 2 Credits.

Students begin to develop a substantial and meaningful scholarly DNP Project Proposal that is innovative and evidence-based, reflects the application of credible research findings, is financially sound, feasible, sustainable, and demonstrates value to the organization and population(s) served. There are 100 clinical practice hours required with this course. The course is graded on a pass/fail basis.

Prerequisites: Take NUR 800 and NUR 810.

Offered: Every year, Summer Online

NUR 812. Leadership and Collaboration for Change in Healthcare. 2 Credits.

This course focuses on developing advanced practice nursing leaders who can generate pragmatic responses to healthcare policy, systems, and practice inquiry problems through a collaborative approach.

Prerequisites: Take NUR 810.

Offered: Every year, Summer Online

NUR 812PBL. DNP Project II. 2 Credits.

Students continue experiential learning to create and sustain change through implementation of the approved, scholarly DNP Project Proposal. The project is carried out using appropriate leadership concepts, interdisciplinary team collaboration, and change theory. There are 120 fieldwork hours associated with this course. This course is graded on a pass/fail basis.

Prerequisites: Take NUR 800, NUR 810, NUR 810PBL, and NUR 812.

Offered: Every year, Fall Online

NUR 814PBL. DNP Project III Based Healthcare. 1 Credit.

This is the final course in the DNP Project series. Students continue experiential learning and focus on data analysis, project sustainability, and project dissemination. Students complete an oral DNP doctoral defense of their project and submit the written final manuscript. Additionally, project outcomes are disseminated to key stakeholders at the clinical practice site using a variety of media. There are 20 clinical practice hours in this course. This course is graded on a pass/fail basis.

Prerequisites: Take NUR 800, NUR 810, NUR 810PBL, NUR 812, and NUR 812PBL.

Offered: Every year, All Online

NUR 811PBL. DNP Project Continuation. 1 Credit.

This course is intended for students who have not yet completed the required work of either NUR 810PBL, NUR 812PBL, or NUR 814PBL. This continuation course allows students to finish the requirements of the related DNP project course, including writing of chapters and clinical practice hours. Students will collaborate with course faculty to establish specific goals and a timeline for completion of the required work. A student may enroll in this course a total of three times with one allowed enrollment for each related course (NUR 810PBL, NUR 812PBL, NUR 814PBL). This course is graded on a pass/fail basis.

Prerequisites: Take NUR 810PBL or NUR 812PBL or NUR 814PBL.

Offered: Every year, All Online

NUR 820. Principles of Population-Based Healthcare. 2 Credits.

This course examines policies impacting health across a broad spectrum of healthcare conditions and settings. Students discuss the contributions of nursing to population health.

Prerequisites: None

Offered: Every year, Spring Online

NUR 821. Post-Master's Additional Graduate Clinical. 1-4 Credits.

This course is for those students who need more clinical hours to reach the 1,000 hours required for the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree. Objectives are developed with faculty specifically for the work to be done. One credit is equivalent to 120 hours of clinical.

Prerequisites: None

Offered: Every year, Spring and Summer

NUR 822. Population Health: Factors Affecting Specific Populations. 3 Credits.

This seminar allows each student to examine contemporary issues surrounding advanced nursing practice and population health within the context of the individual student's population health focus. There are 120 clinical hours associated with this course.

Prerequisites: Take NUR 820.

Offered: Every year, Fall Online

NUR 823. Global Population Health. 3 Credits.

This seminar allows each student to examine population health in the context of a global community. The role of the World Health Organization and the Social Determinants of Health are analyzed. The individual student's population health focus is considered in the context of broader global population issues. There are 120 clinical hours associated with this course.

Prerequisites: Take NUR 820 or NUR 822;

Offered: Every year, Spring Online