

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 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.

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

Baptist University offers two program concentrations of study to choose from:

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

Both programs of study prepare nurse practitioners to treat adolescents to older adults.

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

- a. Applicants must 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 accredited University or university, or
- b. Have earned an advanced practice Master of Science in Nursing Degree from a regionally accredited University or university.
- c. Earned cumulative GPA of 3.0/4.0 scale on all collegiate course work, or 3.2/4.0 during their nursing degree program.
- d. Must be in good standing and eligible to return to any institution previously attended.

- e. 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, and maintain licensure requirements throughout the duration of the program of study.
- f. 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 program of study.
- g. Be a United States citizen or permanent resident.
- h. English proficient
- i. Have two years of clinical nursing experience prior to enrolling in the clinical courses. For the acute care adult-gerontology practitioner concentration, one year of experience in caring for critically ill patients is desired.
- j. Submit a written essay outlining the applicant's professional goals, expectations and desired achievements from the program. The essay details will be provided by the Admissions Officer once GPA minimum requirements are determined.
- k. Submission of a professional resume'.
- l. Complete a faculty panel interview (in person or synchronously).

5. How many credit hours are in the curriculum?

The DNP curriculum totals 63 credit hours and 1170 clinical hours.

The Post MSN to DNP sample curriculum plan is 45 credit hours and 1105 clinical hours. Post MSN to DNP candidates will have a gap analysis completed of prior coursework. Consideration for block credit award is determined based upon the individual candidate's gap analysis and DNP curriculum essential requirements.

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

BSN to DNP

The full-time curriculum is designed to be completed in nine trimesters, which is three years.

The part-time curriculum is designed to be completed in twelve trimesters, which is four years.

Post MSN to DNP

The curriculum is designed to be completed in seven trimesters, which is 2.5 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 synchronous sessions. Some courses do require regular face-to-face meetings.

Two –three face-to-face intensives per trimester are required once students enter clinical coursework.

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. Baptist University offers a RN-BSN degree option. 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 NursingCAS. The link to NursingCAS can be found [here](#)

14. Who can I contact for more information?

For program specific information, please contact the Graduate Program Chair, Dr. Cathy Stepter at cathy.stepter@baptistu.edu or 901-572-2505.

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