



Rivier UNIVERSITY

DNP

Doctor of Nursing
Practice

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 and advocates for healthcare improvements.

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (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 DNP 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 four face-to-face sessions provide opportunities for personal engagement.



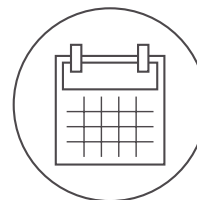
Course Format

Online coursework,
4 face-to-face
sessions



#1 Ranked

Private Nursing
School in NH



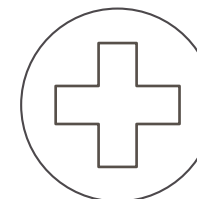
Estimated Program Length

2.5 - 6.5 years



Top 50

ranked private
nursing school in
the nation



Multiple Entry Points

Based on
previous experience



Total Program Credits

39 - 69

Course of Study

The DNP course of study varies based on your current education and experience. Two tracks address career options.

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 supervised practicum hours earned in their previous master's degree program, and they 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 Information 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 895 - Doctoral Practicum/Seminar
Students complete 12 credits.

DNP Scholarly Project

For both DNP tracks, you are required to complete a **Scholarly Project**; projects 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.

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 students 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 is 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
BUS 632 - Healthcare Information Systems
BUS 659 - Crisis Management and Conflict Resolution
NSG 601 - Quality Healthcare Improvement
NSG 610 - Advanced Health Policy
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
If entering with less than 500 practicum hours.
NSG 895 - Doctoral Practicum/Seminar
Students complete 12 credits.

Faculty with Real-World Experience



Donna Proulx, Ph.D., RN, CCRN, CSC

Associate Professor of Nursing

Director of Graduate and Doctoral Nursing Programs

Dr. Donna Proulx, Ph.D., RN, CCRN, CSC is working to advance substance use disorders treatment for vulnerable populations. Her doctoral research was a qualitative inquiry titled “The Lived Experience of Postpartum Women Attending Outpatient Substance-Abuse Treatment for Opioid or Heroin Use.” She holds two certifications in critical care from the American Association of Critical Care Nurses (ACCN)—one in adult critical care (CCRN) and a second in adult cardiac surgery (CSC)—and is a past president of the New Hampshire Chapter of ACCN.

Systems Leadership Bridge Option - 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 569 - Healthcare Administration
BUS 559 - Healthcare Finance
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 562 - Advanced Nursing Leadership I Practicum
NSG 563 - Advanced Nursing Leadership II
NSG 564 - Advanced Nursing Leadership II Practicum
NSG 601 - Quality Healthcare Improvement
NSG 602 - Evidence-Based Practice in Nursing & Healthcare
NSG 610 - Advanced Health Policy
NSG 620 - Biostatistics for the Health Sciences
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
If entering with less than 500 practicum hours.
NSG 895 - Doctoral Practicum/Seminar
Students complete 12 credits.



Accreditation

Rivier University’s ASN, BSN, MSN, Post-Master’s Certificates, and DNP programs located in Nashua, NH, are 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 Initial Accreditation. View the public information disclosed by the ACEN regarding this program at rivier.edu/ACEN.

Apply Now – rivier.edu/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 undergraduate and graduate institutions where you have received degrees and/or course credit.
3. Current resume or curriculum vitae.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. Evidence of a completed graduate-level statistics/biostatistics course in the post-master's entry only.
8. Documentation of the number of supervised clinical hours completed in a previous earned master's degree program (must be a minimum of 500 hours).
9. Completion of nursing practicum form.
10. 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](https://rivier.edu/apply).**
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 and Professional Studies 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.

DNP

Program Start Dates

New terms begins each September, January, and May. Applications are reviewed throughout the year, and students are accepted on a rolling admissions basis.

Quick Links

Ask a Question – admissions@rivier.edu

Schedule a Visit – events.rivier.edu

Talk to an Admissions Counselor – rivier.edu/team

Tuition & Fees – rivier.edu/tuition

