



Graduate Student Information
School of Nursing
Valdosta State University
2022

Message from the Dean

Welcome to the College of Nursing and Health Sciences at Valdosta State University. Whether you are a prospective student, a current student, or an alumnus, please take time to browse the website to learn about our remarkable programs and the achievements of students, faculty members and alumni. The overriding strength of our educational programs, research opportunities, and clinical services lies in the talented and committed faculty members and clinicians at the College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

The goal of the School of Nursing (SON) is to heighten the level of preparation of our graduates making them more employable.

VSU College of Nursing and Health Sciences Mission and Vision

MISSION

Information and Overview

THE VSYOU DIFFERENCE

Our Doctor of Nursing program allows students to choose from three tracks: the BSN to DNP with a concentration in Family Nurse Practitioner, the DNP/MBA dual degree, and the post-master's Doctor of Nursing Practice. The BSN to DNP program uses a hybrid model during master's level course work consisting of 4-5 weekend class meetings during the semester with doctoral courses offered solely online. The DNP/MBA and DNP courses are offered through an online model. The Post-Master's DNP is open to all APRNs.

Our Master's of Science in Nursing and Post-Master's Certificate programs allow students to choose from two advanced practice nursing tracks: Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) and Family Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (FPMHNP). The program is a hybrid model which consists of 4-5 weekend class meetings during the semester and the FPMHNP courses are offered solely online. Our master's programs and post-master's certificates are approved by the Georgia Board of Nursing and accredited by the CCNE, Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

WHAT STUDENTS WILL LEARN

Students take a common core that includes Advanced Pathophysiology, Advanced Health Assessment, Advanced Pharmacology and Advanced Evidence-Based Practice. Students also participate in objective structured clinical examination (OSCEs) experiences, synthesizing and applying the clinical and academic dynamics of advanced nursing practice education. At the MSN and Post-Masters Certificate level an Exit Exam is utilized to demonstrate successful program completion.

Doctoral students expand upon the master's level competencies and prepare nurses in the areas of scientific underpinnings for practice, informatics, organizational and system leadership, clinical prevention and population health, evidence-based practice, health policy, interprofessional collaboration and advanced nursing practice. Doctoral students complete a DNP project to demonstrate an analytical approach to programmatic, administrative, policy or practice issues in a format that supports the synthesis, transfer and utilization of knowledge.

CAREERS

- x Doctor of Nursing Practice
- x Family Nurse Practitioner
- x Family Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner

Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Objectives

1. Present opportunity for seamless transition to advance nursing practice and leadership.
- 2.

student chooses to exercise this option, they may continue their doctoral studies the semester immediately following graduation from the MSN program if requested two semesters before graduation. If a student opts out of the BSN to DNP program to receive the MSN-FNP degree, they have three (3) years to return to complete the DNP program requirements without academic penalty.

The **Post-Master's DNP** track offered at VSU is a 5-semester, 38 credit hour program of study. The

completing the DNP Project

Courseswith PracticeExperienceHours

Courses which include practice experience hours contributing to the major steps in the project planning,

who will be listed as the “Faculty Lead.” Within the IRB, the protocol will be listed under the DNP Chair’s name and the

4. Three (3) letters of recommendation

- x Three (3) letters of recommendation from individuals knowledgeable of the applicant's professional, intellectual, and academic abilities.
- x If graduated within the last five years, one of the three letters must be from one of the applicant's professors.
- x Letters must be accompanied by the required form or submitted through the online recommendation system.
- x <https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/graduate-school/forms/general-recommendation-form.pdf>
- x Please enter the name and email of your recommenders as you complete the application. They should receive an email inviting them to complete the recommendation after that. If they do not receive the email (or find it in their spam folder), they may submit their recommendation as an email attachment to gradschool@valdosta.edu. The General Recommendation Form can be found at <https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/graduate-school/forms/general-recommendation-form.pdf>.

Post-Master's DNP

To be considered for admission to the Post-Master's Doctor of Nursing Practice Program, an applicant must have:

- x If graduated within the last five years, one of the three letters must be from one of the applicant's professors.
 - x Letters must be accompanied by the required form or submitted through the online recommendation system.
 - x <https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/graduate-school/forms/general-recommendation-form.pdf>
 - x Please enter the name and email of your recommenders as you complete the application. They should receive an email inviting them to complete the recommendation after that. If they do not receive the email (or find it in their spam folder), they may submit their recommendation as an email attachment to gradschool@valdosta.edu. The General Recommendation Form can be used if the email from the online recommendation system does not arrive.
6. A Current Vitae or Resume
- x A current vitae or resume including education, work experience and professional development, professional and/or community activities, and research and publications
7. Career Goal Statement
- x One- to two-page paper addressing career goals related to advanced practice nursing

INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS

This is a fully web-based program. Student visas cannot be issued for programs that are fully online. Please review the information below for specific information and guidelines for students who were

6. Promote culturally competent systems that reflect the global context of health.
7. Implement strategies for ongoing personal and advanced professional development through professional involvement, lifelong learning, and fostering an appreciation for doctoral study.

MSN and Post-Master's Certificate Program Overview

The MSN and Post-Master's curriculum is designed to prepare professional registered nurses for advanced practice (APRN) roles as defined by the AACN Master's Essentials. All MSN students are required to take advanced pathophysiology, advanced health assessment, and advanced pharmacology courses in accordance with the AACN guidelines. Full time graduate students in the MSN and Post-Master's Certificate programs normally take between 6 and 12 credit hours each term. The program is planned using a hybrid format with in-class meetings on weekends approximately once a month during the semester and the balance of coursework on-line.

POST-MASTER'S CERTIFICATE ADMISSIONS

In addition to the MSN admission criteria listed above, applicants who have a Master's Degree in Nursing and graduated with at least a 3.0 GPA may be admitted to the department's Nurse Practitioner (FNP or FPMHNP) Post-Master's Certificate Program. Because these certification programs utilize past learning experience to satisfy some course requirements, programs of study are highly individualized and tailored to the needs of the students. Therefore, the applicant must meet with either the School of Nursing's FNP or FPMHNP Program Coordinator to complete a gap analysis (Appendix D) and design a program of study for post-master's requirements. Out-of-state applicants should become familiar with their state's regulations governing distance accessible programs.

Types of Admission

Please refer to the Valdosta State University's Graduate Catalog for information on types of admission, including probationary, non-degree, and transient admission.

Foreign students are required to pass the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). See the
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ADMISSION, PROGRESSION, & GRADUATION

(BSN-DNP, Post-Master's DNP, MSN, Post-Master's Certificates)

Transfer Credit

Courses considered for transfer credit must: (1) be no more than 5 years of age at the time of admission, unless otherwise approved by the program; (2) be earned at an institution that is regionally accredited; (3) be graduate-level courses, appropriate to program; and (4) not exceed specific program limitations on total number of hours. A maximum of 9 credit hours of doctoral or master's level nursing credits may be applied to the DNDateaDaDaD-d to-2 (t)-2 ()4 (i)-2 esons on tvourl

MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES

Graduate nursing students will incur expenses throughout the program above the fees identified in the Valdosta State University's Graduate Catalog. Listed below are some of the major additional costs.

Transportation to and from clinical practice is the responsibility of the student. Travel to some clinical agencies may require several hours' time and public transportation is not available. It is, therefore, necessary that students have (or can arrange for) dependable transportation.

Professional liability insurance must be purchased and maintained throughout the College of Nursing and Health Sciences academic program. Proof of this insurance coverage is required before students can participate in clinical experiences.

Certification in American Heart Association Healthcare Provider Cardiac Life Support (CPR) is also a requirement during the program. The cost of the certification is determined by the offering agency.

Following expenses that will be incurred during the nursing program:

- x Cost of Books
- x Immunization Tracker (Castle Branch)
- x Electronic Portfolio (Typhon)
- x Name Tag (to be purchased at bookstore)
- x White Lab

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CLINICAL INFORMATION

(BSN-DNP, Post-Master's DNP, MSN, Post-Master's Certificates)

PRACTICE EXPERIENCES

The DNP degree requires the completion of 1000 post-baccalaureate practice experience (PE) hours as stated in The Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Nursing Practice (AACN, 2006). The hours must be completed in a healthcare setting prior to degree conferral. VSU's Post-Masters DNP program requires that each applicant provides sufficient and accurate evidence of the completion of 500 supervised hours achieved post-baccalaureate prior to program admission. While enrolled in the DNP program, the remaining 500 supervised hours will be completed. BSN TO DNP students complete 715 PE hours during the family nurse practitioner practicum courses and the remaining 500 supervised hours are completed during DNP coursework.

Students in the FNP and Post-Master's FNP tracks are required to complete a minimum of 715 practice experience hours while students in the FPMHNP and Post-Master's FPMHNP tracks complete a minimum of 675 hours.

A practice experience is an experiential learning activity completed under the guidance of content experts in a relevant setting through which the student acquires and applies knowledge, skills, and attitudes that expand a student's professional framework. Students should refer to the Graduate Clinical Experience Handbook for additional practice experience information located on the CONHS under Current Student Resources.

CLINICAL EXPERIENCES

Graduate students must plan all clinical experiences with the faculty. Selected experiences must be consistent with course objectives. It is preferred that clinical experiences occur in agencies different from the one in which the student is/has been employed. In no case should students obtain clinical experience within the actual setting (unit, department, clinic, et cetera) in which they currently work. No time during which students are being reimbursed (employmenttime) may be counted as clinical time for course credit.

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DRUG TESTING AND CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK

BASIC CARDIAC LIFE SUPPORT

Students enrolled in clinical nursing courses must maintain current certification for basic cardiac life support – adult one and two rescuer, infant, and child CPR and obstructed airway. It is the nursing student's responsibility to acquire this certification and maintain it at all times. Proof of certification for the duration of the semester is required for participation in all clinical practicums. Students must have valid and current documentation of the certification and may be required to successfully demonstrate the ahv9(r)3 62 (d)2 (e)6rel (l)-1.9 ((l)-1 C5TJtTJ0a5)-2 (0on)TJ(t)-d

Recommendation for Student/Faculty Clinical Health/Immunization Requirements

The goal of these requirements is to protect students, faculty, patients and staff from diseases and harm. Published standards from the CDC were used to create these recommendations and referenced below.

Evidence	Reference
Measles, Mumps and Rubella*	
Documentation of 1 dose of MMR or Laboratory evidence of immunity or Documented history of disease Born before 1957, laboratory evidence of immunity or should consider 2 doses of MMR at proper intervals for measles and mumps or should receive 1 dose of MMR for rubella	MMWR, June 14, 2013
Varicella*	

Documentation of immunization with 2 doses of vaccine
 Laboratory evidence of immunity
 History of varicella disease (date, age, description)
 Diagnosis of

GENERAL INFORMATION

(BSN-DNP, Post-Master's DNP, MSN, Post-Master's Certificates)

APPOINTMENTS WITH FACULTY

Appointments with faculty members should be scheduled in advance. Scheduled office hours for faculty members are posted on their office door and in course syllabi. If these posted hours are not convenient the student may request an appointment with the faculty member by email or phone. Please remember faculty members have 72 hours to respond.

ADVISING

On admission to the graduate nursing program students are assigned a faculty advisor to assist them in developing an individualized program of study. The Plan of Study (POS) which is available from the College of Nursing and Health Sciences website, demonstrates how students will fulfill their degree requirements. An advising form identifying the POS should be completed and signed by the student and graduate faculty advisor prior to completion of the second semester of graduate study. If changes are needed to the coursework listed on the POS, it should be re-written by the student and graduate advisor and sent to the School of Nursing's secretary to be uploaded into the student's file. C12 (e)4 (s)-1 (t)-2 (ew 39.941 T

CHANGE OF ADVISOR

Graduate students are assigned an advisor in the School of Nursing. The students' advising folders are securely stored electronically and are maintained by the SON administrative staff. If the student perceives a problem with the assigned advisor, the student will communicate this concern to the advisor and attempt to resolve the problem. Ied

staff member, or student

STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN COLLEGE GOVERNANCE

Graduate students are encouraged to participate in the governance of the College. They may participate through the course, faculty, and clinical evaluations done each semester. They may also meet with the Dean during Open Hours that are scheduled once or twice each semester.

Additionally, students may participate through the formal committee structure. The committees that have student representation are listed below:

COMMITTEE	OVERVIEW	STUDENT REPRESENTATION
Graduate Nursing Faculty Committee	Monitors the development, implementation, coordination, and evaluation of the graduate nursing curricula.	One (1) Graduate Nursing Student from each track.
Student Affairs	Facilitate student self-governance, student scholarly activities, and student participation in the activities of the CONHS.	Two (2) Undergraduate Nursing Students (1 Senior & 1 Junior) & One (1) Graduate Nursing Student.

CONHS Disposition Policy

with others in order to create a team-driven, client/patient-centered approach to problem solving.

8. Displays qualities of lifelong learning through engagement in completion of course requirements, continuous professional development, and academic preparedness. Lifelong learning is a term that applies to continuing one's education through university, community-based, or profession-based programs.

Examples of Actions Necessitating Completion of Disposition Forms, (including, but not limited to)

- Excessive absences or lateness for class or clinical assignments (see University policy and course syllabus).
- Lack of professional dress or demeanor when interacting with other students, clients/patient, preceptors or faculty as defined by student's major department.
- Disruptive behavior toward faculty, staff, preceptors, peer student or guest speakers. This includes classroom disruptive behavior. This extends to clients/patients and preceptors when students are in a clinical area affiliated with their program of study.
- Inability to contribute effectively in a group setting.
- Lack of proficiency and/or professionalism in written and/or oral lan3 (d7osTw 1.5 0 Td(I)15 (n)4 (n)10 25

Procedures for Assessing Dispositions

A student's professional dispositions will be assessed in classes, clinical, and community settings. The instructor or preceptor who identifies a deficiency or behavior inconsistent with established dispositions will follow these procedures:

1. Upon a student's action which necessitates the completion of a disposition report, the instructor or preceptor will schedule an informal meeting. The purpose of the meeting with the student is to discuss the area of concern and offer possible solutions and remedies.
 - a. The date of the meeting, the instructor's specific concerns and potential solutions will be documented on the Disposition Report Form (Appendix A) and placed in the student's file.
 - b. Both instructor and student will receive a copy of the completed form.
 - c. The faculty member must complete either a VSU Student Conduct Incident Report or a VSU Academic Integrity Report if applicable. This can be found at <http://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/student-conduct-office/>.
2. If a second meeting becomes necessary, based on the same deficiency or additional behaviors of concern, through completion of a second disposition form, the following steps

occurring. Documentation of the meeting's content, including any written agreements or action plans, will be placed in the student's file. Each attendee will receive a copy.

e.

Appendix A

College of Nursing and Health Sciences Disposition Report

Date: _____

Student Name: _____ ID No. _____

Major: _____ Advisor: _____

Name of Instructor/ Preceptor Initiating Disposition Form: _____

Complete the following:

1. Give evidence for area(s) of concern. Attach copies of documentation.

- 2.

5. The department head, faculty member, and student must sign the appropriate statement below.

Department Head: Statement:I have met with the student and faculty member to discuss this concern and an action plan has been outlined and discussed with the faculty member and the student.

Department Head Signature _____ Date Met: _____

Faculty Statement:I have met with the student and discussed the concern(s).

VSU Faculty Signature _____ Date Met: _____

Student statement: I understand that failure to comply with the outlined action plan may result in my not completing my program of study.

Student: Signature _____ Date: _____

Distribute copies of this form to the Student Advising Folder; Department Head, and Faculty Member.

Appendix D

GAP ANALYSIS FOR POST-GRADUATE NP STUDENT

Name of Candidate: _____

New National NP Certification Sought: _____

NP National Certification Previously Completed: _____ School: _____ Yr: _____

Appendix E

DNP Project Proposal Approval Form

Appendix F

BSN to DNP Project Milestones and Timeline

Task	Summer 9th Semester	Fall 10th Semester	Spring 11th Semester
Identify DNP Project Team	X		
CITI Training Completion	X		
Complete DNP Project Team with DNP Coordinator Approval	X		
Determine scope of project	X		
Identify and utilize current scholarly resources	X	Continued	Completion
Utilize Typhon (weekly) as a Documentation Platform to classify Project Hours Completion to successfully complete program requirements	X	Continued	Completion
Complete a written DNP project proposal to team and then IRB	X		
IRB Submission and Approval	X		

Implement approved DNP project

Appendix G
Post-Master's DNP Project Milestones and Timeline

Task	Summer 3 rd Semester	Fall 4 th Semester	Spring 5 th Semester
Identify DNP Project Team	X		
CITI Training Completion	X		
Complete DNP Project Team with DNP Coordinator Approval	X		
Determine scope of project	X		

Identify and utilize current scholarly resources

Appendix I

Valdosta State University
College of Nursing and Health Sciences
DNP Community Content Expert

1. Checklist:

6. Preceptor/Facilitator License Verification:

A preceptor must hold professional licensure for supervising student
informatics

Valdosta State University College of Nursing and
Health Sciences
DNP Community Content Expert Agreement

Course # _____

The preceptor agreement permits nursing students of the School of Nursing at Valdosta State University to participate in a student preceptorship in your facility. Conditions of this program are as

standards when appropriate, CPR, criminal background check as needed and current liability insurance coverage.

5. Work cooperatively with the preceptor and the agency to determine student learning needs and appropriate assignments.
6. Make appropriate student assignments with the preceptor.
7. Communicate assignments and other essential information to the preceptors.
8. Meet

Confirmation of Project Team Members

Student/Valdosta State University, College of Nursing and Health Sciences

_____ (Print) _____ (Sign) _____ (Date)

DNP Chair / Valdosta State University, School of Nursing & Health Sciences

_____ (Print) _____ (Sign) _____ (Date)

DNP Second / Valdosta State University, School of Nursing & Health Sciences

_____ (Print) _____ (Sign) _____ (Date)

DNP Community Content Expert / Clinical Agency

_____ (Print) _____ (Sign) _____ (Date)

Site Name:

Site Address:

City, State, Zip

Location Phone#

Valdosta State University
College of Nursing and Health Sciences

DNP Community Content Expert:

Thank you for your willingness to assist the Valdosta State Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) student in a practical experience. The role of the DNP Community Content Expert is to assist the student in implementing a scholarly project. External Experts may be contacted by Valdosta State University nursing faculty for student progress.

Name of DNP Student:

Title of DNP Project:

Name of DNP Community Content Expert: _____

Signature of DNP Community Content Expert: _____

Name of Institution: _____

Highest degree earned (Ex: DNP, PhD, MD) _____

Current License Number (if applicable) _____

*A current CV or resume must be provided for the External Expert

To be completed by DNP Program Director:

I verify the above listed DNP Community Content Expert is qualified to assist the DNP student in project completion.

Print name of DNP Program Director _____

Signature of DNP Program Director _____