

*Frequently asked questions about:*

## **Marquette University College of Nursing DNP Program**

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### ***1. What is the purpose of the DNP Program?***

**A:** The DNP is a response to the need for a better prepared nursing workforce due to the complexities of health care, need for patient safety, aging population and other changing demographics, advanced clinical care demands (diagnostics and treatments), as well as a professional mandate. The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), the professional organization for baccalaureate and higher degree programs, indicated that by 2015 all advanced practice preparation should be at the doctor of nursing practice level. This movement is similar to the preparations of physical therapy, audiology and pharmacology.

The focus of our DNP program is advanced practice preparation at the very highest level. The DNP will have preparation in the specialties of: pediatrics- primary care, pediatrics- acute care, adults, older adults, acute care- adults, and health care systems leadership (HCSL). The midwifery specialty is in the planning stage.

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### ***2. What are graduates of this DNP program prepared to do?***

**A:** The program is designed to prepare graduates to:

1. Provide evidence-based advanced nursing care to individuals, families, communities and/or clinical populations.
2. Apply analytical methodologies to evaluate and monitor patient, population, and care system

outcomes.

3. Analyze and apply models, theories, and scientific evidence to improve health care of diverse populations.
4. Demonstrate advanced levels of scholarship, clinical judgment, systems thinking, and accountability in nursing practice.
5. Employ consultative and leadership skills within nursing and interdisciplinary healthcare teams to transform health care and complex healthcare delivery systems to improve health.

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### ***3. Can I complete the program as a part-time student?***

**A:** Yes. Students may take one or two courses per semester.

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### ***4. How many credits are required?***

**A:** The **DNP** at Marquette requires 66 credits *post-BSN* for the advanced practice options (Adult, Older Adult, Acute Care, Pediatrics Primary Care and Acute Care) & 60 credits for the Health Care Systems Leadership (HCSL) option.

A 24-credit **DNP “Bridge”** program is available for advanced practice nurses *already holding an MSN* in one of Marquette’s specialty options. The minimum number of credits required is 24.

The specific domains of content for all options include: core courses, research, statistics and information systems, practicum courses, and a DNP Residency Course. Health promotion/illness management is required for advanced practice options. HCSL course examples include: finance, outcomes management, human resources, program evaluation and mediation.

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### ***5. How long does it take to complete the program?***

**A:** Both the DNP and DNP Bridge may be completed on a full or part-time basis. The DNP can be completed in 3 years a part-time student.

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## 6. *What are the admission requirements and/or prerequisites?*

**A:** To apply to the DNP Program, you should have graduated with at least a BSN degree from an accredited program, normally with a graduate GPA of at least 3.0 using the 4.0 system (4.0=A). A statistics course which included inferential analysis (within the last 5 years), an undergraduate course in nursing research, and an undergraduate course in health assessment, and a copy of your current Wisconsin nursing license are required prerequisites. Other criteria include:

- A completed online application form and fee
- Statement of purpose
- Official transcripts from all current and previous colleges
- Three letters of recommendation
- Acceptable General Record Examination (GRE) scores (General Test only).  
*GRE waived if last cumulative GPA was 3.2 or greater.*
- Curriculum vita or resume

Qualified applicants may be denied admission to the DNP program due to space constraints.

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## 7. *When can I apply?*

**A:** Students must have completed applications (all components) filed with the Graduate School at least 5 months prior to their intended start date. For instance, one would have a completed application filed by April 1<sup>st</sup> for a fall semester start and by August 1<sup>st</sup> for a spring semester start.

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## 8. *Can I apply online?*

**A:** Yes. You **must** apply [online](https://app.applyyourself.com/?id=marq-grad) via the Graduate School website: (<https://app.applyyourself.com/?id=marq-grad>). Paper applications are not accepted.

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## 9. *What is the cost of the program?*

A: Tuition is currently \$840 per credit. This increases each year. For information regarding financial aid, please visit: <http://www.grad.mu.edu/finaid/index.shtml>

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## 10. *Where can I find information on financial aid?*

A: Financial opportunities for DNP students include:

- Division of Nursing Federal Nurse Traineeship
- Agnes Reinders Scholarship
- Graduate Assistantships (research & teaching)
- Marquette University Tuition Scholarships
- Specific foundation awards

Some types of financial aid require full-time enrollment and are based on academic performance; other types of aid may stipulate specific criteria or obligations following graduation.

Please note that the University-funded financial aid application deadlines are:

- February 15 (for the academic year or fall semester)
- November 15 (for spring semester)
- April 15 (for the summer session)

For more information regarding financial aid, please visit:  
<http://www.grad.mu.edu/finaid/index.shtml>

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**Links:** • **Graduate School Bulletin**  
<http://www.grad.mu.edu/current/bulletin.shtml>

• **Graduate Student Handbook**  
[http://www.marquette.edu/nursing/Academic/Grad-Program/Grad-Student-Handbk\\_2008-2009.pdf](http://www.marquette.edu/nursing/Academic/Grad-Program/Grad-Student-Handbk_2008-2009.pdf)

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