COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, HEALTH, AND EDUCATION

SCHOOL OF NURSING

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE
NURSING STUDENT HANDBOOK

2015-2016
The Xavier University Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) in Population Health Leadership degree program is a population health-focused post-graduate degree program. This DNP program prepares nurses from a variety of practice settings to become leaders in addressing the complexity of health care and health care outcomes in the 21st century. Through the lens of the Jesuit tradition, the student builds on a previously earned master’s degree to achieve the highest level of academic preparation that incorporates scientific, philosophical, ethical, and historical perspectives of nursing practice along with a perspective of the complexities of present and future global and holistic health care. Additionally, organizational and systems leadership, population focused healthcare for diverse populations, health policy that includes advocacy in health care, and interprofessional collaboration to address health care outcomes are examined. The design, implementation, and evaluation of delivery methods that address outcomes to improve the health of the nation are the capstone focus.

Intense immersion experiences in a variety of environments occur throughout and at the end of the curriculum and focus on integration and application of evidence-based best practice. Innovation to support management of care for individuals and populations, administration of nursing and health care organizations, and development and implementation of health policy that ultimately influence health care outcomes for diverse populations are also a part of the immersion experience.

The program is 40-43 semester credit hours. Students without an epidemiology course in their master’s curriculum are required to take NURS 864 as listed in the curriculum sequence. Epidemiology is required by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) for all graduates of Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) and Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) programs.

The program is designed to be completed over 8 semesters within a 2 ½ to 3 year time frame providing the student completes of their final project in that time. If more time is needed for the final project, the student must complete the program within six years, or formally apply for an extension. Following the curriculum in sequence, students can continue to practice/work fulltime while completing the program on a part-time basis.

The student must complete 1000 hours of clinical immersion experience to graduate from the DNP program. A maximum of 500 hours from a prior documented MSN clinical immersion can be credited toward the 1000 hours of DNP immersion at Xavier University.

Potential students for the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree are post master’s graduate nurses who desire to achieve the program outcomes set forth in the program goals. Given that the program focuses on health care in a variety of settings, nurses who choose this program for its
ability to prepare them as leaders in local, regional, national, or global health settings are afforded the opportunity to focus on the population of their choice as they move through the curriculum toward their DNP project. Students enter the program on a cohort basis and attend school on a part-time basis according to the curriculum sequence.

**NOTE:** If the intended use of the doctoral degree is a stepping stone to an academic educator role, additional preparation in the nurse educator role may be included as additional course work as needed.

**Program Philosophy**

Jesuit tradition and values, population health, holism, ethics, and interprofessional collaboration provide the philosophical basis and guiding principles for this DNP program. Health care reform, the Future of Nursing report 2010, Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN), and the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) essentials (aacn-nche.edu) further guide the DNP curriculum. (See Appendix A for Population Health model)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organizing Principles</th>
<th>Foundation</th>
<th>MacroSystems</th>
<th>Elements of systems</th>
<th>Xavier DNP graduate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jesuit Tradition</td>
<td>Theory</td>
<td>Organizations</td>
<td>Leadership</td>
<td>Interprofessional holistic, ethical leader in population health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population Health (PH)</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Population Health</td>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>Leader in global health, health policy, advocate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interprofessional Collaboration</td>
<td>Philosophy</td>
<td>Global Health</td>
<td>Information Systems</td>
<td>Influences health outcomes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holism</td>
<td>Global and Population health</td>
<td>Epidemiology</td>
<td>Policy and advocacy</td>
<td>Advanced innovation assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethics</td>
<td>Evidence based practice</td>
<td>PH evaluation and outcomes</td>
<td>Advanced application</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Program Goals

1. Integrate the scientific, philosophical, ethical, and historical underpinnings of professional nursing practice from a global and holistic perspective.
2. Provide organizational and systems leadership for quality improvement and systems thinking.
3. Provide leadership in clinical scholarship and analytical methods for evidence-based practice.
4. Utilize information systems/technology and patient care technology for the holistic improvement and transformation of health care.
5. Influence health care policy for advocacy in health care.
6. Establish interprofessional collaboration for holistically improving patient and population health outcomes.
8. Utilize conceptual and analytical skills to synthesize relationships among practice, organizations, diverse populations, fiscal resources, and policy concerns and to advance nursing practice.

Application and Admission

Admission requirements are listed on the Xavier Website. Students must submit applications online via the website along with all supporting documents. Students begin the DNP program in the fall semester.

Students may transfer epidemiology that is determined equivalent to XUSON epidemiology course (NURS 864). In addition, students may be eligible to transfer up to 3 credits for a course that is equivalent to the advanced research course (NURS 904). Should students request credit transfer into the program, they need to provide syllabi for the courses to the DNP coordinator in advance of beginning the DNP program.
Curriculum Sequence

**Year 1**

**Fall**
NURS 900  
DNP Foundations (3)

NURS 902  
Advanced Evidence Based Practice (3)

**Spring**
NURS 904  
Application of Advanced Research Methodologies (3)

NURS 903  
Nursing Leadership in Complex Population-based Healthcare Systems (4)*

**Summer**
NURS 906  
Informatics for Advanced Nursing Practice in Complex Health Systems (3)

NURS 905  
Healthcare Finance and Economics for Nurse Leaders (4)*

**Year 2**

**Fall**
NURS 864  
Epidemiology (3)

NURS 908  
Health Care Policy (3)

**Spring**
NURS 910  
Scholarship of Advanced Application and Innovation (3)

NURS 907  
Evaluation and Analysis of Outcomes in Health Care (4)*

**Summer**
NURS 911  
Advanced Practice Application (4)**

**Year 3**

**Fall**
NURS 915  
Immersion and DNP Project I (3)

NURS 917  
Immersion and DNP Project II (3)

**Spring**

**Summer**

*1 Credit Clinical hour=45 contact hours  
**2 credits of clinical hours=90 contact hours

**Faculty advisors/DNP Project Team**

During the first year of the program, the DNP coordinator is the academic advisor for the student. A DNP Project Team chairperson and second DNP Project Team member from the School of Nursing (SON) is selected by the DNP coordinator and approved by the SON director not later than **end of spring semester first year**. The DNP coordinator also serves as a third project team member on each student. Students are notified of selection of DNP Project Team members. Students have the option to choose a fourth DNP Project Team person with expertise in their area of interest. This individual could be from within the University or outside the University and will need approval of the Chairperson of the DNP Project Team and the DNP coordinator. If the fourth proposed DNP Project Team person does not have a doctoral degree, they will serve in a consulting capacity only.
Candidacy

Prior to participating in NURS 915- Immersion and DNP Project I, the DNP student must achieve candidacy. The student works with the DNP Project Team chairperson to determine eligibility for candidacy. Candidacy is awarded following successful submission of a scholarly document and oral defense of the first 3 sections of the DNP project. The format for the DNP project is stated in Appendix C of the DNP Handbook.

Immersion

Students are required to have 1000 hours of immersion to complete the DNP degree. Students fulfill immersion hours by:

- Receiving credit (up to 500 hours) for Master’s level immersion hours. The DNP coordinator determines the number of hours credited based on transcripts review and/or hours submitted by the student.
- NURS 903, 905, 907, 911 include immersion hours totaling 225 immersion hours.
- NURS 915 and 917 are immersion courses. Students work with their DNP Project Team chairperson and the DNP coordinator to determine the location and the preceptor for the final immersion experience. Up to 60 hours of the clinical work toward the DNP project may be credited toward immersion hours. The DNP coordinator provides each student with the number of hours credited toward the immersion experience and determine the hours needed to fulfill the total 1000 immersion hours.

DNP Project

A final DNP project is required for program completion. The process begins with the development and submission of a DNP project proposal to the DNP Project Team chair and advisor during the third semester of the program. The format is listed in Appendix B. All written documents are expected to comply with the most current APA manual. The format for the DNP project is a 6-chapter format as specified in Appendix C.

According to the AACN report from the task force on the Implementation of the DNP “The Doctor of Nursing practice: Current issues and Clarifying Recommendations August 2015” DNP Projects should include:

a. Focus on a change that impacts healthcare outcomes either through direct or indirect care.

b. Have a systems (micro-, meso-, or macro- level) or population/aggregate focus.

c. Demonstrate implementation in the appropriate arena or area of practice.

d. Include a plan for sustainability (e.g. financial, systems or political realities, not only theoretical abstractions).

e. Include an evaluation of processes and/or outcomes (formative or summative). DNP Projects should be designed so that processes and/or outcomes will be evaluated to guide practice and policy. Clinical significance is as important in guiding practice as statistical significance is in evaluating research.

f. Provide a foundation for future practice scholarship.
Progression during the program of study

Students must complete coursework in the order of the program sequence and adhere to any course prerequisites that are stated (e.g. Students must complete foundation courses prior to moving to subsequent courses).

Students must maintain a minimum of a 3.0 GPA to achieve satisfactory progress throughout the curriculum. One “C” grade is allowed providing the GPA remains at 3.0 or higher. A second “C” grade results program dismissal. The admission, progression, and graduation (APG) committee can be petitioned for readmission approval.

Calendar (see Appendix D)
Appendix A
DNP of Population Health Model
Dear doctoral student: The following format is to guide you in developing your DNP project proposal. The knowledge acquired from your first four courses, along with summer courses, should assist you to organize your thinking on this project. This proposal (1-3 single-spaced pages) serves as a starting point for discussions between you and your DNP Project Team chair and team members. It forms an understanding between the student and faculty about the scope and content of the project.

This proposal will be due July 15.

The proposal must follow the following format.

- **Title & Description of Project** (identify the specific patient population you are addressing, as well as any background data that would include a needs assessment, and how and why you selected this population within your community).

- **Objectives of Project**

- **Significance for Organization** (include any targeted measurable clinical/population outcomes, financial outcomes, and any ACA/PCMH/other mandates that are significant to your project).

- **Significance for Population Health** (refer to model)

- **Significance for Major stakeholders including nursing and community partners related to population selected**

- **Organizing Framework** (philosophical/theoretical)

- **Current understanding of the literature** (include a reference page in APA format)

- **Resources/ benefits, barriers/currently identified**

- **Major Tasks Required for Project Completion**
  - **Project Management Timeline**
Appendix C

DNP Project Format

Chapter 1 Introduction,
- Background information to support the reason for the study
- Congruence of the Project to the Organization’s Strategic Plan/Goals
- Problem Statement or Purpose – Identification of the challenges, problems, situations, opportunities leading to the proposed project.

Chapter 2 Literature review and Theoretical Framework

Chapter 3 Methodology
- Project Design
- As appropriate to the individual project and determined by the advisor and mentor, the DNP student will include a
  - Needs assessment
  - Market analysis
  - Strategic analysis, and/or product/services
  - Sales/marketing, operations, and financial plan that justifies the need, feasibility, and sustainability of the proposed project (e.g. financial, systems or political realities, not only theoretical abstractions).

- Evidence Based Project / Intervention Plan – Describe in detail the project plan
- Timeline of Project Phases
- Resources – Personnel, Technology, Budget, etc.
- Evaluation Plan
- For each objective, include specific details as to how your project will be evaluated. What evidence-based measures will be applied to the evaluation plan? What evidence-based measures/instruments were used for each objective? What method of analysis will be used for each objective? The evaluation plan should include an evaluation model or theoretical framework as appropriate.
  - Project implementation
  - XU/Agency IRB Approval
  - Data collection

Chapter 4 Results
For each objective, include specific details as to how your project was evaluated.
- What evidence-based measures were applied to the evaluation plan?
- What evidence-based measures/instruments were used for each objective?
- What method of analysis was used for each objective?
- The evaluation should be guided by an applicable evaluation model or theory, as indicated, and may include both process and outcome evaluation measures.
• Presentation of findings
  o These should be written in accord with each project objective. To what extent was the objective achieved? For each objective discuss the key facilitators that made the objective achievable and the key barriers.

Chapter 5 Discussion and Conclusions
• Interpretation of results
  o Addressing both statistical and clinical significance
• Limitations
• Recommendations for the site at which the project was conducted and be specific.
  o Should the project be continued, expanded, reduced, or phased out?
  o What kinds of projects should be done next?
  o Are any on-going evaluations needed for phases outside the scope of the DNP project?
  o Place your recommendation within the framework of the organization’s strategic plan, and be sure to recommend who needs to be involved in or responsible for future phases. Next, write recommendations regarding the possible application of this project in other settings.
• Implications for practice. The implication for practice section should include a dissemination component.
• Implications for future research
• Application to other DNP Roles, i.e. leadership, advocacy.

Chapter 6 Publishable paper to be sent to a refereed journal
## Appendix D
### Calendar for DNP project

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Due date</th>
<th>responsibility</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Submit pre-proposal</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7/15</td>
<td>student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review of pre-proposal</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9/1</td>
<td>DNP Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee chair recommendation</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9/15</td>
<td>DNP Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment of chairs</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10/1</td>
<td>XU-SON director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work with chair to build committee</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1/7</td>
<td>student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work with chair on proposal</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7/1</td>
<td>student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit proposal/IRB to chair</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7/15</td>
<td>student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chair pass on proposal to committee</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7/22</td>
<td>Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposal defense/Candidacy</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8/15</td>
<td>student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feedback from committee</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8/30</td>
<td>committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revisions to Proposal /IRB</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9/7</td>
<td>student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit IRB</td>
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<td>9/10</td>
<td>student</td>
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<tr>
<td>IRB approval</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>11/10</td>
<td>student</td>
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<tr>
<td>Practice change</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1/7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evaluation of Practice change</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3/1</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Write DNP project paper</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4/25</td>
<td>student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defense</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5/9</td>
<td>student</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Gantt chart of progression through DNP project

Shading represents year of program: Blue (1), red (2), purple (3)