

COMPARISON OF DNP AND PhD DEGREE PROGRAMS

	DNP	PhD
Degree Objectives	Prepares nurses leaders at the highest level of nursing practice to improve patient outcomes and translate research into practice.	Prepares nurses to conduct research that advances nursing science and become scientific leaders.
Point of Entry	BSN or MSN	BSN or MSN
Program Coursework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced nursing practice roles • Academic clinical faculty • Leadership in healthcare organizations, industries and policy arenas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Researcher in healthcare organization • Academic research faculty • Leadership in academic and government agencies