



3.1 CURRICULUM AND COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Prerequisite Policy

The student is responsible for having the appropriate prerequisites prior to enrollment in a course. The current prerequisites are indicated with each course description in the University Catalog. If the student does not have the appropriate prerequisites for a course, registration for the course will be cancelled.

MSN requires: undergraduate human pathophysiology, nursing research, and health assessment courses with a grade of "C" or higher. In addition, healthcare informatics and graduate level inferential statistics with a grade of "B-" or higher before the program begins.

BSN to DNP requires: undergraduate human pathophysiology, nursing research, and health assessment courses with a grade of "C" or higher. In addition, healthcare informatics and graduate-level inferential statistics with a grade of "B-" or higher.

Post-Master's requires: graduate human pathophysiology, graduate health assessment, graduate pharmacology, graduate epidemiology, graduate-level inferential statistics, and healthcare informatics, with a grade of "B-" or higher before the program begins.

Any questions concerning the prerequisites will be answered by consulting the current catalog or contacting the Graduate Program Director.

Curriculum and Course Descriptions

The Doctor of Nursing Practice course requirements and descriptions can be found online at <https://graduate.missouristate.edu/Catalog/prog-doctor-of-nursing-practice.htm>

The Master of Science in Nursing course requirements and descriptions can be found online at <https://graduate.missouristate.edu/Catalog/prog-nursing.htm>



3.2 GRADUATE PROJECTS

DNP Overview

The DNP project is an exciting opportunity for the DNP student to demonstrate leadership skills in the development and application of evidence-based practice to transform a system and improve healthcare outcomes of a patient population. Under the guidance of a three-member faculty project committee in consultation with a preceptor, the student will analyze a system, identify and form relationships with key stakeholders, perform a needs assessment, gather evidence, collaboratively develop outcome measures, implement a system change, evaluate gathered data, and disseminate the results. The following information is provided to help the student understand the processes involved in the DNP project.

The student will present a DNP project idea during the application process. The project idea will include the proposed site, the proposed change to be implemented, evidence in the literature supporting the change, and the name of a possible preceptor at the site. A group of sample projects is listed in the table below. Students are strongly encouraged to develop and implement projects within a system in which they are already engaged or have well-developed connections to facilitate completion of the project.

Examples of previous DNP projects	Examples of unacceptable projects
Integrating autism screening into well child visits in a primary care clinic.	An educational program to educate nursing students.
Implementation of an evidence-based health teaching intervention aimed at aiding in the recovery from acute myocardial infarction.	A health policy change as the main focus.
Implementation of a pressure ulcer prevention protocol within a nursing home facility.	The development of a new assessment or treatment algorithm. However, it can be part of a project but not the sole purpose.
Implementation of an injury prevention program in an elementary school.	A review of literature of a selected topic with production of an article. Note: all projects will include a review of literature and production of an article, but more is involved in a DNP project.
Implementation of evidence-based interventions to decrease the rate	Development of a website as the sole purpose of the project.



of post-surgical infection within a hospital unit.	
Implementation of interventions to decrease post-op nausea and vomiting for surgical patients.	Projects that cannot be measured or evaluated.
Development and implementation of a smoking cessation program for women on a college campus.	

Characteristics of a DNP project:

1. Is evidence-based and data-driven.
2. Transforms a macro or micro-system to improve healthcare outcomes.
3. Addresses most of the six Health and Medicine Division (HMD), formally called the Institute of Medicine (IOM), Aims for quality improvement: safe, effective, patient-centered, timely, efficient, and equitable (Crossing the Quality Chasm Report, 2001; Institute of Medicine).
4. Incorporates technology as appropriate.
5. Includes an evaluation plan to measure outcomes.
6. Is approved by the MSU Institutional Review Board (IRB).
7. Addresses health or healthcare disparities (though they may not be the main focus of the project).
8. Addresses sustainable change.
9. Includes dissemination of results.
10. Can be completed within four semesters.
11. Will culminate in a publishable journal article, a formal oral presentation, and a portfolio of student work.

DNP Project Committee

The individual student's DNP project committee will be composed of three faculty members with graduate faculty status within the University, one serving as chair and the other two as committee members. The committee chair is required to be a nursing faculty member who holds a doctoral degree and who has research graduate faculty status. Students may request a specific faculty member to chair. However, if the faculty's expertise does not match the project, a different chair or a different project must be selected. Students may also request specific faculty members to serve as members of the project committee. After considering the student's requests, the DNP faculty will make the final decision about the chair and committee members. Graduate MSU faculty members outside the School of Nursing and with a doctorate can serve on project committees. However, expertise in the topic area is required.

At MSU, the project chairperson serves as the main advisor and reviewer during all phases of the project. When IRB approval is required, the chairperson serves as the



primary investigator. Therefore, the chairperson should be listed as co-presenter or co-author, on all submissions.

DNP Project Preceptor

The student will select a preceptor affiliated with the system in which the project will be implemented. The preceptor will work with the student to understand system dynamics and facilitate contact with key leaders and stakeholders within the system so the student can gain necessary support for successful implementation of the project.

The preceptor must sign a university preceptor agreement, and the agency/organization must have a contract in place with MSU to allow students to have educational experiences within their facilities. The student will arrange conference calls between the preceptor and the DNP faculty to discuss the student's progress at various times throughout the program.

DNP Project Sequencing

The DNP clinical sections prepare the student for the phases of the DNP project, which include an in-depth literature review, development of a project plan, and implementation and dissemination of the DNP project. The courses and major contributions to the project are as follows. See the DNP Course Descriptions for more information. The clinical courses are integrated into the leadership courses.

- NUR 800: DNP Leadership I: Concepts for EBP
- NUR 830: DNP Leadership II: Impacting Disparities in Health and Healthcare
- NUR 860: DNP Leadership III: Transforming Systems
- NUR 993: Transforming Practice

Publishing and Presenting the DNP Project

It is expected that the DNP project (or an aspect of the findings) will be disseminated through professional conference presentations and submitted for publication in a scholarly journal. For each presentation or manuscript, deciding who will be listed as primary presenter or author should be negotiated before submission to a venue. Several factors need to be considered when deciding primary authorship, including those who initially had the idea to pursue the venue, and who will do the majority of the work to get the article or presentation ready for submission. DNP Committee members may be solicited as additional co-authors, if they have or are willingly to contribute significantly to the form of the work that is being submitted.

DNP Project Defense

Students are required to defend their DNP project with their chair and committee present. The preceptor is also welcome to attend. During this meeting, the student will present a PowerPoint presentation of their DNP project.



MSN Overview

The MSN project chair is required to be a nursing faculty member who has graduate research faculty status. Upon admission students will be asked to decide on a project topic. Students will be assigned a chair early in the graduate curriculum. Students must complete the project requirements in order to graduate.

Because of the scholarly nature of a MSN project, the student's project committee is composed of the chair and another graduate faculty. This committee provides expertise related to the MSN topic, the population to be studied, the research methodology, the theoretical frame work, and/or the instrumentation used. The purpose of the committee is to review the non-thesis project drafts and provide feedback after the chairperson has approved the distribution of the MSN project drafts to the members. Students select committee members with the approval of the project chair. After the project proposal is approved by the committee a final oral presentation (proposal defense) is given.

The master's project must be approved by the student's chair prior to initiation. In addition, all MSN projects that utilize human subjects require the review and approval of the Institutional Review Board (IRB) of the University. After final approval of the completed MSN project, a formal oral presentation of the MSN project is required.

At MSU, the project chairperson serves as the main advisor and reviewer during all phases of the project. When IRB approval is required, the chairperson serves as the primary investigator. Therefore, the chairperson should be listed as co-presenter or co-author, on all submissions.

MSN Project Preceptor

The student will select a preceptor affiliated with the system in which the project will be implemented. The preceptor will work with the student to understand system dynamics and facilitate contact with key leaders and stakeholders within the system so the student can gain necessary support for successful implementation of the project.

The preceptor must sign a university preceptor agreement, and the agency/organization must have a contract in place with MSU to allow students to have educational experiences within their facilities. The student will arrange conference calls between the preceptor and the MSN faculty to discuss the student's progress at various times throughout the program.



3.3 FINAL COMPETENCIES FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

The purpose of MSN and DNP competencies is to demonstrate understanding of the master's and doctoral level competencies as provided by the standards and guidelines of professional bodies. Students will demonstrate these competencies by the end of their program.

Comprehensive Exam

All graduate degrees are required to conduct a culminating assessment of student learning. Some graduate programs do this in the context of a capstone course, and others require that students pass a comprehensive examination in order to be awarded a degree. Comprehensive examinations vary in format and structure, as well as the times they are administered.

Students are required to complete a comprehensive exam to determine critical analysis and integration of content learned throughout your graduate program. The Graduate Project Presentation and Project Manuscript will serve as your comprehensive exam. Students in the BSN to DNP and MSN-FNP option will be required to complete a clinical comprehensive examination for the Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) requirements.

The Graduate Project Presentation will serve as the project defense and comps, students are required to come to campus to present their project to their peers and future graduate nursing students.



3.4 CLINICAL GUIDELINES

While representing the university you are expected to comply with the professional dress as outlined below and any dress code defined by the clinical site:

Jewelry

Professional judgement should be utilized in the decision to wear jewelry. No facial jewelry is allowed. Rings should be confined to those that will not scratch the patient and can be kept clean. Body piercing jewelry, other than earrings, must be removed or concealed with clothing.

Hair

Hair, beards, and mustaches are to be clean and neat.

Cosmetics

No strongly scented body products. The student will be removed from the clinical setting if you smell like smoke or other strong odor. Fingernails will be clean, short, and smooth to ensure patient and student safety. Nail polish that is free from chips may be worn.

Tattoo Policy

Tattoos that are visible should be covered while in the clinical agency or during any school-related clinical activity. In addition, all members of the university community must follow the MSU Nondiscrimination Policy, and all students must follow the Student Code of Rights and Responsibilities, both of which prohibit harassment and/or discrimination.

In those cases, in which a clinical site has stricter guidelines regarding tattoos, the clinical site's guidelines will be followed for students at that site.

Substance Abuse/Impairment Policy

The Missouri State University School of Nursing is committed to a legal, professional, and ethical responsibility to provide a safe teaching and learning for its students, guests and clients. Abuse of drugs and alcohol disrupts this environment and interferes with the academic environment. Nursing students must not be chemically impaired while participating in any learning experience, including those occurring in a classroom, laboratory, or clinical setting. The School of Nursing defines the chemically impaired student as a person who, while in the academic or clinical setting, is abusing, separately or in combination: alcohol, over the counter medication, illegal drugs, prescribed medications, inhalants, or synthetic designer drugs. Abuse of substances includes episodic misuse or chronic use that has produced psychological and/or physical symptom.



Nursing students are expected to be aware of and to abide by pertinent laws and regulations set forth by the federal and state governments, the university, and clinical agencies where practical experiences are sought. Unlawful possession, use, or distribution of drugs and/or alcohol by students is strictly prohibited. Violations may result in dismissal from the nursing program.

Procedure for Faculty Intervention with Impaired Students

When there is reasonable suspicion or cause to believe a student is or has recently been under the influence of any drug or alcohol, the student will be removed from the clinical or academic setting. The faculty will direct the student to submit to drug/alcohol testing and sign a consent form agreeing to submit to such testing. Failure to agree to such testing shall be sufficient cause and the student will receive an 'F' for the course and/or clinical, and not progress in the program. The refusal for testing will be documented on the consent form and witnessed by the faculty.

Within one hour of completing the consent form, the student shall report to an approved lab, which uses the chain of custody procedure for blood and/or urine testing. A University representative will verify the student's identity prior to specimen collection. The student may not drive a motor vehicle to this lab or from the lab to home. The student will be responsible for all transportation costs, as well as any costs associated with the blood and/or urine testing for drugs or alcohol. The student may not attend class or clinical activities until the results of the blood and/or the Director of School of Nursing has reviewed urine testing. The results will be kept confidential and will be reported to the School Director, Program Director, and reporting faculty. The Director of the School of Nursing and/or Program Director will meet with the student to discuss the behaviors, results, and sanctions. A positive blood and/or urine drug screen will result in dismissal from the nursing program.

If the student location or time of day prohibits drug testing within the required time frame, the student will be removed from clinical based on observed unprofessional behaviors and the Policy on Professionalism and Professional Conduct will be enforced.

Discretion must be given to the faculty in recognizing the usual signs and symptoms of drug and/or alcohol use. The following is a list of possible signs and symptoms.

- Frequent absences from class, clinical or lab and/or disappearance from such
- Isolation and withdrawal
- Patient care errors particularly medication errors
- Detectable odor of alcohol
- Increasingly poor decision and judgment



- Illogical or sloppy charting
 - Unusual accidents/incidents

 - Deteriorating personal appearance
 - Changes in motor function/behavioral patterns including personality changes, mood swings, illogical thought patterns, gait disturbances, impaired dexterity, slurred speech, drowsiness/sleepiness, and papillary changes
-

MSU School of Nursing Student Impairment Consent Form

Due to the following behaviors, you are being removed from the course and/or clinical setting until the results of blood and/or the School of Nursing Head has analyzed urine drug screen.

I consent to a blood and/or urine drug screen at a facility designated by the School of Nursing within one hour. Current time: _____

1. I will not drive myself to the screening facility or home after the screening.
2. It is my responsibility to pay for the drug screen and transportation.
3. I will consent for the results to be sent to the School Head or designated representative.

Complete Student Name

Date

Faculty

Date

I refuse a blood and/or urine drug screen. I acknowledge that refusal of the screening will result in immediate dismissal from the nursing program.

Student Name

Date

Faculty

Date



Clinical Experiences for Graduate Students

Each student will receive a clinical syllabus that relates to their specific program. Please reach out to the Program Director with any questions regarding clinical experiences.

Clinical Sites

Many factors are considered when determining student clinical assignments, including clinic volume, patient demographics, previous student and clinical faculty evaluations of the site and the preceptor, the geographic location, and the number of other students at the location.

The clinical site must provide an environment in which the students can meet the learning objectives for the specific clinical course. Student requirements include ample space for the student to work, patient volume and willingness to allow student practice, and supportive staff to assist in student success. Due to NONPF, CCNE and course objectives, clinical sites assignments are not allowed to be changed unless deemed necessary at the discretion of the MSU clinical faculty and Program Director.

Preceptors

Preceptors are selected to provide the student with the best clinical experience to meet the clinical course objectives and improve their clinical skills and exposure to procedures. Preceptor requirements will vary per program and course. Please refer to specific course requirements.

Minimum requirements to be an MSU preceptor:

- For NPs: NP (certified in area of clinical practice) or Physician.
- Minimum one year of experience in specialty of certification; three years preferred.
- Active, unencumbered medical or nursing license in state of practice and recognition as an APRN, if an NP.

Clinical supervisors maintain contact with preceptors via electronic communication, personal site visits, and phone calls. Every preceptor that has a student will have communication with the university faculty each semester. Contact information for the student and clinical supervisor is provided to the preceptor in a confirmation email prior to the beginning of the semester. Before clinical begins, the student is required to contact the preceptor to review:

- Faculty-approved clinical objectives.
- Student and faculty emergency contact information.
- Optimal clinical days for the student to come to clinic.



All new preceptors are provided with a brief PowerPoint “orientation” sent via email. It contains an overview of the expectations and defines the role and responsibilities of the preceptor as determined by the clinical faculty at MSU. They also must complete and sign the electronic preceptor agreement.

Requirements for Students to Begin Clinical Rotations

- Submit evidence of current immunizations or immune status (MMR, Tetanus, Varicella, Hepatitis B series) and a PPD/T-spot (or chest X-ray or documentation of appropriate follow up for PPD positive individuals). Annual influenza vaccination. Individual agencies may have additional requirements. These must stay current until graduation.
- Pass drug screen and background check without disqualifying offenses.
- Complete MSU HIPAA Training.
- Professional Liability insurance for \$3 million (aggregate)/\$1 million (per incident).
- Maintain health insurance until graduation and certification in BLS Healthcare Provider Course approved by the AHA.
- Completed blood borne pathogen module annually in August.
- Signed preceptor agreement and clinical objectives.

Some clinical sites may require a student to complete a security check or other procedures before beginning a clinical rotation. Students who fail these procedures and checks will be subject to further review by a School of Nursing faculty committee and dismissal from the program may result.

Please see the clinical syllabus in each clinical course for details.