

Doctor of Nursing Practice (B.S.N.-D.N.P.)

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) program at Kentucky State University is a 72-credit hour option designed to prepare the baccalaureate registered nurse to function as an expert adult-gerontological primary care practitioner. The D.N.P. program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). The Doctoral program has full approval status from the KBN based on the letter of accreditation from the ACEN.

The program offers a three-year (9 semester) plan of study. The plan of study requires didactic and clock hours of precepted practicum to fulfill the D.N.P. degree requirements. Courses are completed asynchronously via distance education technology with limited asynchronous face-to-face assemblies. Clinical and residency hours are typically completed within the student's region of residence with an approved preceptor.

All students must satisfactorily complete the minimum semester hours delineated in the D.N.P. plan of study, as well as any other requirements established by the School of Nursing. Students must also meet established School of Nursing grade requirements in all major courses for progression in the program. Information on admission, retention, progression, dismissal, or readmission can be found in the Graduate Student Handbook on the School of Nursing website. The School of Nursing is responsible for all components of the D.N.P. program, including but not limited to, the selection, supervision, and evaluation of nursing students, and the curriculum. As such, The School of Nursing reserves the right to modify any academic provisions or academic requirements when such action will serve the interest of the client/patient, the nursing program, or its students.

Academic Advising

Kentucky State University students who have declared an interest in the D.N.P. program and transfer students who are offered admission into the D.N.P. program shall be assigned a School of Nursing faculty advisor who will assist with course and career planning. Mandatory advising is required each academic year as outlined in the Graduate Student Handbook.

Applicants with Foreign Education

Applicants to the A.A.S. program whose first language is not English must score at least 550 (paper) or 80 (Internet-based) on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Registered nurses educated outside of the United States are required to present verification of having passed the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS) examination. In addition, liberal arts and general studies credits earned at institutions of higher learning outside of the U.S. must be evaluated by the World Education Service (WES), Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE), or International Academic Credential Evaluators (IACEI) for determination of transferability prior to submitting an application for admission to the D.N.P. program.

Admissions

Minimally, the following criteria must be met for admission consideration:

- Admission to Graduate Studies

- Earned baccalaureate degree in nursing from a program accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) or the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).
- GPA 3.0 or above on a 4.0 scale.
- Candidates without 3.0 GPA MUST have two years of successful nursing experience
- Current resume or curriculum vitae.
- Unencumbered, active unencumbered registered nurse license in state of residence AND any state where practicums will be conducted.
- Strongly Recommend Graduate Research and Statistics Courses
- Transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended.
- Three letters of reference pertaining to academic ability, professional competency, nursing leadership potential and personal character.
- Personal statement.

Due to the level of web-based course work required, international students in the D.N.P. program of study are not eligible for F-1 or J-1 student immigration status. Questions regarding visas and immigration documentation should be directed to [International Student Services](#).

Applications to the D.N.P. program are accepted for fall admission only. Applications are processed through NursingCAS, the centralized application service for nursing. All application materials must be received before the March 15th deadline of the year the student desires to enter the A.A.S. program. Applications are not transferrable from year to year. Interested students must reapply annually, by the March 15th submission deadline, for fall admission consideration. Visit www.nursingcas.org to start your application or log into an existing account.

Competitive Selection

A student must earn competitive admission to the School of Nursing. Applications are ranked according to qualifiers including GPA. Please note that meeting the minimum requirements does not guarantee admission. Each application is holistically reviewed by faculty who recommend to the administrative corpus the student applicants who appear to be best qualified. A personal interview may be required. Admission may be offered conditionally based on overall ranking and pending completion of all requirements. Applicants shall be notified in writing of the admissions decision. Visit the School of Nursing website or contact the School of Nursing for more details on admission criteria.

Alcohol and Controlled Substances

The use of alcohol and illegal use of controlled substances, including alcohol, can seriously injure the health of students, impair their performance of their responsibilities, and endanger the safety and well-being of fellow students and members of the general public. Students who are engaged in clinical work at a practicum site may be required to submit to random tests for illegal use of controlled substances as provided by the law or regulations of the contracting agency. Just cause for student disciplinary action includes, but is not limited to, use or unauthorized possession of intoxicants, controlled or illegal substances, or materials dangerous to public health and safety. It is not acceptable to use alcohol or illegal drugs prior to or during class or clinical. Immediate disciplinary action will be taken.

Background Check and Drug Testing

Participation in clinical experiences, rotations or fieldwork is a required part of the curriculum and a requirement for graduation. All students will be required to have a background check and drug test upon admission. If the results of either requirement indicate that the student would not be eligible for placement at a practicum agency, the student's admission will be rescinded. Students may be required to repeat either requirement should the practicum agency require more frequent testing. If at any time during the period of enrollment, the student's background check or drug test results preclude placement in a practicum agency, the student will be required to withdraw from the program.

Technical Standards

Applicants to the School of Nursing are expected to be capable of completing the entire nursing curriculum and of earning a D.N.P. degree. Nursing is a practice discipline with cognitive, sensory, affective, and psychomotor performance requirements. The school's technical standards provide an objective measure on which to base informed decisions about whether individual students will be able to participate in the nursing program. Technical standards also help students determine whether they will need accommodations or modifications in order to participate. Exemplars of technical standards can be found in the Graduate Student Handbook available on the School of Nursing webpage. Students with disabilities who believe that they may need assistance in meeting the core performance standards should contact the Disability Resource Center.

Expenses

Nursing students are charged the same tuition rate and general fees as students enrolled in other University programs. However, students accepted into the nursing major incur additional expenses related to clinical uniform requirements, summative and formative testing, official ceremonial regalia, association membership, and practicum equipment and materials.

Retention, Progression, & Dismissal

Governing policies including policy on admission, retention, progression, dismissal and readmission for the School of Nursing D.N.P. program can be found online in the Graduate Handbook on the School of Nursing webpage.