

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, College of Nursing
DNP PhD Comparison

Focus	Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Practice Doctorate	Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Research Doctorate
Degree Objectives	<i>Practice focused.</i> Prepare nurse leaders at the highest level of nursing practice to translate research and theory into practice and to improve patient outcomes, clinical care delivery, health policy, and system management.	<i>Research focused.</i> Prepares nurse scientists and scholars who discover/generate new knowledge and/or build on existing knowledge with the goal of conducting original inquiries that will advance research, education, policy, and practice within the discipline of nursing and as well as contributing to other disciplines.
Curriculum Focus	Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Family Nurse Practitioner Clinical Nurse Specialist (Adult/Gero, Pediatrics, or Maternal-Infant/Women's Health) Community/Public Health Leadership/Systems (Nurse Executive or Informatics) Joint DNP-MBA	Rigorous research-based program of study. Curriculum includes: nursing and interdisciplinary courses in the areas of philosophy of nursing science, research methods, health policy along with independent studies, seminars and research practicums culminating with an independent dissertation research
Employment Opportunities post-Graduation	Advanced Practice Nurse Health Care Administration and Leadership Nurse Educator	Nurse Scientist and Researcher Nurse Educator/nursing faculty Health Care Administration and Leadership
Core Courses	Adv. Perspectives on Cultural Diversity and Disparities in Healthcare Leadership for Advanced Practice in Healthcare Outcomes and Quality Management Information Systems for Clinical Decision Making Health Policy Evidence Based Practice Specialty Practicum*	Research Methods/Design Courses Theoretical Foundations of Inquiry for Health Science of Nursing Inquiry Measurement in Health Research Health Policy Specialty Theory/Interdisciplinary courses
Credit Hours	65 credits post BSN 32 credits post MSN	46 credits plus minimum of 3 credits dissertation = 49 credits minimum
Program Length	Fall Start 3 year to 4 year Spring Start 3.5 to 4.5 year Post APRN MSN Fall Start: 2 year Spring Start: 2.5 to 3 year	3 Year 4 Year 5 Year pending dissertation progression thus degree completion varies
Clinical Hours	1000 hours (540 in practicum and 460 in DNP Project) post BSN 460 hours (DNP Project) post APRN MSN	Not applicable Independent Students Research practicum
Entry point	Post BSN Post APRN MSN; Post General Masters	Post Bachelors (health related field) Post MS, MSN (Masters health related field)
Admission semester	Fall or Spring	Fall or Spring For On-line PhD Program: Every other Odd year, summer start
Part time study option	Yes for post BSN Post APRN MSN is two courses/semester	Yes
Online Program	Yes for post APRN MSN	Yes
End product	DNP Project	Dissertation
GRE required for admission	Yes for GPA < 3.2	Yes for GPA <3.2

*Post APRN MSN students do not take the specialty theory or practicum core as Advanced Practice Preparation is required for admission

**Includes summers