

Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)



Advance your career with a DNP designed for working professionals

You've built a successful nursing career. Now you're ready to expand your influence, lead change, improve patient outcomes, and prepare for the next stage of professional growth.

Rivier University's 100% online Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) is designed for working nurses who want the flexibility to earn a doctoral degree without putting their careers on hold. Complete your DNP in less than two years, or part-time at a pace that fits your professional and personal commitments.

Rivier's competitively priced, flexible DNP program is designed for working nurses

Start When You're Ready

With three start dates each year (fall, spring, and summer), you can begin when the time is right for you.

Learn 100% Online

Complete your coursework on your own schedule without putting your nursing career on hold.

Personalized Faculty Mentorship

Learn from experienced nurse leaders who provide personalized mentorship.

Real-World Impact

Complete an individualized scholarly project that improves healthcare outcomes within your organization or community.

Unlock greater earning potential with a DNP

DNP-prepared nurses have extensive opportunities for advancement into high-level clinical and administrative roles, earning top salaries at premier healthcare facilities throughout the region in roles including:

- Chief Nursing Officer
- Director of Nursing
- Nurse Executive
- Clinical Director
- Academic Nurse Educator



100% Online



33 Credits



Complete in less than
2 Years



3 Start Dates
per year



Fully Accredited



Affordable Tuition
and Employer Discounts

Doctor of Nursing Practice

MSN to DNP Curriculum

Prerequisites include a graduate-level statistics course (500 level or above), NURS 601 Quality Healthcare Improvement, and NURS 610 Advanced Health Policy.

Students may enter the program with 500 supervised practicum hours earned in their master's degree program and complete an additional 500 working toward completion of their DNP Scholarly Project.

MSN to DNP for APRNs

For Advanced Practice Registered Nurses who have earned a master's degree in nursing and have passed a certification exam.

BUSS 559	Healthcare Finance	3 credits
BUSS 632	Healthcare Information Systems	3 credits
NURS 800	Scientific Foundations for Practice	3 credits
NURS 802	Interpretation of Quantitative Research for Healthcare	3 credits
NURS 805	Health Research Methods	3 credits
NURS 810	Epidemiology in Advanced Practice Nursing	3 credits
NURS 815	Evidence Based Leadership Practices	3 credits
NURS 895	Doctoral Practicum/Seminar (Scholarly Project)	12 credits
		Total: 33 credits

MSN to DNP for Nurse Leaders

For nurses who have earned an MS in Nursing.

BUSS 559	Healthcare Finance	3 credits
BUSS 632	Healthcare Information Systems	3 credits
BUSS 659	Crisis Management and Conflict Resolution	3 credits
NURS 802	Interpretation of Quantitative Research for Healthcare	3 credits
NURS 805	Health Research Methods	3 credits
NURS 810	Epidemiology in Advanced Practice Nursing	3 credits
NURS 815	Evidence Based Leadership Practices	3 credits
NURS 895	Doctoral Practicum/Seminar (Scholarly Project)	12 credits
		Total: 33 credits

Students who enter with fewer than 500 supervised practicum hours from their master's degree program will take NURS 715 Leadership Capstone Practicum, up to an additional eight credits, to fulfill the 1,000 practicum hour requirement.

Doctor of Nursing Practice

BSN to DNP for Nurse Leaders

For BSN-prepared nurses with a master's degree outside of Nursing. Complete in four years or part-time at your own pace.

BUSS 559	Healthcare Finance	3 credits
BUSS 569	Healthcare Administration	3 credits
BUSS 632	Healthcare Information Systems	3 credits
BUSS 654	Compliance and Risk Management in Healthcare Settings	3 credits
BUSS 659	Crisis Management and Conflict Resolution	3 credits
NURS 570	Advanced Nursing Leadership Theory	3 credits
NURS 571P	Advanced Nursing Leadership Practicum	2 credits
NURS 601	Quality Healthcare Improvement	3 credits
NURS 602	Evidence-Based Practice in Nursing & Healthcare	3 credits
NURS 610	Advanced Health Policy	3 credits
NURS 620	Biostatistics for the Health Sciences	3 credits
NURS 802	Interpretation of Quantitative Research for Healthcare	3 credits
NURS 805	Health Research Methods	3 credits
NURS 810	Epidemiology in Advanced Practice Nursing	3 credits
NURS 815	Evidence Based Leadership Practices	3 credits
NURS 895	Doctoral Practicum/Seminar (Scholarly Project)	12 credits
		Total: 56 credits

Depending on the number of hours earned during a previous master's degree program, students will take NURS 715 Leadership Capstone Practicum, up to an additional eight credits as needed, to fulfill the 1,000 hour practicum requirement.



Meet a Rivier DNP Graduate

Dr. Susan Santana, Doctor of Nursing Practice '22

Senior Vice President of Patient Care
Chief Nursing Officer
Southern New Hampshire Health

"Rivier's Doctor of Nursing Practice program strengthened my ability to lead with clarity, confidence, and a deep commitment to patient-centered care. The rigorous curriculum and exceptional faculty prepared me to navigate complex healthcare challenges and elevate nursing practice across every team I serve."

Affordable tuition and employer discounts

Rivier's competitively priced DNP program helps you advance your career while managing educational costs. Employees of participating healthcare partner organizations may also qualify for tuition discounts through Rivier's Strategic Partners Program. View the list of participating employers at rivier.edu/spp.

Loan Forgiveness Program

Through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Nurse Faculty Loan Program (NFLP), eligible students preparing for nurse educator roles may qualify for loan forgiveness of up to 85% in exchange for serving as full-time nursing faculty or precepting graduate nursing students after graduation.

Create meaningful change through your scholarly project

Your DNP Scholarly Project transforms knowledge into action. You'll design, implement, and evaluate an evidence-based initiative that addresses a real healthcare challenge while improving outcomes, quality, and organizational effectiveness. With faculty support, you'll gain practical experience leading change and creating measurable impact.



Earn Your DNP with Confidence

Rivier University is accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE).



Rivier's Doctor of Nursing Practice program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), reflecting the highest standards in nursing education and preparing graduates to lead with confidence.



Rivier's DNP program (Nashua, NH) is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), 3390 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 1400, Atlanta, GA 30326, (404) 975-5000. The most recent accreditation decision made by the ACEN Board of Commissioners for the doctoral nursing program is Continuing Accreditation. View the public information disclosed by the ACEN regarding this program at rivier.edu/acen.

Admissions Process

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. View streamlined admissions requirements and application process at rivier.edu/dnp.

Quick Links



Ask a Question
admissions@rivier.edu



Talk to an Enrollment Counselor
rivier.edu/team



Schedule a Visit
events.rivier.edu



Tuition & Fees
rivier.edu/tuition

The University reserves the right to make changes when appropriate and necessary as needed without notification. (0926)

Rivier University

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