



Doctor of Nursing Practice Program Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the benefit of completing the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree at Baptist U?

Baptist Health Sciences University offers a strong commitment to one-on-one instruction in a Christian environment, robust clinical experiences, and is affiliated with a large multi-state health care system throughout Tennessee, Mississippi and Arkansas.

2. What nurse practitioner concentrations are offered for the Doctor of Nursing Practice program at Baptist U?

Baptist University offers two program concentrations for anyone interested in taking care of Adults of ALL Ages. The certification is Adult-Gerontology and covers *adolescence through end of life*.

- Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (Adult-Gerontology)
 - Acute Care Nurse Practitioners provide care for patients with unstable chronic, complex acute and critical conditions.
- Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (Adult-Gerontology)
 - Primary Care Nurse Practitioners focus on comprehensive, continuous care characterized by long term patient relationships.

3. What pathways to the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree are offered at Baptist U?

Baptist University offers two pathways to the DNP degree.

1. BSN to DNP
2. Post-Master's to DNP, with the addition of a second advanced practice credential

Both pathways are for the student desiring the Nurse Practitioner credential.

4. What are the minimum requirements for acceptance to the Doctor of Nursing Practice program at Baptist U?

1. Have earned an entry-level degree culminating in either a Baccalaureate in Science of Nursing or a Master of Science in Nursing from a regionally, nationally or internationally accredited college or university or have earned an advanced practice Master of Science in Nursing Degree from a regionally, nationally or internationally accredited college or university.



2. A total cumulative GPA of 3.0 (4.0 grade-point scale) on all collegiate course work is preferred.
 - Holistic admission practices will factor into the decision for admission acceptance. These holistic practices include an admission essay, a candidate interview, non-academic criteria and work experience.
 - Holistic admissions evaluation will also include, but not be limited to, activities such as civic activities, research interests, professional development activities, and membership in professional organizations.
 - A minimum of three months recent prior work experience in an acute care setting within the last 2 years will be a consideration for selection to the Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner concentration as verified by job description and employment agency.
3. Submit a current resume'/curriculum vitae outlining professional nursing accomplishments.
4. Submit a written essay outlining the applicant's professional goals, expectations and desired achievements from the program.
5. Complete a graduate faculty panel interview (may be done in person or virtually).
6. Submit final official transcripts from all colleges attended.
7. Be in good standing and eligible to return to any institution previously attended.
8. Applicants must submit a letter of good program standing from any prior graduate nursing programs attended, and be eligible to return to all previously attended prior to admission.
9. Hold an unencumbered Tennessee RN nursing license or have unencumbered authority to practice as an RN via multi-state privilege at the time of application. Accepted students must maintain an unencumbered RN license for the duration of the program of study.
10. Advanced Practice Registered Nurse applicants must hold an unencumbered advanced practice nursing license at the time of application. Accepted students must maintain an unencumbered advanced practice license for the duration of the program of study.
11. Must comply with the citizenship/residency requirement for all Baptist University applicants. (Refer to the Citizenship/Residency Requirement section).
12. Upon acceptance to Baptist University, the applicant must submit the following:
 - A guaranteed enrollment deposit. The enrollment deposit, a nonrefundable deposit, is due within 30 days of acceptance and is held in escrow and applied to the student's first enrolled term.
 - Drug screen clearance
 - Criminal background check clearance.
 - Required immunizations.
 - Proof of Basic Life Support Certification for healthcare providers. Students are expected to maintain current certification throughout their enrollment.



5. How many credit hours are in the curriculum?

The DNP curriculum totals 66 credit hours and 1365 clinical hours.

Post MSN to DNP candidates will have a gap analysis completed of prior coursework (up to 14 credit hours). Consideration for block credit award is determined based upon the individual candidate's gap analysis and DNP curriculum essential requirements.

Transfer course work is evaluated on an individual basis and a copy of the syllabus is required for review/consideration of graduate transfer coursework.

6. How long will it take to complete the program?

BSN to DNP

The full-time curriculum is designed to be completed in three years. The part-time curriculum is designed to be completed in four years.

Post MSN to DNP

The curriculum is designed to be completed in three years. A part-time option may be individualized.

7. Is the program being offered online?

The program is not considered to be fully online. However, much of the course delivery format will be facilitated in an online or hybrid learning format with required synchronous sessions for all online courses, on average three times per trimester.

Some courses do require regular face-to-face meetings

Two –three face-to-face intensives per trimester are required once students enter clinical coursework. Intensives meet 2-3 times per trimester for an average of 3 days each.

8. I have my Associate degree or Diploma in nursing. Can I enter this program with my current credentials?

This program is designed for the post baccalaureate graduate, or the post-master's nurse practitioner seeking a second nurse practitioner credential. Once you have attained your BSN, you could then apply for the DNP program.

9. I have already taken some Master's level courses. Will Baptist accept them for transfer credit?

Baptist does have a Transfer Credit policy and will evaluate potential courses for transfer based on comparable curriculum objectives and age of the course. Decisions are made on an individual basis.



10. What licensure requirements are there for nurse practitioners? After program completion, graduates will be eligible to sit for the population-specific certification examination.

- a. The adult-gerontology acute care candidate may take the exam through the American Nurses Credentialing Center or the American Association of Critical Care Nurses.
- b. The adult-gerontology primary care candidate may take the exam through the American Nurses Credentialing Center or the American Association of Nurse Practitioners.

Once certified, you are then able to apply for advanced practice licensure in the state you are requesting practice.

11. Does APRN licensure cross other states?

There is no multi-state licensure for APRNs. Currently, APRNs must carry an advanced practice license for each state they are practicing.

12. I would like to come hear more about the program. Are there any informational sessions planned?

Yes! The University hosts informational sessions in various locations and virtually each fall and spring. Please visit our [Link to DNP program \(www.baptistu.edu/DNP\)](http://www.baptistu.edu/DNP) for more information.

13. Where do I apply?

Applications are completed through our website, www.baptistu.edu/DNP, or the main admissions site: <https://www.baptistu.edu/admissions> under **graduate admissions**.

14. Who can I contact for more information?

For program specific information, please contact Dr. Brett Pickens at brett.pickens@baptistu.edu or 901-572-2936.

For application and admissions information, please contact the Office of Admissions
Phone: 901-575-2247 or toll free 866-575-2247 Email address: admissions@baptistu.edu