

Thank you for applying to the UW School of Nursing Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program! This application process is designed to ensure the admissions committee has all the necessary information from you for their review.

If you have questions that are not answered in these instructions or on the UW School of Nursing website (<https://nursing.uw.edu>), please contact Student and Academic Services at 206.543.8736 or email asknursing@uw.edu.

Direct any questions about the online University of Washington Graduate School application to 206.685.2630 or uwgrad@uw.edu.

ELIGIBILITY CHECKLIST

To apply to the DNP program, you must have:

- A minimum cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0 for the last 90 **graded college/university quarter-hour or equivalent credits you completed**
- One of the following in-process or earned degrees:
 - o a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from a CCNE or NLN accredited program
 - o a Master of Nursing degree from a CCNE or NLN-accredited program, which can include:
 - Associate Degree in Nursing to Master of Nursing, or
 - Entry program into the Master of Nursing without a Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- Proof of English language proficiency **if your native language is not English**, regardless of citizenship*
- International applicants must have an active, unrestricted Washington state registered nurse (RN) license at the time of application; domestic applicants must have an active, unrestricted Washington state RN license upon enrollment (Autumn 2021).*

*For more information, see the *International Applicants* page of the track you are applying to:
<https://nursing.uw.edu/programs/degree-programs-tracks/>

All DNP applicants must complete a graded, for-credit 3 quarter-credit (or equivalent) course in descriptive and inferential statistics with a minimum grade of 2.0 **between January 2016 and September 2021. You cannot enroll if you do not successfully complete this course.**

We do not require GRE scores for any of our graduate degree applications.

DEADLINE

The deadline for Autumn 2021 admission is 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time (PT), January 15, 2021.

You will complete the DNP application online. You will not be able to apply after the deadline.

HOW TO APPLY

Applying to the UW DNP program is a two-step process:

- 1. Completion and submission of the online application:** All items are submitted in the Graduate School online application. You will complete and upload all components of your application via the UW Graduate School website: <https://grad.uw.edu/admissions/apply-now/>.

The UW Graduate School will charge all DNP applicants an \$85 application fee.

We **highly** recommend that you save a copy of each document you upload for your records. You cannot access application materials once you have submitted your online application.

We will not review incomplete applications.

- 2. Completion of an online essay:** All DNP applicants who submit a complete application will receive a link to complete a timed online essay following the deadline.

Review the details and minimum requirements on the *Apply* page of the DNP track you are applying to:
<https://nursing.uw.edu/programs/degree-programs-tracks/>

You must complete the online essay for your application to be considered for admission.

START YOUR APPLICATION

Create your applicant profile at <https://grad.uw.edu/admissions/apply-now/>.

Question 1: Select "Graduate" for your application type.

Question 2: **Select "Nursing – Doctor of Nursing Practice"** for your graduate program. Under *Question 4*, you will specify a track (e.g., Adult-Gerontology Acute Care NP, Family NP, Nurse-Midwifery, etc.)

Question 3: Select "Fall 2021" to indicate the quarter and year you wish to enter.

Question 4: Select the **area of interest** (track specialization) you are applying to (e.g., Adult-Gerontology Acute Care NP, Family NP, Nurse-Midwifery, etc.)

Questions 5: Select "Doctoral" for the ultimate degree goal.

Questions 6-13: Answer accordingly.

REPORT PRIOR SCHOOLS

In your online application profile, **report ALL post-secondary colleges and universities attended regardless of whether you received a degree.**

List schools in chronological order, entering the **most recent first** and the **earliest last**.

SUBMIT TRANSCRIPTS

Upload a **complete** transcript for each post-secondary college and university you have attended **regardless of whether you earned a degree there**. Current or former University of Washington students must include a UW transcript.

Although we accept unofficial transcripts, **we recommend official transcripts** as they are easier to evaluate and process. It is **your responsibility** to upload a legible transcript for each school you list and ensure that you can open the scanned file after you upload it to your application.

If you completed a degree at a school, **it must show the degree with the award date**.

If you accept an offer of admission to the DNP program, the Graduate School will ask you to send an official transcript showing completion of a previous degree (the

Graduate School will tell you from which school the official transcript should come). See: <https://grad.uw.edu/admission/understanding-the-application-process/admissions-faqs/>

ENGLISH PROFICIENCY SCORES FOR NON-NATIVE ENGLISH SPEAKERS AND INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS

All non-native speakers of English, regardless of citizenship, must show proof of English language proficiency as established by the UW School of Nursing and the UW Graduate School.

Applicants can waive the English proficiency requirements **only** if they:

- have received a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree from a regionally accredited institution in the U.S. or an institution in an approved country, OR
- can provide official documentation from the institution verifying the applicant's **undergraduate degree** is from an institution where all instruction was in English

We require minimum spoken English test scores to ensure a student's success during clinical placements.

For information about required minimum English test scores, visit the **International Applicants** page of the DNP track you are applying to: <https://nursing.uw.edu/programs/degree-programs-tracks/>.

If you do not have a minimum test score in each category, you cannot apply to the Doctor of Nursing Practice program.

Self-report your scores in your online application and request to send official English proficiency scores to the **University of Washington** (UW Institution Code: 4854).

RESUME

Organize and submit a resume as described below.

Include your full name, address, phone number, and email address on first page and put your name at the top of the second page.

Under each heading, list in chronological order (with most

recent first) the name of the agency, dates, and, as appropriate, bullet points of key responsibilities and accomplishments.

- Education (degree, university, dates of degrees earned, major)
- Clinical experience (the title of position; institution; relevant experience; leadership at work; if a new grad, list clinical practica and locations)
- Employment history (list jobs not included in clinical experience)
- Professional and community activities (name of agency or group, dates, experience)
- Certifications and licenses
- Awards, honors or merit scholarships (name of award, year awarded, agency)
- Languages you speak in addition to English
- Any unique experience you think is relevant (including, but not limited to, presentations, publications, leadership in student organizations, research experience, advocacy activities).

Keep in mind:

1. The UW School of Nursing is interested in knowing about a wide range of relevant experience, both formal and informal.
2. The Admissions Committee looks for evidence of leadership and independent decision-making skills and responsibilities.

Your resume should be in 11-point Arial or Calibri font, 1" margins, **no more than three pages**, and saved as a PDF to upload to your online application.

Tips for presenting a strong resume:

- Proofread for errors, including your phone number and email address. Ask someone else to proofread as well; sometimes they will catch mistakes you miss.
- Use your full name, address, phone number, and email at the top of your first page. If your resume is longer than one page, make sure your name is at the top of any additional pages.
- Always include dates of employment/activity for each position on your resume.
- Avoid lengthy narrative paragraphs; list items under each category.

ADMISSIONS ESSAYS

Compose and save your admissions essay responses as a PDF, Word, or RTF document. **Address each question separately.**

Upload your saved responses into the corresponding sections of the online application. Essay responses for each part should be no more than two double-spaced pages in 11-point Arial or Calibri font and 1" margins.

The essay should be solely your work without any outside help, including editors, writing coaches, friends, or family. "Outside help" includes editing or suggested content changes made by someone other than yourself. You may ask someone to proofread for spelling or grammar errors.

ESSAY 1: TRACK SELECTION

Indicate the track for which you are applying. Please explain why you are interested in this particular role (e.g., clinical nurse specialist, nurse-midwife, nurse practitioner, population health nurse) and population (e.g., women, pediatric, adults/older adults, families, communities) for your future practice. Include a discussion of specific experiences that led you to make this decision.

ESSAY 2: BACKGROUND AND CAREER GOALS

Describe significant experiences that have contributed to your interest in pursuing a clinical doctorate (the DNP degree) at the University of Washington (UW). Specify outcomes you wish to gain from graduate/doctoral study **above and beyond** preparation for a specific role (e.g., clinical nurse specialist, nurse-midwife, nurse practitioner, population health nurse) discussed in Essay #1.

Please also discuss why doctoral study at the UW is the right place to facilitate your career goals, and why the time is right for you professionally and personally to make the significant commitment of time, energy, and resources that graduate school requires.

For this essay, you may wish to review the [DNP Essentials](#) and the [UW DNP Program Goals](#).

ESSAY 3: HEALTH EQUITY

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted health inequities that have been occurring in the United States and worldwide. We have heard the phrase "we're all in this together" since this pandemic started.

However, Dr. Bowleg argues that "we are not all in this together" (2020, p. 917, [American Journal of Public Health](#)) on COVID-19. Dr. Grant, President of the American Nurses Association, states that inequities in our country are "the most important moral challenge of the 21st century" ([ANA 2020 New Releases](#)).

What are your thoughts about these perspectives? What do you view as your role and responsibilities as a health care provider and as a member of the nursing profession in addressing health inequities? You may substantiate your position and perspectives with trusted resources.

OPTIONAL STATEMENT

There may be elements of your background you want to share that do not fall into any of the application categories, or that may help us to more closely match you to potential sources of funding support.

For example, if you think your transcripts, resume, or admissions questions do not accurately reflect your abilities and preparedness for study in the DNP program, or if you have any breaks in education or employment, you may explain why in an optional statement.

The UW School of Nursing highly values the support and development of a diverse community of scholars. You might also use this optional statement to share:

- instances where you achieved academic merit despite significant obstacles in pursuit of higher education
- that you are first generation in your family to attend graduate school, or
- that your academic participation, scholarship, and research explore and support cultural diversity

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Designate your recommenders online. They will receive an email requesting that they complete an online form. **If your recommenders do not use email**, contact the UW

School of Nursing as soon as possible: 206.543.8736, asknursing@uw.edu.

You must have **three** letters of recommendation:

1. One **academic**, from a nursing class instructor or professor, clinical instructor or preceptor (if you have been out of school for a long time, consider choosing an academic recommender who is a professional in their work environment, understands the rigors of an academic nursing graduate program, and can recommend the applicant's potential to succeed in one)
2. One **clinical**, from a current clinical supervisor at your work, clinical instructor, or clinical preceptor who supervised you during your hands-on healthcare experience, and either practices in the role you seek (e.g., clinical nurse specialist, nurse-midwife, nurse practitioner, population health nurse) or works with those in the role sought (RN, PA, MD/DO), and has knowledge regarding role performance requirements
3. One **academic, clinical, or community** recommendation

Guidelines:

1. Recommendations should be current, have had contact with you during the last five years, and be able to speak to your ability to complete doctoral-level education.
2. Additional letters of recommendation will not be considered.
3. At least one letter of recommendation should be written by someone who has supervised you during your hands-on healthcare experience. **Their letter should specifically speak to your ability to function in your chosen role** (e.g., NP, CNS, NM, etc.). Ideally, this person would be an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (ARNP). If they are not an ARNP, they could also be an RN with exposure to the advanced practice role, a Physician Assistant, or Medical Doctor.
4. Family members or friends are NOT eligible to write letters of recommendation.

You will want to brief your recommenders ahead of time to discuss the questions they will respond to.

Your references will be sent an email asking them to address the following:

1. How long have you known this applicant and in what capacity?
2. In making this evaluation, what group are you using as a basis for comparison? (Recommenders are sometimes unclear on the meaning of this. Suggestions you might share with your recommenders are: "other nurses you know who have gone on to graduate school" or "all undergraduate students I have taught" or "other nurses on your unit", etc.)
3. Admission to graduate study in Nursing – Doctor of Nursing Practice at the University of Washington is (select one of the following):
 - Strongly recommended
 - Recommended
 - Recommended with reservations
 - Not recommended
 - Unable to respond

Next, each recommender will be asked to rate you on the following criteria, ranging from "Below Average (lower 50%)" up to "Truly Exceptional":

- Overall academic ability, including analytical skills and conceptual thinking ability
- Practice inquiry ability or potential
- Oral communication skills
- Written communication skills
- Clinical nursing competence
- Leadership ability or potential
- Creativity or innovative ability
- Self-reflection ability and self-critique accuracy
- Acceptance and use of constructive feedback
- Integrity and trustworthiness

Finally, your recommender will respond to the following:

- If desired, elaborate on any of your criteria ratings above
- Describe the applicant's experience working with diverse groups, underserved populations, and their ability to respect individual differences
- Describe what you view as the applicant's attributes that demonstrate their potential for contributing to nursing and health care through the role that this applicant is seeking (e.g., clinical nurse specialist, nurse-midwife, nurse practitioner, population health nurse)
- Describe any characteristics of the applicant that could potentially restrict their contributions to nursing and health care through the role that this applicant is seeking (e.g., clinical nurse specialist,

nurse-midwife, nurse practitioner, population health nurse)

- Describe what you view as this applicant's major strengths for completing the DNP program
- Describe the applicant's characteristics or circumstances that could potentially make completion of the DNP program challenging

STATISTICS COURSE

You must complete an approved 3 quarter-credit (or equivalent) course in descriptive and inferential statistics **with a grade of 2.0 ("C") or higher** within five years of the application deadline (no earlier than January 2016 for Autumn 2021 enrollment).

Completion of this course may be pending when you apply, but you **must** complete it before you can begin the program.

Review the School of Nursing list of [approved statistics courses](#) and enter your course information in your online application.

If your course is not on the list of approved courses, copy and paste the course description in the last field. The School of Nursing will contact you if there are additional questions about the course description, or if the course does not meet content criteria.

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE

List any active professional licensure you currently hold. Include the license type (e.g., RN, ARNP), license number, the U.S. state where the license is active, and the expiration date (dd/mm/yyyy).

CREDENTIAL/TRANSCRIPT EVALUATIONS

If you attended a college or university outside of the U.S., upload an officially translated transcript to your application.

You must also upload a detailed credential/transcript **evaluation** for each non-U.S. post-secondary institution attended, which shows both U.S. credential equivalency and equivalent credits and grades for each course. You will upload these into the **Credential/Transcript Evaluation** section of your online application.

For approved credential/transcript evaluation services, visit the **International Applicants** page of the DNP track you are applying to:
<https://nursing.uw.edu/programs/degree-programs-tracks/>

SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION

Once you have completed each section as outlined above, you will pay the application fee to the UW Graduate School and formally submit your application.

You can check your application status at any time via MyGrad. We will notify DNP applicants of their admission status as early as mid-March through April.