COLLEGE OF NURSING

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

STUDENT HANDBOOK

2021-2022

The (baccalaureate degree program in nursing/master's degree program in nursing/Doctor of Nursing Practice program and/or post-graduate APRN certificate program) at Xavier University is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, 655 K Street, NW, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20001, 202-887-6791.

The (baccalaureate degree program in nursing/master's degree program in nursing/Doctor of Nursing Practice program and/or post-graduate APRN certificate program) at Xavier University is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (http://www.ccneaccreditation.org).

The baccalaureate (BSN) program, accelerated BSN (ABSN) program, master's degree (MSN) programs and the doctor of nursing practice (DNP) in population health leadership program at Xavier University are endorsed by the American Holistic Nurses Credentialing Corporation (AHNCC).

Xavier University College of Nursing
Doctor of Nursing Practice in Population Health Leadership
Student Handbook

The Xavier University Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program is an online population health post-graduate degree program that prepares nurses as leaders in local, regional, national, or global health settings to address the complexity of health care and health care outcomes in the 21st century. Through the lens of Jesuit tradition and values, students will build on a previously earned master's degree to achieve the highest level of academic preparation in nursing.

The curriculum integrates scientific, philosophical, ethical, and historical perspectives of nursing practice with a global and holistic perspective of health care delivery. Organizational and systems leadership, interprofessional collaboration, population–based innovation, evaluation, health policy and advocacy are examined for the improvement of health outcomes in diverse populations. Intense immersion experiences throughout the curriculum focus on the integration of knowledge gained. A final DNP scholarly project incorporates the design, implementation, and evaluation of delivery methods to improve the health of the nation.

Immersion hours are required as DNP students progress through the program. A total of 1000 hours is needed for graduation, a portion of which may be fulfilled by prior graduate academic experience or advanced certification. Given the program's concentration on health care in a variety of settings, students choose populations and immersion settings of interest to them.

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 2020-2030: Charting a Path to Achieve Health Equity, Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN), AACN Faculty Think Tank Report & Recommendations 2017, the AACN Doctoral of Nursing Practice (DNP) Essentials, 2006, and the AACN Essentials for Advanced-Level Nursing, 2021 further guide the DNP curriculum.

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 the translation of research in evidence-based care.
4. Utilize information systems/technology and patient care technology for the holistic improvement and transformation of health care.
5. Influence health care policy by possessing essential skills in policy and advocacy.
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 distinguish relationships among practice, organizations, diverse populations, fiscal resources, and policy concerns and to advance nursing practice.

DNP Program Eight Semester Curriculum Sequence

Prerequisite: NURS 864 Epidemiology (3)

Year 1

Fall	Spring	Summer
NURS 900 DNP Foundations (3)	**NURS 903** Nursing Leadership in Complex Population-Based Healthcare Systems (4)*	**NURS 906** Informatics for Advanced Nursing Practice in Complex Health Systems (3)
NURS 904 Application of Advanced Research Methodologies (3)	**NURS 902** Advanced Evidence Based Practice (3)	**NURS 912** DNP Writing Seminar (1)

Year 2

Fall	Spring	Summer
NURS 905 Healthcare Finance and Economics for Nurse Leaders (4)*	**NURS 910** Scholarship of Advanced Application and Innovation (3)	**NURS 911** Immersion and DNP Project I (3)**
NURS 908 Health Care Policy (3)	**NURS 907** Evaluation and Analysis of Outcomes in Health Care (4)*	

Year 3

Fall	Spring
NURS 915 Immersion and DNP Project II (3) **	**NURS 917** Immersion and DNP Project III (3) **

* includes 1 credit for immersion hours = 45 contact hours

** Immersion courses to complete the DNP project and hours required for program completion

Academic Advising

The DNP Associate Director will serve as the academic advisor for course progression for each student.

DNP Faculty Mentor and Project Team

The DNP faculty mentor is a doctorate prepared member of the faculty of the XU College of Nursing (XU CN). Students will have the opportunity to meet the graduate program faculty as they move through the DNP program. Completion of the DNP project prospectus is an assignment in the NURS 903 Nursing Leadership in Complex Population-Based Healthcare Systems course. The abstract of this paper will be shared with the faculty, and mentors will be matched with consideration of the student's intended project. Students will be notified of their faculty mentor.

The DNP project team consists of the student, a doctorate prepared faculty mentor, and at least one other member with the skills and expertise needed to ensure success of the project. The nature of the student's proposed work will determine the specific talents required for the project team, and the student will work with their faculty mentor to identify team members. Clinical experts from the DNP project site may be included as team members. The DNP Associate Director will provide oversight of all DNP scholarly projects and team members. The maximum number of team members whose primary affiliation is outside the university is limited to two. Only doctorate prepared team members can vote to approve the DNP proposal and final DNP project. The roles and responsibilities of the DNP student and the project team faculty and members are outlined in **Appendix A**.

DNP Scholarly Project

The final DNP scholarly project demonstrates mastery of the knowledge, competencies, and skills to meet the AACN essentials, and is required for program completion. The student will work under the guidance of his or her mentor to select a population health related phenomenon of interest, problem or issue in which improvements are needed for the DNP project. The timeline and milestones for completion of the DNP program, including the scholarly project, are included in **Appendix B.**

DNP Candidacy

Prior to participating in NURS 915 Immersion and DNP Project II course, the DNP student must achieve candidacy. The student will write a scholarly DNP project proposal under the guidance of their faculty mentor during the NURS 911 Immersion and DNP Project I course. Following satisfactory defense and approval of the DNP project proposal and presentation, DNP

candidacy is achieved after satisfactory revisions to the proposal document are completed and submitted.

Immersion Experiences

Immersion experiences provide the student with opportunities to engage in a practice environment to witness, understand, apply and reflect on specific aspects of the AACN essentials. In partnership with the course faculty, students select and are precepted by nursing or interprofessional leaders during their immersions. Goals are established for the immersion experience by the student and shared with the preceptor. The preceptor and student identify the activities, events and people that will assist in meeting these goals during the immersion. Students are required to have 1000 immersion hours to complete the DNP program. The maximum number of hours that can be earned and credited outside of the DNP program is 500 hours.

Credited Hours Outside of the DNP Program

- Credited hours (up to 500 hours) for Master's level practicum/immersion hours. The DNP Associate Director will determine the number of hours credited based on a review of the student's transcript and hours submitted by the student. Each student will receive written confirmation of their number of credited immersion hours during the first semester of the DNP program.
- Students may request additional credit for up to the 500 hours for an advanced nursing certification that requires a Master's degree. To receive this credit, the student needs to complete the form in **Appendix C.** If the student has an advanced nursing certification when beginning the program, the completed form and documents from the accrediting body that verify their certification should be submitted to the Associate Director of the DNP program during fall semester of Year 1. If a student earns an advanced nursing certification during the DNP program, the form and supporting documents should be submitted to the Associate Director of the DNP program when the certification is awarded, and no later than 30 days prior to beginning NURS 911 Immersion and DNP Project I course.

Credited Hours during the DNP Program

- The NURS 903, 905, and 907 courses include immersion hours totaling 135 hours. Students will work with the course faculty to select a preceptor at the immersion site, and complete the required immersion documents.
- Additional immersion hours can be accumulated during the NURS 903, NURS 905, and NURS 907 courses with the approval of the course instructor. These additional immersion hours are above the required immersion hours in NURS 903, NURS 905, and NURS 907 courses. These additional immersion hours will be documented in the immersion journal for the course.

- Students who want to achieve up to 500 hours credited toward the 1000 required immersion hours, can do so by working with their faculty mentor to identify additional immersion experiences that align with meeting the AACN Essentials or the objectives of their DNP project. The student must submit the proposal for the additional credited immersion hours experience described in **Appendix D** to their faculty mentor for approval prior to the additional immersion experience. At the conclusion of this experience, the student must complete and submit the documents described in **Appendix E** to the faculty mentor and DNP Associate Director for final approval of the actual additional hours that will be credited toward the 1000 required hours.
- NURS 911, NURS 915 and 917 are immersion courses, and the remaining 1000 required immersion hours will be earned during these courses. Students will work with their faculty mentor to determine the location and preceptor/practice mentor for the final immersion experience.

Drug Screening and Background Checks

Many of the programs in the College of Nursing require BCI/FBI criminal background checks and/or drug screens because of university program, accreditation, clinical, immersion, and/or professional mandates. Requirements vary from program to program. Failure to satisfy the requirements can result in dismissal from the program, withdrawal from field, clinical or immersion placements, delayed program progression, or diminished employment opportunities. All students attending an immersion or clinical site must have an annual ten panel drug screen and BCI fingerprinting and background check prior to entering the immersion or clinical setting. See the Castle Branch website for instructions on completion. A student who is deemed to have a positive urine drug screen may not participate in any immersion or clinical experience. Failure to complete the immersion or clinical site requirements in a timely manner may result in unsuccessful completion of the program and/or disciplinary action at the department level.

If you have questions or need further information, please contact Libbie Bragg, Interim DNP Program Associate Director, in the College of Nursing at bragge@xavier.edu

Progression during the Program of Study

If a student wishes to complete the DNP program in eight semesters, the student will complete the coursework by following the two course per semester sequence during the first five semesters of the program (page 4). Students who wish to move through the program at a slower pace will work with the DNP Associate Director to determine their course progression. Courses with prerequisites must be completed in the required order. DNP foundational courses

(900, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, & 910) must be completed prior to the DNP project immersion courses (911, 915 & 917).

Students must maintain a minimum of a 3.0 DNP 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. Additionally, one "F" grade will lead to program dismissal. The student may petition the Admission, Progression, and Graduation (APG) Committee for readmission approval.

Information about the XU Graduate Student Grading Scale and Incomplete Graduate Student Course Work can be found in the Graduate Program Handbook through the following link: https://www.xavier.edu/graduateschool/grad-handbook

Standardized Grading Scale

For consistency in grading across the DNP curriculum, the faculty has approved a standardized grading scale. This scale does not conflict with XU policy found in the University catalogue, but rather adds clarity.

The following grading scale is to be used and grades will not be rounded up:

Percent	Grade
94-100	A
90-93	A-
87-89	B+
84-86	B
81-83	B-
78-80	C+
75-77	C
< 75	F

Progression during the Final Immersion and DNP Project Courses

The majority of immersion hours for the DNP project will be completed in the DNP project courses (NURS 911, 915, and 917) with the possibility of an extension course (NURS 919) if additional time is needed.

Appendix A

DNP Project Team Membership and Responsibilities Guidelines

DNP Project Team membership includes:
   a. DNP Project Faculty Mentor
   b. Practice mentor/clinical expert from the community where the project will be implemented
   c. Additional interprofessional team members as needed; one member may be from outside the university.

Additional project resource:
   d. DNP Program Associate Director

The responsibilities of project team members and student are outline below.

<u>DNP Project Faculty Mentor</u>
   - Provides primary guidance and feedback to the student throughout development of the project proposal, including team formation and candidacy.
   - Determines readiness for candidacy
   - Provides primary guidance and feedback to the student through project completion in consultation with project team
   - Sets aside time for office hour appointments with student each semester
   - Works with DNP Program Associate Director to assure necessary site agreements are in place prior to student immersion experiences

<u>DNP Project Practice Mentor/Clinical Expert</u> (may be the preceptor or another individual in the field experience)
   - Provides feedback on the feasibility of the project proposal for the practice setting
   - Guides student during the implementation phase of the project plan
   - Participates in the evaluation of student performance in the field experience

<u>Interprofessional Team Members</u>
   - Roles for additional team members are defined according to the expertise of the individual. The student will work in consultation with his or her Project Mentor to complete a Team Charter that includes a description of interprofessional team member roles. (Examples include content expert, statistician, and/or QI consultant)
   - All project team members are invited to participate in the student's candidacy meeting

<u>Student Responsibilities</u>
   - In consultation with Project Mentor:

- o Selects site for immersion
- o Determines Preceptor or Practice Mentor (if other than preceptor), and interprofessional team to serve on project team
- Completes and submits required documentation for immersion site experiences
- Develops project proposal in consultation with Project Mentor, and other team members as directed by the Project Mentor
- Requests candidacy defense meeting after approval is granted from the Project Mentor
- Leads project meetings with team members in the field
- Has at least two project team meetings with all members
- Completes all course assignments
- Documents and presents DNP project outcomes in consultation with Project Mentor

Appendix B
DNP Project Milestones

Table: DNP Scholarly Project Milestones

Milestone	Prior to NURS 911	NURS 911	NURS 915	NURS 917
Prospectus	▨			
Immersion Site Approval	▨			
Chapter 1		▨		
Chapter 2		▨		
Chapter 3		▨		
Proposal Defense		▨		
Candidacy*			▨	
IRB Approval			▨	
Project Implementation			▨	
Chapter 4			▨	▨
Chapter 5				▨
Presentation				▨
College Approval				▨

*Candidacy is achieved after satisfactory revisions to the proposal are completed

Appendix C

**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 for advanced certification toward DNP 1000 immersion hours   _____

Approved By: _____
             Associate Director, Doctor of Nursing Practice Program, College of Nursing

Date: _____

Appendix D

DNP Project Faculty Mentor Approved Additional Credited Immersion Hours

The purpose of this document is to provide a template to request additional credited 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. Students who have been credited with less than 500 master's credited practicum hours or advanced nursing certification may propose experiences that allow them to achieve up to a total of 500 immersion hours prior to NURS 915 immersion course. A one-page proposed immersion experience will be submitted to the DNP Project Faculty Mentor for approval **two calendar weeks** prior to the experience. Only proposals for 45 hours or above will be considered.

1. The proposal defining the immersion experience will include:
   i. Immersion site, preceptor's name and preceptor qualifications (attach CV or resume)
   ii. Learning objectives for immersion
   iii. AACN essentials that will be met during the immersion
   iv. 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.
   v. Number of immersion hours to be accomplished during specific experiences.

Appendix E
Faculty Mentor Supervised Independent Immersion Hours Experience Report

Provide documentation that includes the following:

1. Completed DNP Immersion Hours Immersion Journal Spreadsheet with documentation of Immersion hours including the date, number of hours, AACN essentials met, immersion learning activity, and student reflection

2. Description of how each immersion experience objective was met

3. Summary of and reflections about overall immersion experience

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Faculty Mentor Approval and Signature: _____Date: _____

DNP Associate Director Approval and Signature: _____ Date: _____

References

American Association of Colleges of Nursing. (2006). *The essentials of doctoral education for advanced nursing practice.* Washington, DC: American Association of Colleges of Nursing. https://www.aacnnursing.org/DNP/DNP-Essentials

American Association of Colleges of Nursing. (2021). *The essentials: Core competencies for professional nursing education.* Washington, DC: American Association of Colleges of Nursing. https://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/42/AcademicNursing/pdf/Essentials-2021.pdf

American Association of Colleges of Nursing. (2015). *The doctor of nursing practice: Current issues and clarifying recommendations.* Washington, DC: American Association of Colleges of Nursing

American Association of College of Nursing. (2017). *AACN Faculty Policy Think Tank (FPTT) report and recommendations.* http://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/42/Policy/PDF/FPTT-Report-10-12-2017.pdf

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. (2021). *The future of nursing 2020-2030: Charting a path to achieve health equity.* Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.