



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
College of Nursing

2025 Informational Booklet

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE





WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
College of Nursing

01.

About the WSU
College of Nursing



Mission

Advancing optimal health and well-being through education, scholarship, practice and community engagement.

Vision

The WSU College of Nursing will shape healthcare delivery to be just, accessible, and relevant through innovation and meaningful community engagement.

With four campuses to choose from, we have options for everyone.

The College of Nursing offers degree programs across the state to help address the health care needs of all Washington residents. Degree programs are offered on WSU campuses and sites in **Spokane**, the **Tri-Cities**, **Vancouver**, and **Yakima**.

The Washington State University College of Nursing BSN, MN, and DNP programs are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), 655 K. Street, NW, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20001, 202-887-6791.

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Master of Nursing programs are accredited through Dec. 31, 2034. The Doctor of Nursing Practice program is accredited through Dec. 31, 2029.

Washington State University is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU). WSU has been continuously accredited by its regional higher education authority since 1918.





02.

**DNP
Specialization
Tracks**



Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) is a practice doctorate designed to equip nurses with the expertise and leadership skills required to make a profound impact on health care delivery.

Unlike a traditional PhD, which focuses on research, the DNP is tailored for those nurses aspiring to excel in the practical aspects of their profession. Whether you dream of becoming an advanced practice nurse or are driven to take on leadership roles within health care settings and organizations, the DNP provides the essential tools to bring about tangible improvements in patient care. DNP-prepared nurses are at the forefront of translating scientific advancements into real-world applications, ultimately enhancing the health and well-being of diverse patient populations.

The WSU College of Nursing offers three specialization tracks for Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) students: Family NP, Psychiatric Mental Health NP, and Post-Master's General NP.



Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)

The Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) program prepares you for a career in primary care. In many states, including Washington, Oregon and Idaho, a Family Nurse Practitioner can operate an independent practice, diagnosing and treating illness, ordering and interpreting diagnostic tests, and initiating treatments.

Students may enter the DNP-FNP as either a post-Baccalaureate or post-Master's student.

- Post-Baccalaureate entry: 74 credits
- Post-Master's entry: 69 credits (2 classes fewer than post-bacc.) with option to request transfer credit
- 600 direct-care clinical hours
- 480 non-direct care practicum hours
- Classes fall, spring, and summer semesters
- 3- and 4-year cohorts
- Fall entry only

Sample progression plans can be found [here](#).



Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP)

The DNP-PMHNP prepares you to provide psychiatric and mental health services using a full scope of therapies. A Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner assesses, diagnoses, and treats people with psychiatric disorders or the potential for such disorders.

Students may enter the DNP-PMHNP as either a post-Baccalaureate or post-Master's student.

- Post-Baccalaureate entry: 74 credits
- Post-Master's entry: 69 credits (2 classes fewer than post-bacc.) with option to request transfer credit
- 660 direct-care clinical hours
- 480 non-direct care practicum hours
- Classes fall, spring, and summer semesters
- 3- and 4-year cohorts
- Fall entry only

Sample progression plans can be found [here](#).



Transfer credit for Post-Master's FNP or PMHNP applicants

Post-Master's FNP or PMHNP applicants may request transfer credit with the following guidelines:

- We evaluate potential transfer courses *after* you have submitted your application to the program.
- For a list of courses that we will consider for transfer credit, please contact the academic coordinator.
- Gather potential transfer courses syllabi and submit for faculty review.
 - Without syllabi we cannot evaluate transfer credit.
- You may not receive approval for all requested transfer credit.
- Our average transfer credit is between one to three classes. It is highly unusual to be approved for more than this.
 - Therefore you *must be willing* to take all courses in the program.
- Courses must be taken within 7 years of *graduating* with the DNP. This effectively means the courses would have needed to be taken within the past three years of being *admitted* to the DNP degree program.



Post-Master's General (PMG)

The Post-Master's DNP General degree is focused on evidence-based practice, leadership, and research. This degree is for nurses who have already earned their master's degree **with an advanced practice specialization** and want to advance their area of specialty. This track does not include specialty certification to enable graduates to work in private practice that includes prescribing.

Students may enter the DNP-PMG as a post-Master's student only.

- 33 credits
- 480 non-direct care practicum hours.
- There are no direct-care clinicals in this track.
- Your Master's NP degree included enough hours in addition to the 480 provided in the PMG to reach the 1000 hours required for the DNP degree.
- Classes Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters
- 5- and 8-semester options
- Fall entry only

Sample progression plans can be found [here](#).



Progressing through your degree plan

The DNP program operates like a cohort program. Upon completing of the new student onboarding requirements you will be sent your progression plan that lays out when you will take every class you will take for your degree. Progression through the degree is set and any variation from the plan must be pre-approved. Most courses are only offered once a year so if any adjustments are made to your plan, it could delay graduation for a year. Exceptions can be made for leaves of absences, the need to repeat a course, or other pre-approved reasons.

Changing pacing of your progression:

Before you start the degree program you may request a switch from a 3- to a 4- year plan or vice versa.

If you wish to slow down your progression after you start the program, by switching from a 3- to a 4-year plan, that is possible. However, it is not possible to speed up from a 4-year to a 3-year plan.





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03.

Clinicals and Practicums



What is the difference between clinicals and practicums?

Clinicals or **direct-care clinicals** are your hours spent in direct patient-care at a site. This is where you practice what you have learned through your didactic classes and lab courses.

Practicums are **non-direct care** hours spent in leadership or DNP project work. This can involve activity at facilities learning from leadership, administrators, or other nurses. You will not have direct contact with patients for these hours.

Before you start your clinicals you will complete the required lab course(s). These lab courses require both didactic Zoom class times (5-6 instances per class) as well as on-campus class labs (5-7 times). All labs are scheduled in the fall semester only.

All courses start with the prefix **NURS_ADV**

FNP

- Lab courses (with on-campus labs): 508, 562
- Clinical courses: 514, 516, 538, 540
- Practicum courses: 518, 553, 557, 558, 559, 576

PMHNP

- Lab course (with on-campus labs): 562
- Clinical courses: 547, 555, 560, 582
- Practicum courses: 518, 553, 557, 558, 559, 576

PMG

- Practicum courses: 518, 553, 557, 558, 559, 576

Please see the sample progression plans to learn when lab courses, clinicals, and practicum courses are scheduled. Links are on the FNP, PMHNP, and PMG pages.



What is the process for finding and setting up clinicals and practicums?

Clinicals and practicums must be in Washington, Oregon, or Idaho states, where there are active contracts in place for the entire semester(s). If you live on the border between two states you are encouraged to have RN licenses in both states. You must be licensed in the state(s) in which you complete your clinical and practicum hours.

Clinicals are set up by your campus' Clinical Placement Coordinator (CPC). They also assist in gathering and submitting your onboarding materials. You do not have to find your own preceptors, however, if you have someone in mind, you can provide their name to your CPC.

There are two different **practicum** series: Leadership (576 and 553) and DNP Project (518, 557, 558, 559). For the leadership practicum, these will be done through WSU, so you do not need to find a practicum site or mentor. For the DNP Project you will be responsible for finding your own site and mentor based on your interests for your project. The CPCs will assist with the required onboarding for these sites.



Where are the clinical sites?

As a reminder, **clinical and practicums** must be in Washington, Oregon, or Idaho states, where there are active contracts in place for the entire semester(s). If you live on the border between two states you are encouraged to have RN licenses in both states. You must be licensed in the state(s) in which you complete your clinical and practicum hours.

Every effort is made to place you in a convenient location to where you live, however, clinical placements are extremely competitive in ALL communities and you may need to travel near your campus of record. For example, if you live near Seattle, you may have placements near Vancouver, WA.

To ensure placements are relatively near you, be sure to apply to the correct campus. For example, if you live on the westside of the state, you should be part of the Vancouver campus to be placed in sites west of the Cascades. Those near Tri-Cities and Yakima should apply for those campuses, and the rest of Eastern Washington should apply to Spokane.

You may complete a clinical or practicum placement at your place of employment if it is not in your department or under your current supervisor *and* there is a current contract in place.

FNP clinical sites:

- Primary care clinics - typically in family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, or urgent care
- There may be opportunities to complete some hours in specialty areas such as women's health, dermatology, cardiology, orthopedics, hospice or palliative care.

PMHNP clinical sites:

- Placement with a psychiatrist, a PMHNP, a therapist or licensed mental health counselor in inpatient and outpatient settings.
- The focus is on a range of populations.
- First clinical focuses on therapy, remaining rotations focus on assessments, diagnosing, and treatment planning using therapy and medications as interventions.



Build Nurse Resiliency – A Pilot Quality Improvement Project

CRN, Fionnuala Brown¹, DNP, MSN, ARNP, & Stefanie Daino², MSN, RN, CCRN

¹Washington State University, College of Nursing; ²Hillsboro Medical Center



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Major Findings

Workplace-related stress escalates during the first year of nursing practice, leading to burnout. Engaging in mindfulness practices builds resiliency and reduces first-year new graduate turnover.

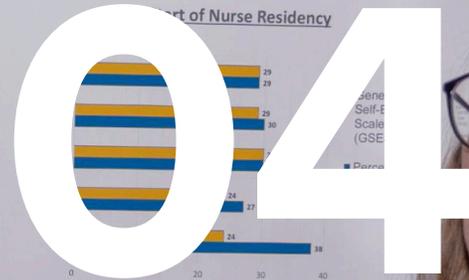
Recommendations

- Integrate mindfulness practices into nurse residency programs to assist in managing stress during their transition to practice
- Regularly scheduled debrief sessions to foster camaraderie and emphasize that new graduates are not alone in their stress.
- Conduct stress and mental health assessments that align with the milestones of the nurse residency program.

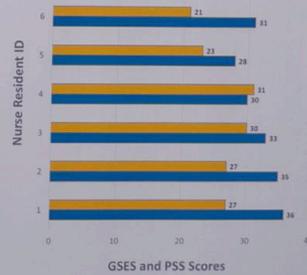


Scan QR code for assessment tools, education handouts, and references.

Results

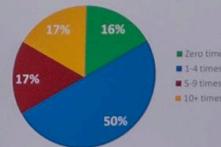


End of Nurse Residency



Participant Feedback on Mindfulness Practices

HOW MANY TIMES IN THE LAST 2 WEEKS DID YOU PRACTICE MINDFULNESS?



"(Mindfulness) helped me overcome my anxiety and carry it with me. Feel confident in my abilities."
 "(Mindfulness) helped me, but I still feel like a rookie."
 "I've been so busy at home, but I feel better about my problem-solving in the hospital."

DNP Project



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What is the DNP Project?

The DNP Project is completed over four semesters to prepare nurses to utilize the concept of practice inquiry to translate meaningful health research into practice.

This integrative experience synthesizes practice inquiry, leadership, and interprofessional practice. The focus of the project will be the development of a healthcare improvement project that requires the appraisal and translation of evidence to practice. Students will investigate a research question related to an area of nursing practice, the health care delivery system, or a health care policy issue. The project may take a variety of forms, but each project must demonstrate the application of evidence/well-established research findings into the practice setting to improve clinical outcomes or healthcare delivery. Acceptable DNP projects at WSU include evidence-based practice (EBP), quality improvement, program evaluation, or policy change projects.

You will work with your faculty mentor to determine your project in NURS_ADV 518.

Previous examples of DNP Projects:

- Piloting an Educational Model to Reduce Provider Bias to Address Health Disparities with African American patients – gave a tool/survey to assess bias, watch YouTube videos on what to do about bias, complete a module online and then evaluate.
- Increasing Employee Engagement – to address turnover rates; gave a survey and used the results in order to come up with strategies including recognition board, preceptor development, exit interviews.
- Geriatric Home Visits – reducing the length of home visits by creating charting that saves time; use of guidelines, flow charts that are visible in the office, and webinars.



05.

Nursing Certificates



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Graduate Nursing Certificates

Graduate Certificates are designed to complement your academic journey, providing specialized knowledge and skills to enhance your career. The WSU College of Nursing offers two distinctive certificates: [Nurse Educator](#) and [Nursing Leadership](#).

The **Nurse Educator** certificate is available to all qualified applicants; current enrollment in another WSU graduate program is not required. Whether you are a current student or a working nurse seeking to expand your capabilities as an educator, we invite you to learn how our certificates can elevate your nursing career. Please contact the academic coordinator if you wish to explore adding this to your degree program.

Currently, the **Nursing Leadership** certificate is only available to students enrolled in the WSU College of Nursing's Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program. The Nursing Leadership certificate courses are already included DNP student coursework, offering a pathway to further excel in leadership roles. Students will be automatically signed up for the certificate upon acceptance to the program.





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06.

Tuition and Fees

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How much does the DNP cost?

DNP tuition 2026-2027:

- Resident: approx. \$1,188 per credit
- Non-Resident: approx. \$1,961 per credit
- Summer tuition: approx. \$1,188 per credit, resident and non-resident

DNP College of Nursing fees:

- Approximately \$5000-\$6000
- Includes placements, standardized patients, onboarding, etc.
- There are also university campus and building fees.

Bursar's tuition website: [Printable tables of Tuition by Campus](#)

State Waiver: The College must accept students who pay through traditional means first therefore it is highly unlikely a spot will open up. The State Waiver is not accepted for DNP students on the Vancouver campus at all.

Border Bill: The State of Washington's "[Border Bill](#)" is a program that allows Oregon residents who live in specified counties (Residents of one of the following Oregon counties: Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Gilliam, Hood River, Morrow, Multnomah, Sherman, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Wasco and Washington) to attend WSU Vancouver and/or WSU Tri-Cities part-time (eight credits or less per semester) and pay resident tuition rates for the courses taken through these campuses.

Western Regional Graduate Program: The Washington State University College of Nursing has joined the [Western Regional Graduate Program](#) (WRGP). If you're a resident of 16 western states or territories you can pursue your DNP and pay the in-state tuition rate if you are taking nine or more credits per semester. Please contact the academic coordinator to request this tuition rate.

Veterans and Military-Affiliated Students (VMAS)

If you are VMAS contact the [VA office](#) for details on what benefits you may be able to use to pay tuition.

Scholarships: please go to the [CON Scholarship website](#) for more information.



07.

Student Expectations



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Class attendance and participation

Courses are hybrid. That means you will meet synchronously with your instructor and fellow classmates 5-6 times per semester, per class via Zoom. You are **required** to attend these Zoom class times. The rest of the coursework is asynchronous, meaning you can complete them outside of the class times. Please expect to have **weekly assignments and participation requirements** on Canvas for every class, regardless of whether there is a Zoom class that week.

Lab courses require both Zoom class meetings, on-campus lab classes, and asynchronous work.

Synchronous class times and lab classes will be posted in the [Schedule of Classes](#) several months before classes begin to enable you to adjust your work schedule.

Graduate passport compliance

Students are **required** to be in compliance with all [Graduate Passport](#) requirements at all times. This includes immunizations, HIPAA trainings, RN licensure, background checks, and other requirements.

Technology

Students must have access to a computer with reliable internet. They must have confidence with MS Word, PowerPoint, and Excel. Typing speed is important. Take a course, if helpful.

Writing

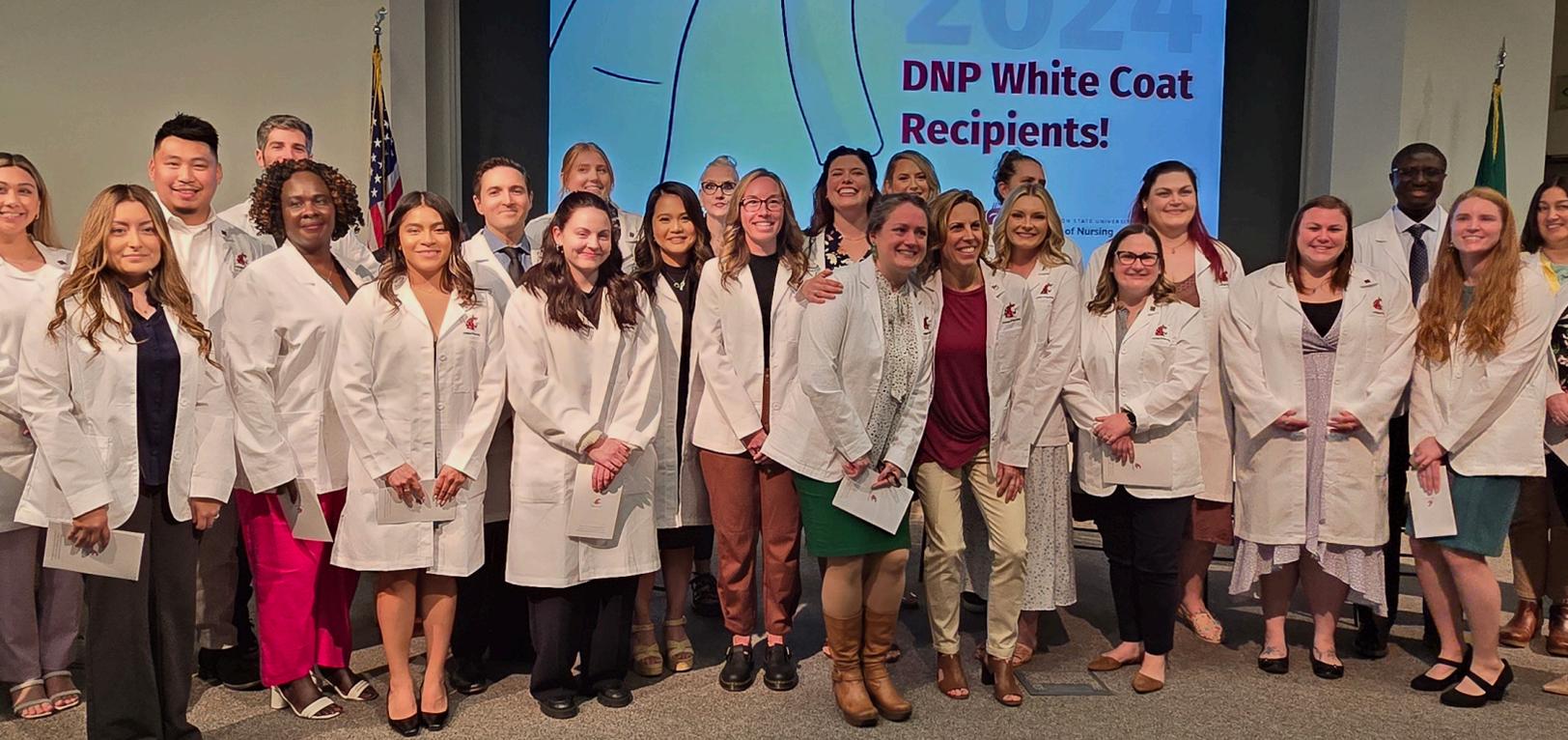
The DNP is a writing-intensive degree. Please consider a [course](#) to refresh your writing skills, especially if you have been away from school for some time.



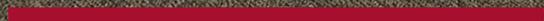


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08.



Applying to the DNP



Key application dates

FNP and PMHNP (post-Bacc and post-Masters)

- November 15 - Priority deadline
- January 15 - Final deadline. Priority deadline applicants are notified of acceptance or included in final deadline pool of applicants.
- March - Applicant notification for all students not offered or denied admission in January

Post-Master's General

- January 15 - Priority deadline
- March 15 - Final deadline. Priority deadline applicants are notified of acceptance or included in final deadline pool.
- April to May - Applicant notification for all students not notified in March.

How to apply

Go to the website for the specialization track and click on the "How to Apply" button. Full details are listed there.

Application decisions

- Wholistic admissions is used; meaning, not just GPA or courses taken
- Applications are reviewed by multiple faculty
- All applicants will be notified via email to the email address listed on their NursingCAS application.

Number admitted

(approximately)

- FNP: 50 admitted, out of 90-100 applicants
- PMHNP: 20 admitted, out of 30-40 applicants
- PMG: 15+ admitted



Important Application Highlights

Apply through **NursingCAS only!**

- No Graduate School (GradCAS) application is required.
- All application related emails will go to the email address you listed on your NursingCAS application. **Check this email address regularly!**

References

- Three recent references. Ideally from both education and work/professional settings. However, if you have been out of school for a long time, it is fine to have all professional references.
- CAS requires you to add a due date for the reference, please make this due date within one week of adding them your application.

KiraTalent virtual interview

- This is a combination written and recorded questions.
- Applicants should expect an email with KiraTalent interview details approximately 3-4 weeks after your application deadline.

Transcripts

You must have official transcripts sent to NursingCAS from every higher educational institution you have attended (graduated or not).

Board exam pass rates

FNP ANCC:	FNP AANP:	PMHNP ANCC:
2021 - 100%	2021 - 86.2%	2021: 100%
2022 - 83.3%	2022 - 74.2%	2022: 100%
2023 - 100%	2023 - 78.6%	2023: 100%
2024 - 100%	2024 - 100%	2024: 100%



Application and Admission FAQs

- Can I apply for admission even if I do not have my BSN yet?
 - Yes, but you must have the minimum number of RN, LPN, or LVN hours upon application. You would need to have your BSN conferred before the first day of class.
- My GPA is below 3.0. Can I still apply?
 - You would need to contact the academic coordinator for details on how to write an appeal letter to the admissions committee. If approved, you would then be able to apply to the program. If this is the only DNP program you are applying to, please do not pay any NursingCAS fees until you hear the decision.
- When do classes start?
 - Please see the [academic calendar](#).
- Are there any prerequisites, such as statistics, that must be completed within a specific timeframe?
 - No
- What is the difference between a Master's NP and a DNP?
 - Both qualify you to take the NP board exams. The doctorate is a terminal degree.
- Do you offer a RN-DNP bridge program/
 - No. You would need to complete the [BSN](#) first.
- Do students work as nurses while completing this degree?
 - Yes, most of our students work. You would need to assess how much would be feasible based on the degree workload, personal commitments, and family and friend support.
- Do students enroll in the program that live in the Seattle area?
 - Yes, we have students state-wide.
- How do you calculate competency-based transcripts?
 - Passes count as a 3.0 for grade point calculations.





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08.



**Additional
Information**



Contacts

General questions: grad.nursing@wsu.edu

NursingCAS application questions: nursing.admissions@wsu.edu

Websites

[WSU Health Sciences](#)

[WSU College of Nursing](#)

[DNP FNP](#)

[DNP PMHNP](#)

[DNP PMG](#)

[Graduate Certificates](#)

[Student Resources and Support \(student handbook\)](#)

[WSU Financial Aid](#)

[CON Scholarships and Financial Aid](#)

[International Programs](#)

[WSU Spokane](#)

[WSU Tri-Cities](#)

[WSU Vancouver](#)

[All campuses](#) plus detail on the Yakima campus

[DNP Course Descriptions](#)

[Schedule of Classes](#)



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103 E. Spokane Falls Blvd.
Spokane, WA, 99202
509-358-7900

