

A Guide to Completing the Application for the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

DNP Checklist & Eligibility Criteria for Admission

- BSN to DNP** **MSN to DNP**

UH Hilo Graduate application form
Application fee
School of Nursing Supplemental Application
Official transcripts from all colleges or universities
(must be received in a sealed envelope)
Baccalaureate degree transcripts from international
institutions must be submitted to an independent
[transcript evaluation service](#)
Current Resume or Curriculum Vitae
Personal Goal Statement, 600 words (see pg 2 for more
info)
3 Recommendations from academic and/or professional
referees (form can be found on Supplemental App)
Current RN licensure for Hawaii
Current Licensure in state where clinical practice and
practice inquiry project will be conducted
Verification of APRN certification or license
appropriate to the state where the clinical practice and
practice inquiry project will be conducted
Health Clearance (see page 2 for more info)

For international applicants:

[International Graduate Student Supplemental
Information Form](#)

TOEFL or IELTS scores (non-native speakers of
English; see Eligibility Criteria) ó (see pg 2)
Completion of the CGFNS Qualifying exam

**Deadline for receipt of all application materials:
February 15**

Program Mission

The Doctorate of Nursing practice (DNP) is a program designed to prepare the nurse at an advanced level of nursing science. The program emphasizes the development of the student's capacity to impact the clinical setting as leaders and educators and to utilize clinical research to improve and transform health care. Our program is based on the understanding that nursing provides services which includes the direct care of individual clients, transcultural nursing, management of care for rural populations, administration of nursing systems, and development and implementation of health policy. In addition, the program will encompass health policy, health economics, cultural diversity, chronic care management, health promotion, and

disease prevention in rural communities and will create a cadre of new nursing faculty who can immediately address the nursing faculty shortage. Advanced practice nurses with practice doctorates will address significant practice issues in a scholarly way, adopt broad system perspectives for health promotion and risk reduction, and act as agents of change that transform client/community care, participate in the on-going evaluation of health care outcomes, and assist in the translation of research that leads to positive nursing practice changes.

Program Learning Outcomes

The program is committed to the following:

1. Synthesize theoretical knowledge and research evidence in designing primary care delivery for diverse populations across the lifespan in rural contexts
2. Collaborate with multidisciplinary professions, multisectoral agencies and lay communities to influence social and health policies impacting rural population health
3. Assume leadership role in organizational systems to improve rural population health in local and regional communities
4. Promote adherence to professional and ethical-legal standards of practice by individual professionals and organizations
5. Integrate cultural competence and social justice in addressing health disparities in rural populations
6. Examine research evidence in design and implementation and evaluation of policies and programs for population health in rural communities
7. Use best practices and technology to improve care delivery for diverse individuals, families and communities within the continuum of primary, secondary and tertiary care
8. Create educational programs to develop culturally competent practice and education of the nursing workforce
9. Design educational programs and evaluation programs and evaluation to enhance rural community empowerment for health

Application Process

New students are accepted for Fall semester only. The priority application deadline is February 15. Complete applications received after the priority deadline will be considered on a space available basis. The UH Hilo Admissions Office receives applications and supporting documents and maintains the applications through final notification. Applications that meet the admission requirements will be forwarded to the School of

Nursing where they will undergo a comprehensive review. Admission decisions will be made by the Graduate Admissions Committee of the School of Nursing which will send out the final notification to the applicant.

Admission Status

The applicant's admission status is valid only for the semester to which the applicant is accepted. Applications for students who do not register or who withdraw from the University are voided but retained for a period of one (1) year. Students may reapply for admission the next year by submitting a new graduate application with the application fee.

Eligibility Criteria for International Students

Obtain a score of 550 (paper based), 213 (computer based), or 79 (internet based) on the TOEFL (applicants for whom English is not the native language). The IELTS score must be 6.0. Students with degrees from colleges whose language of instruction is English need not submit TOEFL scores).

DNP Personal Statement

Your personal statement should address the following in 600 words:

1. Describe your professional goals and how participation in the DNP program will enhance these goals
2. Identify and briefly discuss a practice-based problem of interest to you that might serve as a topic for your final, scholarly DNP project

Health Clearance

Tuberculosis clearance documentation, documentation for tetanus/diphtheria vaccination received within the last ten years; documentation for hepatitis-B vaccination series or serological evidence of immunity; serological evidence of immunity to mumps, rubella, rubeola, and varicella (May vary by state/organization where practicum are performed or where the practice inquiry project is conducted)

Transfer of Credits

Requests for transfer of credits must be made during the first semester in which the student is enrolled in the program; departmental approval for all credit transfers is required. Only credit hours with a grade of B or better from accredited universities are transferable. Credit hours for practicum and internship courses are not transferable. Transfer credit hours must have been completed within five years prior to admission. Students may transfer a maximum of 12 semester hours (or its equivalent). On rare circumstances, requests for an exception to this limit could be considered by the program faculty. All requests for transfer of credits must be accompanied by a transcript and course syllabi.

International Admissions

Official college transcripts in the original language and official translations into English must be provided. To expedite your application, all graduate applicants with international transcripts are required to send the baccalaureate transcript for professional evaluation by one of the credential evaluation services listed on our web site:

<http://www.uhh.hawaii.edu/academics/graduate/intlgraduate.php>

Only graduates of accredited universities will be considered for acceptance.

Employment Opportunities

DNP career options in healthcare are many and varied. What a DNP chooses depends on their skills and where their interest lies. The DNP has choices to work in different sectors such as acute care, family care, geriatric care, and holistic care to name a few. The DNP can serve in administrative leadership and leadership positions in research, clinical care delivery, patient outcome and system management, education and direct practice. They will be experts in managing the complex balance between quality of care, access to care and fiscal responsibilities.

Course of Study (Program Entry Points)

Students have two program entry points to earn the Doctorate of Nursing Practice degree.

É The Post Baccalaureate DNP entry point is intended to allow entry into the DNP program for nurses who have completed the BSN. The program will educate candidate nurses to be Family Nurse Practitioners (FNP) with foci in gerontology, Transcultural Nursing, Rural Health Care, and Evidence-based Practice.

É The Post Masters DNP entry point offers nurses with advanced degrees in nursing specialty areas (e.g. APRN or education, administration, information systems management, leadership, evidence-based practice etc) a doctoral program which expands their level of practice expertise.

For questions regarding program information, contact:

Dr. Alice Davis

DNP Coordinator

UH Hilo School of Nursing

aedavis@hawaii.edu

(808) 974-7760 (Main Admin Line)

<http://hilo.hawaii.edu/depts/nursing/>

For questions regarding the application process, contact:

M healani Jones, UH Hilo Admissions

200 West K wili St, Hilo HI 96720-4091

(808)974-7414, (800) 897-4456

amyj@hawaii.edu

REQUIRED COURSES (73 Credits)

Course Cr Title

Nurs 518 (3) Env. Epidemiology & Stats
 Nurs 501 (3) Trans. Determinants of Care
 Nurs 502 (3) Info. Systems/Technology
 Nurs 503 (3) Adv. Clinical Pharmacology
 Nurs 504 (3) Adv. Clinical Pathophysiology
 Nurs 505 (4) Adv. Health Assessment
 Nurs 506 (3) Rural Health Promotion
 Nurs 506L (3) Rural Health Promotion Lab
 Nurs 507 (3) Primary Care of Adults
 Nurs 507L (3) Primary Care of Adults Lab
 Nurs 508 (3) Primary Care of Older Adults
 Nurs 508L (3) Prim. Care of Older Adult Lab
 Nurs 509 (2) Primary Care of Women
 Nurs 509L (2) Primary Care of Women Lab
 Nurs 510 (2) Primary Care of Children
 Nurs 510L (2) Primary Care of Children Lab
 Nurs 511 (3) Advanced Research Methods
 Nurs 512 (3) Evidence Based Practice
 Nurs 513 (3) Program Develop/Evaluation
 *Elective
 Nurs 514 (3) System-Based Leadership
 Nurs 515 (4) Health Policy: Local to Global
 Nurs 516 (3) Health Economics
 Nurs 517 (6) Practice Inquiry Project

For financial aid assistance, please contact:

UH Hilo Financial Aid Office
 200 W. K. wili St.
 Hilo, HI 96720-4091
 (808)974-7323, (808)933-0861 (fax)
uhhfao@hawaii.edu

Native Hawaiian students who need assistance with applications and/or scholarships please contact:
 Kipuka Native Hawaiian Student Center
 (808)933-0897
<http://kipuka.uhh.hawaii.edu/>

Frequently Asked Questions

Cost: \$598 per credit hour 2011-2012 resident tuition
 \$1,196 per credit hour 2011-2012 non-resident tuition

1. **How long does it take to complete the program?**
 The BSN to DNP program is designed to be completed in 3 years or 1.5 years to complete the MSN to DNP, in full-time status.
2. **What are the entrance requirements?**
 See Check List and Criteria for Admission on front of this form.
3. **Do I have to take the GRE?**
 No, the GRE exam is not required
4. **How does the program work**
 We are offering courses using an executive model, with online courses that are geared towards working professionals
5. **How much will it cost to live in Hilo?**
 You should budget approximately \$19,000 (residents) and \$25,000 (non-residents) per year for tuition, books, housing, food, and personal expenses.
6. **Is financial aid available?**
 Contact the UH Hilo Financial Aid Office for information: (808) 974-7323.
7. **Do I need a computer?**
 Yes, or at least daily access to one.
8. **Can I take the program part-time?**
 We are not currently offering a part-time program
9. **Is there a website for the program?**
 Yes, the website has information on pertinent program information: