# COMPARISON OF DNP AND PhD DEGREE PROGRAMS

<table>
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<th>DNP</th>
<th>PhD</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Degree Objectives</strong></td>
<td>Prepares nurses leaders at the highest level of nursing practice to improve patient outcomes and translate research into practice.</td>
<td>Prepares nurses to conduct research that advances nursing science and become scientific leaders.</td>
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<td><strong>Point of Entry</strong></td>
<td>BSN or MSN</td>
<td>BSN or MSN</td>
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| **Program Coursework** | • Clinical scholarship and analytical methods for evidence-based practice and quality improvement  
• Organizational and systems leadership  
• Health care policy and advocacy  
• Interprofessional collaboration  
• Population health  
• Informational systems/technology  
• Advanced nursing practice | • Philosophical and theoretical foundations of scientific inquiry  
• Knowledge synthesis  
• Scientific methods and data analytic tools  
• Interdisciplinary depth in a selected area of study |
| **Practice Hours**     | 1000 practice hours that include advanced practice clinical hours and a minimum of 400 DNP project hours | Direct immersion in research practices (required practica); variable hours |
| **Scholarly Project**  | DNP Project: Evidence-based project to improve practice and healthcare outcomes | Dissertation: Original research that contributes to the science of nursing |
| **Post-Graduation Employment** | • Advanced nursing practice roles  
• Academic clinical faculty  
• Leadership in healthcare organizations, industries and policy arenas | • Researcher in healthcare organization  
• Academic research faculty  
• Leadership in academic and government agencies |

*CAROLINA NURSING*

*UNC SCHOOL OF NURSING*