



COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF NURSING

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE NURSING STUDENT HANDBOOK

2017-2018

The baccalaureate degree in nursing, master's degree in nursing, and Doctor of Nursing Practice in Population Health Leadership Program at Xavier University School of Nursing are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, www.aacn.nche.edu/ccneaccreditation.

The baccalaureate degree in nursing and master's degree in nursing are approved by the Ohio Board of Nursing (OBN), www.nursing.ohio.gov.

The baccalaureate (BSN) and master's degree programs and the doctor of nursing practice in population health leadership program at Xavier University are endorsed by the American Holistic Nurses Credentialing Corporation (AHNCC), Note: The new ABSN track of the BSN degree program is under review for inclusion.

**Xavier University
College of Professional Sciences
School of Nursing**

**Doctor of Nursing Practice in Population Health Leadership
Student Handbook**

The Xavier University Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) 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 will build 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 will be examined. The design, implementation, and evaluation of delivery methods that address outcomes to improve the health of the nation will be the capstone focus.

Intense immersion experiences in a variety of environments will occur throughout and at the end of the curriculum and will 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 will ultimately influence health care outcomes for diverse populations will also be a part of the immersion experience.

The program is 40-43 semester credit hours. Students without an epidemiology course in their master's curriculum will be 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 or from an advanced certification 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 will focus 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 will be afforded the opportunity to focus on the population of their choice as they move through the curriculum toward their DNP project. Potential students will likely be working fulltime and will 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, the administration and faculty of Xavier University School of Nursing (XUSON) advise students to take advanced pathophysiology, advanced health assessment, and advanced pharmacology (3 P's) based on the recommendation of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) recommendation for the educator role.

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)

DNP Conceptual Framework

Organizing Principles	Foundations	Macrosystems	Elements of Systems	Xavier DNP Graduate
Jesuit Tradition	Theory	Organizations	Leadership	Interprofessional, Holistic, Ethical Leader in Population Health
Population Health (PH)	Science	Population Health	Finance	Leader in Global Health, Health Policy, & Advocacy
Interprofessional Collaboration	Philosophy	Global Health	Information Systems	Influences Health Outcomes
Holism	Global and Population Health		Epidemiology	
Ethics	Evidence Based Practice		Policy and Advocacy	
			Advanced Innovation Assessment	
			Population Health Evaluation and Outcomes	
			Advanced Application	

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.
7. Design, implement, and evaluate health care delivery methods for illness prevention and population health for improving the Nation's health.
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. Student will 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 will need to provide syllabi for the courses to the DNP Associate Director in advance of beginning the DNP program.

Curriculum Sequence

Year 1

Fall

NURS 900

DNP Foundations (3)

Spring

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 902

Advanced Evidence
Based Practice (3)

NURS 904

Application of Advanced
Research Methodologies (3)

NURS 864

Epidemiology (3)

Year 2

Fall

NURS 905

Healthcare Finance and
Economics for Nurse Leaders
(4)*

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)**

Fall

NURS 915

Immersion and DNP
Project I (3)

Year 3

Spring

NURS 917

Immersion and DNP
Project II (3)

*1 Credit Clinical hour=45 contact hours

**2 credits of clinical hours=90 contact hours

DNP Faculty Advisors/DNP Project Committee

During the first year of the program, the DNP Associate Director will be the academic advisor for the student. A project committee chairperson and second committee member from the School of Nursing (SON) will be selected by the DNP Associate Director and approved by the SON director not later than **early fall semester second year**. The DNP Associate Director will

also serve as a third project committee member on each student. Students will be notified of selection of committee members. Students will have the option to choose a fourth committee 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 committee and the DNP Associate director. If the fourth proposed committee person does not have a doctoral degree, they will serve in a consulting capacity only. Committee member responsibilities can be found in **Appendix B**.

DNP Project

A final DNP project is required for program completion. The process will begin with the development and submission of a DNP project pre-proposal to the committee chair and advisor during the third semester of the program. The format is listed in **Appendix C**. All written documents are expected to comply with the most current APA manual. The format for the DNP project will be a five chapter format as specified in **Appendix D**. **The DNP Project rubric, Final Semester Process, and Final Defense rubric can be found on the NURS 915 and NURS 917 Canvas site.**

Candidacy

Prior to participating in NURS 915- Immersion and DNP Project I, the DNP student must achieve candidacy. The student will work with the committee chairperson to determine eligibility for candidacy. Candidacy will be awarded following successful submission of a scholarly document and the oral defense of the first three chapters of the DNP project. The format for the DNP project is stated in **Appendix D** of the DNP Handbook as noted in the previous section. **DNP Project sections 1-3 rubric and the Proposal Defense rubric can be found on the NURS 911 Canvas site.**

Immersion Experiences

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

Students will fulfill immersion hours by:

- Receiving credit (up to 500 hours) for Master's level immersion hours. The DNP Associate Director will determine the number of hours credited based on transcript review and/or hours submitted by the student.
- Students may request additional credit up to the 500 hours of 1000 for advanced certification that requires a Master's degree. To receive this credit, students need to complete the form in **Appendix E** and submit to the Associate Director of the DNP program prior to beginning NURS 911. Students who want to achieve the 500 hours credit toward 1000 required immersion hours but do not have an advanced certification can do so by working with their project team chairperson and completing the Distribution of Hours form in **Appendix F**.

- NURS 903, 905, 907, 911 include immersion hours totaling 225 immersion hours.
- NURS 915 and 917 are immersion courses. Students will work with their committee chairperson and the DNP Associate Director to determine the location and the preceptor for the final immersion experience. The DNP Associate director will provide each student with the number of hours credited toward the immersion experience and determine the hours needed to fulfill the total 1000 immersion hours.

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 will lead to program dismissal. The admission, progression, and graduation (APG) committee can be petitioned for readmission approval.

Students who receive an “M” (incomplete) grade in any one semester of the DNP program will not progress to the next semester until the “M” grade is resolved. According to University policy, graduate students have one year to resolve the incomplete grade.*(link to University policy)

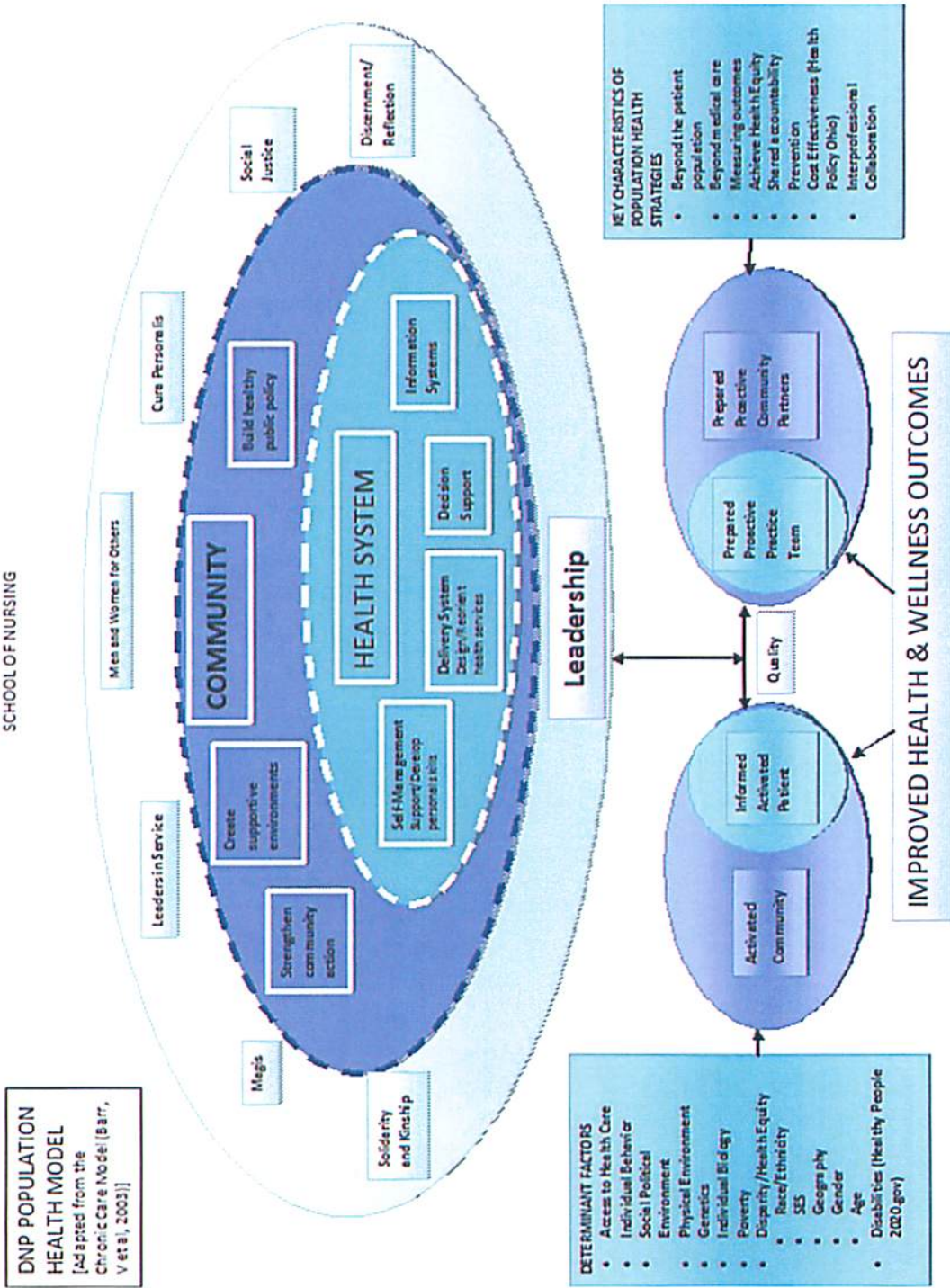
Students who receive a grade of “M” in NURS 911, 915, or 917 are eligible to register for NURS 918 at one credit per semester up to six credits to allow continuous enrollment and faculty support for candidacy requirements, or the completion of the final immersion and DNP Project requirements. As noted earlier, students may not register for the regularly scheduled DNP course in a subsequent semester following the receipt of an “M” grade until the “M” grade is resolved.

DNP Project Calendar and Gantt Chart (Appendix G)

(Will be posted at a later date)

Appendix A
DNP of Population Health Model

XAVIER UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, HEALTH, AND EDUCATION
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Appendix B

Xavier University
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School of Nursing
Doctor of Nursing Practice Program in Population Health Leadership

DNP Project Committee Membership and Responsibilities

Committee membership includes:

- a. Project team chairperson
- b. Second faculty person
- c. Content expert chosen by the student and approved by Project team chairperson and DNP Associate Director. May be from within or outside of XU.

Additional committee resources:

- d. DNP Associate Director—to oversee all committees and their progress
- e. Statistical advisor recommended

Project team chairperson (appointed by School Director and DNP Associate Director)

1. Supervises project as a whole
 - a. Provides primary guidance and feedback to the student throughout development of manuscript for candidacy defense and guides student toward readiness for candidacy and defense
 - b. Schedules candidacy defense with student and committee members
 - c. Provides primary guidance and feedback to the student throughout manuscript development, project completion, and preparation for final project completion in consultation with committee members
 - d. Advises but is not necessarily the primary resource person for all aspects of the project
2. Chooses second committee member (with load approval by School Director)
3. Participates in approval of expert chosen by student
4. Assists student in plan for development and completion of project, develop timeline
5. Monitors student progress
6. Supervises immersion experiences and completion of appropriate number of hours.
7. Provides guidance and approval of IRB submission.
8. Assures necessary forms are filed
9. Documents student advisement sessions and progress of drafts
10. Responds to student within 7 days of draft submission
11. Approves all drafts prior sending to rest of the committee and IRB
12. Suggests consultation with additional experts such as statistician, content expert, etc.
13. Presides at project meetings

Committee Member

1. Provides guidance as requested by the student or chairperson, related to any aspect of the project
2. Critically reviews manuscript and completed project

3. Actively participates in committee meetings, candidacy defense, and project completion.
Student Responsibilities (working with Chairperson)

- a. Students need to work with chairpersons in the fall and spring prior to 911 to determine site for immersion and other interfacing organizations that might be a part of the immersion experience.
- b. At the same time, students need to work with chairpersons to determine preceptor and establish appropriate agreements—agency and preceptor.
- c. Students need to select macro assessment tool to use and be prepared to begin the assessment early in 911.
- d. Students need to add timeline for the completion of the above processes including important preceptor meetings, etc.

DNPCommitteesSpring2017

Appendix C

Xavier University
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DNP Project Proposal Format

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 (one to three single-spaced pages) serves as a *starting* point for discussions between you and your committee chair and committee. It forms an understanding between the student and faculty about the scope and content of the project.

This proposal will be due August 1. 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 of Project Management Timeline

Appendix D

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.
- Specific aims and objectives

Chapter 2 Literature review and Theoretical Framework

- Synthesis of evidence appraisal related to the problem and possible solutions
- Concepts and definitions used in the project
- Organizing framework (philosophical, theoretical or conceptual framework)

Chapter 3 Methodology

- Project design
- As appropriate to the individual project, and determined by the advisor and mentor, the DNP student will include:
 - 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.
- Evidence-based project intervention plan (describe the project plan in detail)
- Timeline of major tasks for project completion
- Resources (personnel, technology, budget, etc.), benefits, barriers currently identified
- Evaluation plan: data collection plan with instruments used for each specific aim or objective including:
 - 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?
- Evaluation plan: analysis for each specific aim or objective
 - What method of analysis will be used for each objective?
 - Evaluation model or theoretical framework as appropriate.
- Logic model or key driver diagram

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
 - 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
- Limitations
- Recommendations for the site at which the project was conducted and be specific.
 - Should the project be continued, expanded, reduced, or phased out?
 - What kinds of projects should be done next?
 - Are any on-going evaluations needed for phases outside the scope of the DNP project?
 - 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.
 - Recommendations regarding the possible application of this project in other settings.
- Implications for practice including a dissemination component.
- Implications for future quality improvement projects or research
- Application to other DNP Roles, i.e. leadership, advocacy.

Appendix E

**Xavier University
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**Doctor of Nursing Practice in Population Health Leadership Program
Documentation of Advanced Certification**

Student Name _____

- 1. Provide official documentation of the advanced certification.**
- 2. Provide documentation of the requirements for the advanced certification (i.e. clinical hours, other requirements).**

Hours granted toward DNP 1000 immersion hours _____

Appendix F

Xavier University
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Doctor of Nursing Practice in Population Health Leadership
Distribution of Immersion Hours in DNP Curriculum

The purpose of this document is to provide a template to request additional immersion hours prior to NURS 915 for DNP students who have fewer than 500 immersion hours from their master's program credited toward 1000 DNP immersion hours.

1. Students who have been credited with less than 500 master's immersion hours may propose experiences that allow them to achieve 45-500 immersion hours prior to NURS 915. The one-page proposed immersion experience will be submitted to the Project team chairperson for approval **two weeks** prior to the experience. Only proposals for 45 hours or more will be considered.
2. The proposal defining the experience will include:
 - i. Site and preceptor and preceptor qualifications,
 - ii. Learning objectives,
 - iii. Activities: experiences also could include but are not limited to conference attendance, community meetings, shadowing in sites that are external to the primary site of the immersion experience, identifying and consulting with experts in the topic area, coordinating potential immersion experiences in multiple sites, or assuring strong connections in the primary site, to determine data collection sites, etc.
 - iv. Number of immersion hours to be accomplished during specific experiences.
3. The combined total of credited immersion experiences prior to NURS 915 may include NURS 905, NURS 907, and NURS 911 additional experiences that are above the required course immersion hours as approved by the project team chairperson in cooperation with course faculty. All experiences can be achieved during the fall, spring, and summer semesters of the second year in the DNP program and may not be more than 500 hours.

Appendix G
Calendar and Gantt Chart for DNP Project
(Will be posted at a later date)