Overview:

Q: What is the DNP?
A: The DNP is the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree.

The DNP program prepares nurses for direct clinical practice (specifically NPs, CNSs, CRNAs, or CNMs) and for executive roles in areas that support clinical practice such as administration, organizational leadership, and health policy. Parallel with other health care professions (pharmacy, physical therapy, psychology, medicine, and audiology), the nursing discipline is adopting a practice-focused doctorate as the appropriate graduate education for advanced practice in a highly complex, fast-paced, health care environment.

Q: Why choose UNC School of Nursing for the DNP?
A: Excellence. UNC is ranked #4 among Graduate Schools of Nursing. The classroom-based format enables discussion, collaboration and networking. World renowned faculty are available to provide mentorship crucial to professional development.

Q: What is focus of the MSN-DNP?
A: The curriculum requirements for the DNP are driven by the eight essentials from the AACN Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Nursing Practice:

- Scientific underpinnings for practice
- Organizational and systems leadership for quality improvement and systems thinking
- Clinical scholarship and analytical methods for evidence-based practice
- Information systems technology and patient care technology for the improvement and transformation of health care
- Health Care Policy for Advocacy in Health Care
- Interprofessional collaboration for improving patient and population health outcomes
- Clinical prevention and population health for improving the nation’s health
- Advanced nursing practice.

More specific program plans will be posted.

Q: Can one get certified in a new area with the MSN-DNP?
A: No, the MSN-DNP will not provide certification in a new area. Please consider our Post Graduate Certificate to gain certification in a new area.

http://nursing.unc.edu/academics/post-msn-programs/index.htm
Logistics:

Q: How long is the MSN-DNP program?
A: Those admitted with a master’s degree, and who are already nationally certified as an advanced practice nurse (e.g., NP, CNS, CNM, or CRNA), will only need the DNP content not included in their prior program of graduate study. They will require 37 to 41 credit hours, a maximum of 500 practice hours, and the completion of an evidence-based practice or policy focused capstone project. Those students admitted with master’s degrees and who are not prepared as APRNs (e.g., nurse managers) will work closely with their advisor to develop a program of study that credits prior graduate level work, enables them to meet DNP end of program objectives, and prepares them for roles as a nurse executive.

The full-time option is 4 semesters: Fall, Spring, Summer, and Fall
The part-time option is 5 semesters: Fall, Spring, Summer, Fall, Spring

Q: How much time should I plan to spend per week?
A: Students should plan to spend two hours effort for every one hour out of class for every hour in class.

Q: Can I work full time in the MSN-DNP program?
A: Due to the demands of the DNP program, full-time students are discouraged from working full time.

Q: Is this program online?
A: No. UNC Chapel Hill School of Nursing offers a campus-based program.

Q: When are classes held?
A: Students will be in class two days per week. Courses will be offered in seminar format 9:00am-12:00pm, 1:00pm-4:00pm and 5:00pm-8:00pm. Some courses may have a hybrid (partly online) format.

Q: Must students find their own site for the capstone project?
A: No. UNC School of Nursing will facilitate the clinical site for the DNP residency.

Q: Is a dissertation required?
A: No, a dissertation is not required; a capstone project will be required.

The nature and scope of scholarly projects differs significantly from the traditional dissertation. This non-exhaustive list reflects a range of types of capstone projects:
• Translate research into practice
• Quality improvement (Care processes, Patient outcomes)
• Implement and evaluate evidence based practice guidelines
• Analyze policy: Develop, implement, evaluate, or revise policy
• Design and use databases to retrieve information for decision making, planning, evaluation
• Conduct financial analyses to compare care models and potential cost savings
• Implement and evaluate innovative uses of technology to enhance/evaluate care
• Design and evaluate programs and models of care
• Collaborate with researchers to answer clinical questions

Cost:

Q: How much will it cost?
A: An approximate Cost of Attendance will be posted on our website by Friday, March 1.

Q: Will financial aid be available?
A: Yes, Please complete the FAFSA now. http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/
Q: Are there Scholarships available?
A: Yes. Scholarships will be available.

Q: Does UNC offer Teaching Assistant and Research Assistant positions?
A: Yes. TA and RA positions will be available.

Application:
Specific application instructions will be posted on this page: http://nursing.unc.edu/admissions/applications/index.htm

Q: Who can apply?
A: The MSN-DNP option is available to applicants who hold a master's degree in nursing from an NLNAC or CCNE-accredited program.

Q: What materials are needed for the application?
A: 1. Completion of a BSN or MSN level statistics course within the last 5 years.
   2. Unofficial transcripts from all colleges attended are required
   3. Copies of certification and RN licensure
   4. Graduate Record Exam Scores. An applicant’s GRE scores must be less than five years old at the time of application submission.
   5. Letters of Recommendation: Three (3) current professional letters of recommendation supporting the applicant’s potential for success in the DNP program. Recommendations should be submitted by at least three individuals familiar with the applicant’s intellectual ability, academic achievement, practice expertise, and professional commitment to nursing. Referents should include at least one doctorally prepared faculty member, one from a current supervisor in an employment setting, and one from a professional colleague with at least a master’s degree. Please do not include letters from relatives, a family friend, fellow staff nurse, or religious/spiritual leader (e.g. minister, rabbi).
   6. Professional Statement
   7. Resume
   8. Application Fee

Q: How many students will be admitted?
A: The School of Nursing will admit 30 MSN-DNP students for fall 2013. In fall 2014, the program will expand.

Q: When will applicants be notified of admission decisions?
A: June 2013

What steps should I be taking now?
- Register for the GRE if your score is over 5 years old www.ets.org/ (UNC Graduate School Institution Code: #5816)
- Register for a Statistics course for the Summer Semester if you have not had Statistics in the last 5 years
- Complete the FAFSA http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/
- Identify your 3 Recommenders (see description above)
- Update your Resume
- The application will require that you upload unofficial copies of your transcripts, so make sure you have access to all of your documents.
- Update your Resume