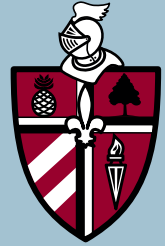


# Doctor of Nursing Practice

DONNA AND ALLAN LANSING SCHOOL OF NURSING & HEALTH SCIENCES



## Accreditation

Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education  
1 Dupont Circle NW #530  
Washington, DC 20036-1126  
Phone: 202.887.6791

## The Doctor of Nursing Practice

On October 25, 2004, the members of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) endorsed the Position Statement on the Practice Doctorate in Nursing which was brought forward by the Task Force on the Practice Doctorate. AACN member institutions voted to move the current level of preparation necessary for advanced nursing practice from the master's degree to the doctorate level by the year 2015.

AACN's position statement calls for educating Advanced Practice Nurses (APNs) and other nurses seeking top clinical roles in Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) programs. The changing demands of this nation's complex health care environment require the highest level of scientific knowledge and practice expertise to assure high quality patient outcomes. The practice doctorate is designed for nurses seeking a terminal degree in nursing practice, and offers an alternative to research focused doctoral programs (i.e. PhD programs).

## The Bellarmine DNP

The Doctor of Nursing Practice at Bellarmine is a post-masters program. You may select one of two DNP tracks: one designed for the advanced practice nurse, focused on the healthcare of individuals, and one designed for those interested in leadership at the system and/or organizational level. Total credit hours for the program range from 34 to 36 hours, depending on the track you select.

The curriculum consists of core courses, which all students take, and specialty-specific courses. Core content includes topics such as research and evidence-based practice, quality improvement and patient safety, clinical

informatics, advanced statistics, health care economics and financing, and domestic and global health policy. In addition, all students complete a practice immersion and residency experience which will culminate with portfolio development and a capstone project.

## DNP Outcomes

1. Use epidemiologic and other scientific findings from nursing and other clinical disciplines, as well as organizational, political, and economic sciences, to develop practice initiatives that will improve the quality of care delivery.
2. Provide organizational and systems leadership to develop care delivery models that are fiscally responsible and demonstrate sensitivity to diverse organizational cultures and patient populations.
3. Engage in clinical scholarship to evaluate the effectiveness of evidence-based efforts in the planning and practice of health care program delivery to individuals and communities.
4. Use healthcare informatics and technology to improve patient safety and clinical outcomes.
5. Collaborate with healthcare professionals, consumers, and other stakeholders to influence health policy and health promotion/disease prevention endeavors at the local, state, federal, and/or international levels that improve patient and population health outcomes.

### Advanced Practice Nursing Focus

The Advanced Practice Nursing (APN) focus prepares APNs to function more effectively in the increasingly complex health care system. Given the expansion of scientific knowledge required for safe nursing practice and the growing focus on the quality of patient care delivery and outcomes, this track will provide students with the specialized knowledge and skills needed by today's practitioner. Students in this track will use their existing understanding of the practice context to document practice trends, identify potential systemic changes, and make improvements in the care of particular patient populations in the systems within which they practice.

### Advanced Leadership Focus

The Advanced Leadership focus prepares students for advanced specialty practice at the population, organizational, and/or system level. Given the increasingly complex health care environment, this track will provide students with the specialized knowledge and skills needed by today's nursing leaders. Students in this track will use their existing understanding of the practice leadership context to identify aggregate health or system needs, work with diverse stakeholders for inter- or intra-organizational achievement of health-related goals, and design patient-centered care delivery systems.

#### *Questions should be directed to:*

Dr. Sherill Cronin, *Director of Graduate Nursing Programs*, 502.452.8149, 800.274.4723 or [scronin@bellarmine.edu](mailto:scronin@bellarmine.edu)

Dr. Mike Huggins, *Associate Director of FNP Track*, 502.473.3994, 800.274.4723 or [mhuggins@bellarmine.edu](mailto:mhuggins@bellarmine.edu)

Julie Armstrong-Binnix, *Recruiter*, 502.452.8364, 800.274.4723 x. 8364 or [julieab@bellarmine.edu](mailto:julieab@bellarmine.edu)

#### *Mail the completed materials to:*

**Office of Admission**  
Bellarmine University  
2001 Newburg Road  
Louisville, Kentucky 40205

### Program Admission Requirements

Admission to the DNP program requires approval by the Graduate Nursing Admission, Progression, and Graduation Committee. Admission of applicants is based upon the following criteria:

- MSN from a CCNE or NLNAC accredited nursing program
- Minimum 3.5 cumulative GPA for graduate work is required
- For non-native English speakers, a total score of 83 on the TOEFL (internet-based) with a minimum of 26 on the speaking section
- Three professional references (on form provided) addressing academic skills including oral and written communication, as well as clinical competence, from individuals who hold a masters or doctoral degree
- Goal statement – Should include responses to the following:
  - What are your professional goals and how will the DNP help you attain them? (Limit to 250 words)
  - What strengths do you possess that would contribute to your success in the program and to a community of interprofessional scholars? (Limit to 250 words)
  - Identify one or two topics/areas that you would like to explore as part of the DNP program (e.g., quality improvement initiative, evidence-based practice guideline, new model of care, policy analysis) and your preliminary plans for approaching them. (Limit to 500 words)
- Current CV or resume, describing relevant work, professional, and volunteer experiences
- Proof of active, unrestricted license to practice nursing in Kentucky and/or compact states
- Graduate level statistics course within 5 years of projected program start date

After initial review of applications, applicants may be contacted for an interview with graduate faculty members. Because enrollment is limited in the DNP track, meeting the minimum requirements may not assure admission.

DNP students will be required to have ready access to a computer, printer and Internet service provider that has high speed DSL or broadband Internet access and should possess moderate information technology skills.

## Course Requirements

### *DNP Core Didactic Courses - 21 credit hours*

- Informatics
- Advanced Statistics
- Methods for Evidence-based Practice in Healthcare
- Quality Improvement / Patient Safety
- Applied Epidemiology
- Clinical Program Development, Implementation, and Evaluation
- Domestic and Global Health Policy and Law

### *DNP Core Clinical Courses - 6 credit hours*

- Practice Immersions (2) - 1 cr hr each (with clinical practice hours)
- Residency - 4 cr hrs (with clinical practice hours)

### *Specialty Track Courses - 6 to 9 credit hours*

#### *APN (Focus on Care of Individuals)*

- N639 Health Systems
- N625 Healthcare Finance

#### *Leadership (Focus on Systems/Organizations)*

- N681 Advanced Management of Organizations and Systems
- N863 Advanced Health Care Economics and Finance
- N841 Selected Topics (with clinical practice hours)

### **Total - 33 to 36 credit hours**

Practice Immersion and residency experience will culminate with portfolio development as a capstone evaluation. Portfolio to include case analyses, evidence-based system change project (that addresses quality, safety, access, and/or cost issues) and log of practice experiences.

### **N861 Advanced Leadership and Management of Organizations and Systems**

This course examines organization and systems theory related to decision-making to establish efficient work processes and safe clinical care. Students will explore leadership qualities necessary to envision, facilitate, and sustain organization-wide changes that promote excellence in complex health care organizations. Leadership strategies that promote inter and intra-professional dynamics needed to create innovative and adaptable care delivery models will be examined.

### **N808 Advanced Statistics for the Health Sciences**

This course explores the statistical methodologies of ANOVA, repeated measures analysis of variances, correlation analysis, and multiple linear regression. The use of statistical software links theory with practice. This course is formulated for the Doctor of Nursing Practice student and focuses upon statistics used in analysis of healthcare issues.

### **N804 Healthcare Informatics**

This course is designed to develop knowledge and skills related to informatics, technology and patient care technology. It provides the learner the opportunity to integrate nursing science, computer science and information science into nursing practice. Learning activities focus on the application of new knowledge, management of individual and aggregate level information and assessment of the efficacy of patient care technology.

### **N810 Methods for Evidence-based practice in Healthcare**

This course provides students with the skills and competencies needed to establish a clinical scholarship trajectory for the highest level of evidence-based practice. Concepts of critical appraisal, generation, analysis, and synthesis of evidence are included. Emphasis will be placed on strategies to translate evidence into practice, tools useful for promoting evidence-based practices in health care settings, and the evaluation of evidence-based systems of care that will improve patient outcomes.

### **N814 Program Development, Implementation and Evaluation**

This course provides an overview of program development concepts intrinsic to the clinical nursing doctorate, as well as a foundation for further study of evidence-based-practices, and exploration of systems solutions to population-specific health issues. Emphasis is placed on systems theories, sound fiscal responsibility, and political awareness.

### **N863 Advanced Health Care Economics and Finance**

This course will present basic economic concepts, principles, and theories that drive health policy and the health care system in the public and private sectors. A basic economic framework will be used to analyze the structure, conduct, and performance of the markets for consumers, insurers, physicians, hospitals, pharmaceutical companies, and long term care services. In addition, the course will introduce the student to managerial aspects of financial analysis. Basic financial concepts and tools will be used in a variety of health care settings.

### **N806 National and Global Health Policy and Law**

This course will focus on the priorities, issues and strategies for health policy development and law affecting health policy on a domestic and international basis. The course provides a structured introduction to health issues in the United States and international context. Students will use a conceptual framework to analyze these issues as well as relevant literature of transcultural health care, political, economic, international theories and law to guide clinical practice on a global level.

### **N812 Quality Improvement and Patient Safety**

This course focuses on the role of the DNP-prepared nurse in quality improvement and patient safety initiatives. The emphasis is on developing the scientific knowledge base, skills, and competencies needed to assess organizational culture, gather safety and quality information, analyze data and translate findings into evidence-based systems changes.

### **N816 Managerial Epidemiology**

This course addresses managerial decision-making in the context of population health care, and how it is impacted by the application of public health methods and research results. Course content includes the history and methods of epidemiology, national and international public health challenges, the application of epidemiologic methods to quality assurance, and the application of selected biostatistics to patterns of disease incidence, transmission, risk, and prevalence.

### **N841 Selected Topics in Advanced Nursing**

This course offers the DNP student the opportunity to explore contemporary issues in health care delivery that affect the process and/or outcomes of care for a selected population group. In order to successfully complete the objectives of this course, the student is expected to complete a minimum of 200 hours of supervised practice in a clinical area related to the topic of interest. Each student will be required to submit individual objectives at the beginning of the semester.

### **N891 Practice Immersion I**

This is the first of a three-course series that provides the DNP student with mentored opportunities to identify, develop, implement, evaluate and disseminate an independent, analytic scholarly project focusing on problems of practice within specific populations. Each course builds on the knowledge and practice expertise of the DNP student, culminating in the completion of the scholarly project. The range of projects will be varied as they relate to the unique clinical practices of the DNP student, e.g., quality improvement, analyzing policy, designing and using databases, designing and evaluating new models of care, collaboration with researchers to answer clinical questions, program development, implementation and evaluation. To complete the objectives of this course successfully, the DNP student works with a faculty mentor to refine the design of the scholarly project. Students must successfully complete an oral defense of the project prior to implementation. The student will be required to submit individual objectives and is expected to complete a minimum of 100 hours of supervised practice in a clinical area related to their topic of interest.

### **N892 Practice Immersion II**

In this second course of a three-course series, the DNP student begins implementing the scholarly project, after successfully completing an oral defense of the project. To meet the objectives of this course successfully, the student is expected to complete a minimum of 100 hours of supervised practice in a clinical area related to their topic of interest. Each student will be required to submit individual objectives at the beginning of the semester.

### **N895 Residency**

In this capstone course, the DNP student completes implementation of the evidence-based scholarly project specific to a population of interest within a clinical setting and evaluates its impact on health care outcomes. Students will disseminate their findings through an oral presentation and a manuscript suitable for a peer-reviewed publication. Students will apply knowledge and skills obtained in the didactic and integrative courses in order to address the ethical, legal, financial and organizational aspects of the scholarly project. The DNP student will discuss his/her topic of interest, the development of the project and how it addressed the needs of a selected population; and evaluate the implementation and outcomes of the project. In order to successfully complete the objectives of this course, the student is expected to complete a minimum of 200 hours of supervised practice in a clinical area related to the topic of interest. Each student will be required to submit individual objectives at the beginning of the semester.



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**Professional/Community Activities** (PLEASE LIST DATES INVOLVED)

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NURSING EXPERIENCES	AGENCY	CITY/STATE	DATES

REGISTERED NURSE LICENSE(S)	STATE	NUMBER

**Short Answer**

Please supply a short answer for the following questions.

1. Where did you hear about Bellarmine’s Graduate Programs in Nursing?

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2. What factor had the most influence over your decision to apply for Graduate Studies here?

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**Signature**

I declare that the information provided on this form is true, correct and complete. Bellarmine University has my permission to verify information by obtaining documents as needed. I understand that providing false information may result in Bellarmine University revoking my status as an accepted or enrolled student. Also, I grant Bellarmine University or its appointee(s) permission to post my personal and academic information on Bellarmine’s secured, password protected intranet and student portal.

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**SIGNATURE**

**DATE**

***Non-Discrimination Policy***

*Bellarmino University, in compliance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1974, and Title IX of the Educational Amendment of 1972, has by action of its board of trustees established a policy of treating all students and student applicants equally without regard to ethnic and national background, sex, religion, age, or disability.*

## Recommendation Form

**APPLICANT:** Fill in your name and forward one copy to each respondent. Please provide a stamped, addressed envelope along with each form. **Three recommendations are required with your application.** Read the statement below and, if you choose, sign it where indicated. The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 entitle Nursing graduate students to have access to letters of evaluation in their records at the School. The applicant may waive the right of access to letters of evaluation in which case letters of evaluation will be considered confidential and will not be available to the student. If you wish to waive your right to access this letter of evaluation, please sign your name on the line below the following statement.

**I, undersigned, hereby waive all rights or privileges provided by Public Law 93-380 to inspect or challenge the content and comments appearing in this letter of evaluation.**

Name of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Signed Wavier of Access \_\_\_\_\_

**RESPONDENT:** Please complete the information requested. If you need additional sheets of paper please staple them to this form. Your comments will be held completely confidential if the applicant has signed the statement above. Please enclose this form and any attachments in an envelope addressed to the applicant. Please sign the back of the envelope, writing your signature across the seal of the envelope flap and return sealed envelope to the applicant.

Respondent's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Institution/Agency \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
HOME WORK CELL

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



Please rate the applicant in the areas indicated below by checking the appropriate responses; outstanding, above average, satisfactory, below average, or indicate “unable to comment.”

AREA	OUTSTANDING	ABOVE AVERAGE	SATISFACTORY	BELOW AVERAGE
Intellectual Ability				
Critical Thinking Ability				
Problem Solving Ability				
Knowledge of Proposed Study				
Quality of Oral Communication				
Quality of Written Communication				
Motivation and Energy				
Emotional Stability				
Self-Image				
Independence				
Creativity				
Leadership Ability				

How long have you known the applicant and in what capacity?

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What do you consider to be the applicant’s strengths?

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Do you know of any special circumstances in the applicant’s social or academic background or emotional makeup that should be considered in the evaluation of this applicant for graduate studies?

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Additional Comments. (Please feel free to attach additional pages if necessary.)

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## Application Checklist

*To be admitted permanently to Bellarmine University, each student must present the following:*

- A \$25.00 non-refundable application fee, unless a Bellarmine graduate.
- A completed and signed application to the Graduate Programs in Nursing.
- An official transcript of all undergraduate and graduate course work. (Transcripts must be mailed directly from previous institutions to the Admission Office.)
- Three professional references (on form provided). References should be from faculty members, professional colleagues, or work supervisors who can evaluate your potential for success in a graduate program. Recommendations from friends, other students, or co-workers are usually not appropriate.
- Goal statement – Should include responses to the following:
  - What are your professional goals and how will the DNP help you attain them? (Limit to 250 words)
  - What strengths do you possess that would contribute to your success in the program and to a community of interprofessional scholars? (Limit to 250 words)
  - Identify one or two topics/areas that you would like to explore as part of the DNP program (e.g., quality improvement initiative, evidence-based practice guideline, new model of care, policy analysis) and your preliminary plans for approaching them. (Limit to 500 words)
- Current CV or resume, describing relevant work, professional and volunteer experiences.
- Proof of active, unrestricted license to practice nursing in Kentucky and/or compact states.
- If your undergraduate degree is from an international institution or if English is your second language, TOEFLiBT (internet-based test) scores must be submitted. **The Nursing Department reserves the right to require TOEFLiBT testing from any candidate.** Information about the TOEFLiBT can be found at [www.ets/TOEFL](http://www.ets/TOEFL).



## **BELLARMINI UNIVERSITY**

2001 Newburg Road | Louisville, KY 40205

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[lansingrecruiter@bellarmine.edu](mailto:lansingrecruiter@bellarmine.edu)

[www.bellarminie.edu/nursing](http://www.bellarminie.edu/nursing)