

School of Nursing: Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) Program

College of Health and Human Services

Salisbury University Graduate School



About the School

The School of Nursing at Salisbury University provides rigorous, science-based programs taught by experienced faculty. The D.N.P. program is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), providing objective validation of the quality of our curriculum. This quality is also evident with a consistently high completion rate (>90%) and high first-time national certification pass rate for Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) graduates throughout the history of the program.

About the D.N.P. Program

The program allows students with a bachelor's or master's degree in nursing to enter directly into doctoral study. Two concentrations are available: Leadership or Leadership with FNP. Students complete core courses in epidemiology, research, informatics, quality improvement and evidence-based practice. Additional courses provide leadership and/or advanced practice concepts and competencies. Coursework includes a combination of didactic and practicum experiences in diverse settings. Students accrue a minimum of 1,000 hours of practicum prior to graduation and master's degree hours are included. Graduates of the FNP concentration are eligible to take a national exam offered by the ANCC or the American Academy of Family Nurse Practitioners certification boards.

The program is designed for students who wish to engage in full-time study. The curriculum spans three to four years – full time during fall and spring semesters

with a lighter academic load during the summer. Variations in length of study may occur (with program director approval) based on student needs and circumstances. Courses are taught by experienced faculty, with small classes that foster close student-faculty working relationships. All classes are delivered in a distance-accessible format using a blend of synchronous and asynchronous methods. D.N.P. students culminate their education with the completion of a comprehensive doctoral project that focuses on implementation of evidence-based practice implementation to improve processes and health outcomes for an identified population. Students take four separate project courses with a 1:1 faculty advisor to guide them through topic development, implementation, evaluation and dissemination.

D.N.P. Employment

Graduates practice at the highest level, whether working with individuals, groups or organizations, and serve as leaders and primary care providers in healthcare in the state and region. The D.N.P. curriculum is designed to maximize nurses' abilities to translate evidence into practice, and to use new knowledge about health care systems, quality improvement and information technology to improve health care outcomes in the region and beyond.

D.N.P. Impact

Serving as leaders and providers in health care reform, graduates are able to shape the future of health care, making revisions with purpose and efficiency.



ABOUT THE DNP

The program is designed for registered nurses (RNs) seeking terminal degrees in nursing practice and offers an alternative to research-focused doctoral programs.

Nursing is moving in the direction as other health professions to transition to doctoral-level education for advanced practice.

D.N.P. graduates develop innovative strategies to meet the growing needs of clients and populations with complex problems in multi-tiered health delivery systems. They are experts in the region's health care systems, able to lead organizations and agencies as they revise policies and procedures to meet the new demands of health care reform.

D.N.P. graduates will also be able to move into clinical faculty roles, helping to ease the shortage of RNs in the area by serving as faculty and liaisons for the local institutions of higher education.

“Advanced-level nursing education programs focus on providing specialty knowledge ... for specific advanced practice nursing roles ... within the healthcare system.”

– American Association of Colleges of Nursing, 2021

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information, please contact:
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Graduate Program Director
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Also visit the Office of Graduate Studies webpage:

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PROGRAM BENEFITS

Students of SU's D.N.P. program benefit from:

- Close interaction with faculty who are engaged in local health care systems
- Small classes with a high level of faculty interaction
- Courses delivered in distance-accessible format
- Individualized coursework tailored to each student's experience
- Competitive pricing in both tuition and fees

Why the D.N.P.?

The D.N.P. program prepares advanced practice nurses to ease the shortage of primary health care providers and guide health care reform for the future. With increasingly complex patients and multi-layered systems of care, experts are needed in the field. D.N.P. graduates are ideally suited to appraise, translate and utilize current research evidence with the ultimate goal of improving patient outcomes. Gaining the systems perspective, technological expertise and skills to translate research into practice will empower D.N.P. graduates to be health care leaders for the region. As the push for hospitals to achieve Magnet status continues to gain momentum, highly educated nursing staff will continue to be in high demand. The D.N.P. credential will become increasingly valuable to nurses and the institutions where they are employed. Additionally, studies have shown that patient care is better with a more highly educated nursing staff.

Admission Requirements:

Admission to the D.N.P. program requires acceptance to the University for graduate study, as well as acceptance into the program. Admission to the program is a competitive process, and the following required items are considered as final.

- Official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended.
- Bachelor's or master's degree in nursing from a nationally accredited program
- A minimum GPA of 3.0 is required to apply.
- Proof of successful completion of Statistics and Research (minimum grade of C required).
- Current and active United States Registered Nursing (RN) license.
- Current resume or curriculum vitae.
- Three academic or professional references / letters of recommendation.
- A brief statement of purpose essay as a scholarly writing sample that overviews the reason for selecting the D.N.P. program.
- Residency/Domicile Information form (for those students applying for in-state tuition).
- Documents required of international students: Please consult the Center for International Education.
- Proficiency in spoken and written English with the following minimum TOEFL scores: 550 for the paper-based examination and 79 for the Internet-based examination.

All D.N.P. applicants will be interviewed by the graduate program chair or designee. Clinical experience is not required for the D.N.P., but students are encouraged to work in professional nursing roles.



FACULTY

Director:

- Professor Debra A. Webster, Ed.D., M.S., RN-BC, CNE
Wilmington University

Graduate Program Director:

- Assistant Professor, Annette H. Barnes, D.N.P., CRNP, FNP-BC, CNE
Salisbury University

Undergraduate Program Director:

- Associate Professor, Kimberly D. Allen, D.N.P., RN, CNE
Salisbury University

Faculty Members:

- Katelynn C. Cabrera, M.S.N., RNC-OB, C-EFM
- Robin Cothorne, M.S.N., M.A, RN
- Molly E. Dale, D.N.P., CRNP, FNP-C
- Mary C. DiBartolo, Ph.D., M.B.A., RN-BC, CNE, FGSA, FAAN
- Kristen Farrell, D.N.P., FNP-C
- Kaynabess R. Freda, Ed.D., RN, CMSRN
- Rachel Goldsborough, M.S.N., CRNP, FNP-C, RN
- Nicole J. Hall, Ed.D., M.B.A., RN, CNE
- Kristen M. Hammerer, M.S.N., RNC-NIC
- Jennifer A. Hart, D.N.P., CRNP, FNP-BC, CNE
- Stephanie Howard, M.S., CRNP, FNP-C
- Alison Hynson, M.S.N., RN
- Anastacia J. Keenan, D.N.P., CRNP, CPNP-PC
- Kathryn Lucas, D.N.P., M.S.N., RN, CNE, CNEcl
- Annette R. Manson, M.S.N., RN, CNML

- Donna M. Martin, M.S.N., RN, PMHNP-BC, CCM
- Pamela L. McGee, Ed. D, FNP-BC, CNE
- Stacy M. McGrath, Ed.D., M.S.N., RN
- Angela M. Messick, D.N.P., M.B.A., RN
- Jacqueline R. Messner, M.S., CRNP, FNP-C, CDCES
- Teena M. Milligan, Ph.D., M.S.N, RN
- Brooke M. Mills, M.S.N., RN
- Tina P. Reid, Ed.D., M.S.N., BSN, RN
- Lisa A. Seldomridge, Ph.D., RN, CNE
- Alison L. Toepfer, M.S.N., RN, CNE, CPEN
- Mia Waldron, Ph.D., M.S.N.-ED, RN, NPD-BC, CNE
- Rachel L. Weber, D.N.P., RN, CMSRN, CNE
- Amanda J. Willey, Ed.D., M.S.N., RN, CCHP, CM/DN
- Jeffrey A. Willey, Ph.D., RN, CNS, CLNC, CNE

Staff:

- Laurie Bishop
Administrative Assistant I
- Dawn Ford
Administrative Assistant II
- Tishanna Toppin
Administrative Assistant I



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