Advance to the highest level of nursing practice

Become a leader in professional practice or healthcare systems innovation

Changes in healthcare delivery, recent reforms, and an aging population have more Americans accessing healthcare, intensifying the shortage of primary care providers. Nurse leaders are needed to help meet the demand and to advocate for healthcare improvements.

The DNP degree offers program tracks to accommodate a range of career goals. The Professional Practice Track is designed for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) to elevate their clinical nursing careers. Graduates are prepared to lead interdisciplinary healthcare teams and improve systems of care, patient outcomes, quality, and safety.

The Systems Leadership Track prepares nurses for leadership and management roles creating or redesigning systems to meet the demands of the complex healthcare market. This track offers two entry options: one for non-nurse practitioners who hold a Master of Science in Nursing degree, and another for those with a BSN and a master’s degree in a field outside of nursing.

Choose Rivier

The Doctor of Nursing Practice program structure allows you to complete your coursework, practicums, and scholarly project in less than three years of full-time study. Most students pursue their doctorates while continuing in their current positions, affording them the opportunity to apply what they learn as they work through the program. Through the supportive, online learning environment, fellow students will enrich your education with their experiences, and five face-to-face sessions provide opportunities for personal engagement.
The DNP course of study varies based on your current education and experience. Three tracks offer a range of options for potential students.

**DNP – Professional Practice Track**
Entry with Successful Completion of an APRN Certification Exam – Total Credits: 39
Prerequisite: Successful completion of a graduate (500 level or above) statistics course.

The DNP Professional Practice Track is designed for advanced practice nurses (APRN’s) who have earned a master’s degree in nursing, and have passed a certification exam. Typically, these students enter the DNP program with 500 hours of supervised practicum hours earned in their previous master’s degree program, and will complete an additional 500 hours in the DNP program working towards the completion of their DNP Scholarly Project. This track can be completed full-time in 2.5 years (5 semesters), or part-time in 4.5 years (9 semesters).

**Required Core Courses**
- BUS 559 – Healthcare Finance
- BUS 632 – Healthcare Info Systems
- NSG 601 – Quality Healthcare Improvement
- NSG 610 – Advanced Health Policy
- NSG 800 – Scientific Foundations for Practice
- NSG 802 – Interpretation of Quantitative Research for Healthcare
- NSG 805 – Health Research Methods
- NSG 810 – Epidemiology in Advanced Practice Nursing
- NSG 815 – Evidence-Based Leadership Practices

**Required Practicum Courses**
- NSG 850 – Doctoral Practicum/Seminar I
- NSG 860 – Doctoral Practicum/Seminar II
- NSG 870 – Doctoral Practicum/Seminar III
- NSG 880 – Doctoral Practicum/Seminar IV

**DNP Scholarly Project**
For all DNP tracks, you are required to complete a Scholarly Project, which will address complex practice issues that affect groups of patients, healthcare organizations, or healthcare systems utilizing informatics, technology, and in-depth knowledge of the clinical and behavioral sciences. Over the four clinical practicum semesters, a DNP student will form a Scholarly Project Team, minimally including the student, a faculty guide, and an external expert who has expertise in the student’s identified topic of interest. The student will develop, implement, evaluate and disseminate a sustainable, evidence-based project targeted to improve patient safety and quality of care, in a complex healthcare system.

**DNP – Systems Leadership Track**
Entry with an Earned Master of Science in Nursing Degree – Total Credits: 39 - 47
Prerequisite: Successful completion of a graduate (500 level or above) statistics course.

This Post-Master’s to DNP track allows student who have already completed a master’s degree in nursing to receive credit for previously completed practicum hours as part of their MSN degree, and their program of studies individualized so the total number of practicum hours earned towards the DNP degree is 1,000 hours. This track can be completed full-time in 2.5 years (5 semesters) if entering with 500 hours of previous supervised practicum hours, and part-time in 4.5 years (9 semesters).

**Required Core Courses**
- BUS 559 – Healthcare Finance
- NSG 601 – Quality Healthcare Improvement
- NSG 610 – Advanced Health Policy
- BUS 632 – Healthcare Information Systems
- BUS 659 – Crisis Management and Conflict Resolution
- NSG 802 – Interpretation of Quantitative Research for Healthcare
- NSG 805 – Health Research Methods
- NSG 810 – Epidemiology in Advanced Practice Nursing
- NSG 815 – Evidence Based Leadership Practices

**Required Practicum Courses**
- NSG 715 – Leadership Capstone Practicum
- NSG 850 – Doctoral Practicum/Seminar I
- NSG 860 – Doctoral Practicum/Seminar II
- NSG 870 – Doctoral Practicum/Seminar III
- NSG 880 – Doctoral Practicum/Seminar IV
Faculty with Real-World Experience

Marilyn Daley, DNP, APRN, CHFN
Associate Professor of Nursing
Director of DNP Program

Dr. Marilyn Daley began her career as a critical care nurse and has worked as a cardiology nurse practitioner for more than 20 years. She is the Clinical Director of the Cardiomyopathy Clinic at the New England Heart and Vascular Institute at Catholic Medical Center, where she is responsible for outpatient advanced heart failure management. Spearheading original research giving IV diuretics in the outpatient setting, Dr. Daley developed an outpatient IV diuretic program with an expanded protocol for visiting nurses to use in the home. She holds several leadership positions within the nursing community, and in recognition of her many contributions, Dr. Daley was named the 2018 NH Nurse Practitioner of the Year.

DNP – Systems Leadership Bridge Track — BSN to DNP
Entry with a BSN and an Earned Master Degree Outside of Nursing – Total Credits: 61 - 69

The **DNP Systems Leadership Bridge Track** is designed for registered nurses who have earned a BS in Nursing and a master’s degree in a field outside of nursing (MBA, MPH, etc.), or an MS in Nursing. Students will earn 1,000 clinical hours as part of their degree, as required by national standards. This track can be completed full-time in 5 years (15 semesters), and part-time in 6.5 years (19 semesters).

**Required Core Courses**

- BUS 559  –  Healthcare Finance
- BUS 569  –  Healthcare Administration
- BUS 632  –  Healthcare Information Systems
- BUS 654  –  Compliance and Risk Management in Healthcare Settings
- BUS 659  –  Crisis Management and Conflict Resolution
- NSG 561  –  Advanced Nursing Leadership I
- NSG 563  –  Advanced Nursing Leadership II
- NSG 601  –  Quality Healthcare Improvement
- NSG 602  –  Evidence Based Practices in Healthcare
- NSG 610  –  Advanced Health Policy
- NSG 620  –  Biostatistics in the Health Sciences
- NSG 802  –  Interpretation of Quantitative Research for Healthcare
- NSG 805  –  Health Research Methods Credits
- NSG 810  –  Epidemiology in Advanced Practice Nursing Credits
- NSG 815  –  Evidence Based Leadership Practices

**Required Practicum Courses**

- NSG 562  –  Advanced Nursing Leadership I Practicum
- NSG 564  –  Advanced Nursing Leadership II Practicum
- NSG 715  –  Leadership Capstone Practicum
- NSG 850  –  Doctoral Practicum/Seminar I
- NSG 860  –  Doctoral Practicum/Seminar II
- NSG 870  –  Doctoral Practicum/Seminar III
- NSG 880  –  Doctoral Practicum/Seminar IV

**Accreditation**

Rivier University is accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education, Inc. (NECHE). Nursing and Health Professions programs are offered at the associate, bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral levels, all of which are accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), 3343 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 850, Atlanta, GA 30326, (404) 975-5000, www.acenursing.org.
How to Apply
Application Requirements

To apply to Rivier University’s Doctor of Nursing Practice program, please submit:

1. A completed DNP online application via rivier.edu/apply.
2. Official transcripts from all colleges or universities attended.
3. Current resume or curriculum vitae.
5. Two (2) recommendation letters in sealed envelopes. One letter must be from a direct supervisor or professional who can address your clinical expertise and/or leadership potential. The second letter may also be a professional recommendation or else a recent academic instructor who may address your professional strengths as a student. These letters should be submitted in sealed envelopes, or else mailed directly to the Office of Graduate Admissions via U.S. mail or email with the DNP applicant’s name in the subject line. These letters may also be sent electronically directly from the author to admissions@rivier.edu.
6. A copy of your unencumbered, active APRN license in the state where your practicums will be conducted is required for the Professional Practice Track. A copy of your unencumbered, active RN license in the state where your practicums will be conducted is required for the Systems Leadership Track.
7. A statement of purpose (1-2 pages) that gives your reasons for pursuing the DNP and shows how your interests align with one of the eight AACN Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Nursing Practice. Keep in mind this exercise may be a springboard to the scholarly project you will develop as part of the DNP.
8. Evidence of a completed graduate level statistics/biostatistics course in the post-master’s entry only.
9. Documentation of the number of supervised clinical hours completed in previous earned master’s degree program (must be a minimum of 500 hours).
10. Completion of nursing practicum and course of study forms.
11. Graduate GPA of 3.2 or better on a 4.0 scale. Candidates with less than a 3.2 GPA meeting the above criteria may be considered after interviewing with Graduate Nursing Faculty. A visit to campus is not required.

Application Process

1. Complete and submit an application online at apply.rivier.edu.
2. Review all application requirements and request official transcripts be sent to Rivier University.
3. Send supplemental documents to Rivier to complete your application portfolio. (Your resume/CV and statement of purpose can be uploaded with your application or sent separately after application submission.)
4. Ask questions by contacting us at (603) 897-8507 or email admissions@rivier.edu.

Supplemental documents should be sent via email to admissions@rivier.edu or mailed to The Office of Graduate Admissions, Rivier University, 420 South Main Street, Nashua, NH 03060.

Acceptance into the Program

Rivier will provide you with notifications on your application status throughout the process. Once your application portfolio is complete, you may be invited to interview with the Doctoral Program Admissions Committee. Normally, notification of acceptance is provided within 14 days of application portfolio completion.

Quick Links

Ask a Question – admissions@rivier.edu
Meet with an Enrollment Advisor – rivier.edu/team
Attend an Info Session – events.rivier.edu
Request Information – inquire.rivier.edu
DNP website – rivier.edu/dnp
Visit campus – rivier.edu/visit
Tuition & Fees – rivier.edu/tuition

Apply Now – rivier.edu/apply

The University reserves the right to make changes when appropriate and necessary as needed without notification. (1119)