

Degree Description

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) degree is an 18- month program in which students complete a standard didactic phase of coursework offered in a distance learning format, and a specialty residency track with clinical research experiences scheduled in the last three quarters of the curriculum. There will be two tracks: 1) Primary Care Nurse Practitioner track for advanced practice nurses who already hold certification in this area of specialty, and 2) a Nurse Executive track, for current professional nursing leaders.

Students must complete a minimum of 1000 post- bachelors residency hours to include the practicum hours completed in an accredited Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.) program and at least 600 indirect care hours in the D.N.P. program at Midwestern University. The degree consists of 56 – 62 quarter credits. A gap analysis will be conducted to determine the number of residency and clinical research hours a student needs to meet the minimum 1000-hour requirement. D.N.P. graduates are required to demonstrate specific foundational and concentration-related competencies encompassing the following D.N.P. Essentials: scientific underpinnings, organizational and systems leadership, clinical scholarship and analytical methods for evidence-based practice, information systems and technology improvement, health care policy and advocacy, finance, quality improvement initiatives, interprofessional collaboration to improve patient outcomes, clinical prevention and population health, and advanced nursing practice..

Students enrolled in the D.N.P. program complete planned, supervised, and evaluated residencies that consist of clinical research experiences within the states in which they are licensed. Applied residencies consist of clinical research experiences tailored to meet the core competencies of doctorally-prepared nurses.

D.N.P. students are required to conduct translational, evidenced-based research to improve the health of the population foci supervised by a research project committee. The residencies and clinical research experiences may include government, nongovernment, nonprofit, clinical, or appropriate university-affiliated settings.