

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) degree offers B.S. or post-master's degree curriculum. This curriculum allows B.S. or M.S.-prepared registered nurses to earn doctorates, which will prepare them for assuming leadership roles in advanced practice for patient care and health-care systems. It addresses and meets outcome expectations that advanced practice specialty areas be staffed by nurses with doctoral degrees, as articulated by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing.

Program learning outcomes

Learning outcomes for the D.N.P. degree program are designed to prepare nurse leaders with a Christian perspective and enable them to contribute to professional nursing through clinical practice, teaching, and administration.

1. By the end of the program, graduates should be able to:
 - a. Provide leadership in the ethical and professional use of information systems and health-care technology for the improvement and transformation of nursing care and health-care populations.
 - b. Integrate current scientific and interdisciplinary theories and perspectives to develop a broad knowledge base for nursing practice.
 - c. Participate in and advocate for interdisciplinary collaboration for improving patient and population health outcomes.
 - d. Advocate for health care through legal and policy analysis and development.
 - e. Apply organizational and systems leadership theory for quality improvement and systems thinking that leads to workplace and patient safety.
 - f. Demonstrate leadership in the ethical integration and promotion of evidence in advanced nursing practice and the nursing profession.
 - g. Develop and sustain therapeutic relationships with patients, families, and other professionals, considering all aspects of care including physical, mental, and spiritual to facilitate optimal communication and patient outcomes, using evidence-based practice from multiple disciplines.
 - h. Construct, coordinate, and communicate plans of care with a focus on wholeness that includes assessment, diagnosis, and care for the patient and self.
 - i. Demonstrate ethical leadership with accountability to individuals, society, and the profession.

Admissions

In addition to Loma Linda University (<https://llucatalog.llu.edu/about-university/admission-policies-information/#admissionrequirements>) admission requirements, the applicant to the Doctor of Nursing Practice program must also complete the following:

B.S. to Doctor of Nursing Practice program admissions criteria

1. Baccalaureate degree or equivalent in nursing from an accredited institution

2. G.P.A. of 3.0, both cumulative and in nursing courses
3. Current unencumbered United States RN license before application and CA RN license before the start of classes.
4. Minimum of one year of full-time RN experience prior to matriculating into clinical courses.
5. Current BLS certification
6. Two electronic recommendations from a recent nurse manager or director, and nursing peer or spiritual advisor.
7. If interview is granted by the SN Admissions Committee:
 - a. Completion of Emotional Intelligence Screening and continued participation in the Emotional Intelligence Program and coursework through completion of the program.
8. Additional criteria for acute care practitioner applicants:
 - a. Science G.P.A. of 3.0 or higher
 - b. Unrestricted Registered Nurse (RN) license in the United States with an unrestricted Registered Nurse license in California before matriculation and the California RN license must be maintained until program completion.
 - c. Current certifications – American Heart Association Basic Life Support (CPR) and Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) certification are required before admission and must be maintained until program completion. Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) certification is optional.
9. Additional criteria for nurse anesthesia applicants:
 - a. Science G.P.A. of 3.0 or higher
 - b. Unrestricted Registered Nurse license in the United States; unrestricted Registered Nurse license in California before matriculation and must be maintained until program completion
 - c. A total of three electronic recommendations from the following: one each from a spiritual advisor or pastor, an immediate supervisor in the critical care area in which the applicant is currently working, and a critical care/ICU coworker
 - d. Current certification in BLS, ACLS, and PALS is required before clinical courses begin and must be maintained until program completion; CCRN preferred
 - e. Eight hours of clinical observation with a CRNA highly recommended before admission interview
 - f. Minimum of one year, full-time critical care RN experience (in the US) at time of application; adult critical care experience preferred. Experience is evaluated on an individual basis.
 - g. Completion of an online questionnaire following submission of application—must be completed by the applicant before the admission deadline

Not all applicants who meet the admissions criteria are guaranteed an interview. Competitive applicants are selected for an interview by Nurse Anesthesia Admissions Committee.

Post-Masters to Doctor of Nursing Practice program admissions criteria

1. Completion of a master's degree in nursing with a clinical major from a program or completion of a bachelor's degree in nursing and a masters in a closely related field. The nursing degrees must be accredited by Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), National League of Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) or the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN).
2. Undergraduate and Graduate G.P.A. of 3.0, both cumulative and in nursing courses.
3. Current U.S. RN license and BLS certification.

4. Three electronic recommendations from recent professors, current work supervisor, and spiritual advisor.
5. Interview by faculty members in the School of Nursing.

Application deadlines

Applicants seeking graduate admission must have the application process completed by the dates indicated as follows:

- Nurse Anesthesia
 - Autumn Quarter - Application Period: June 1 - August 1
 - Autumn Quarter Documents Deadline: All official documents must be submitted by September 1
- Clinical Nurse Specialist and Nurse Practitioner
 - Autumn Quarter—April 1
 - Winter Quarter—August 1
 - Spring Quarter—November 1

Pre-entrance requirements (<https://llucatalog.llu.edu/about-university/admission-policies-information/#preentrancerequirementstext>):

1. Health clearance, including immunizations
2. Background check

Regulations

Nondegree course status

Up to 12 units of required core coursework may be taken as a nondegree student, with the consent of the instructor, while the application submission and review are in progress. If grades of B or higher are earned, the coursework may be applied toward the graduate degree upon acceptance into the program.

Course scheduling

Core nursing courses are scheduled to accommodate the typical working nurse.

Curriculum change

The school reserves the right to update and modify the curriculum without prior notice to maintain currency with standards in health care.

Students in continuous attendance will meet graduation requirements of the CATALOG under which they enter the School of Nursing unless change is necessary to comply with new professional standards.

General requirements

For information about requirements and practices to which all graduate students are subject, the student should consult these sections of the CATALOG: *About the University* and General Regulations, School of Nursing (<https://llucatalog.llu.edu/nursing/>).

Program requirements

Core		Units
NGRD 650	Advanced Role Development and Collaboration	4
NGRD 651	Theoretical Foundations for Evidence-Based Practice	4
NGRD 652	Health-Care Systems Leadership	4
NGRD 653	Health Systems Policy Development and Advocacy	4
NGRD 654	Social Determinants of Health	4
NGRD 655	Health Systems Finance	4
NGRD 656	Outcomes Assessment for Strategic Planning	4

NGRD 657	Intermediate Statistics	4
NGRD 658	Nursing Research and Translational Science	4
NGRD 659	Professional Writing for Nurse Leaders	4
RELE 564	Ethics and Health Disparities	3
RELR 540	Wholeness and Health	3
RELT 557	Theology of Human Suffering	3

Concentration

Select concentration from the list below 41-84

D.N.P. Project

NGRD 667	Introduction to the Doctor of Nursing Practice Inquiry Proposal Project	3
NGRD 669A	DNP Practice Inquiry Project	4
NGRD 669B	DNP Practice Inquiry Project	4
NGRD 669C	DNP Practice Inquiry Project	2
NGRD 669D	DNP Practice Inquiry Project	2
NGRD 669E	DNP Practice Inquiry Project	2
NGRD 669F	DNP Practice Inquiry Project	2

Total Units:

109-120

Concentrations

Bachelor of Science to Doctor of Nursing Practice:

Clinical Nurse Specialist concentration areas:

- Clinical Nurse Specialist: Adult-Gerontology (<https://llucatalog.llu.edu/nursing/graduate/dnp/clinical-nurse-specialist/adult-gerontology-concentration/>)
- Clinical Nurse Specialist: Pediatrics (<https://llucatalog.llu.edu/nursing/graduate/dnp/clinical-nurse-specialist/pediatrics-concentration/>)

Nurse Anesthesia (<https://llucatalog.llu.edu/nursing/graduate/dnp/nurse-anesthesia-concentration/>)

Nurse Leadership (<https://llucatalog.llu.edu/nursing/graduate/dnp/nurse-practitioner/nurse-leadership-concentration/>)

Nurse Practitioner concentration areas:

- Acute Care Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner (<https://llucatalog.llu.edu/nursing/graduate/dnp/nurse-practitioner/acute-care-adult-gerontology-concentration/>)
- Acute Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (<https://llucatalog.llu.edu/nursing/graduate/dnp/nurse-practitioner/acute-care-pediatric-concentration/>)
- Family Nurse Practitioner (<https://llucatalog.llu.edu/nursing/graduate/dnp/nurse-practitioner/family-concentration/>)
- Neonatal Nurse Practitioner (<https://llucatalog.llu.edu/nursing/graduate/dnp/nurse-practitioner/neonatal-nurse-concentration/>)
- Primary Care Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner (<https://llucatalog.llu.edu/nursing/graduate/dnp/nurse-practitioner/primary-care-adult-gerontology-concentration/>)
- Primary Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (<https://llucatalog.llu.edu/nursing/graduate/dnp/nurse-practitioner/primary-care-pediatric-concentration/>)
- Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (<https://llucatalog.llu.edu/nursing/graduate/dnp/nurse-practitioner/psychiatric-concentration/>)

Post-Masters to Doctor of Nursing Practice (<https://lucatalog.llu.edu/nursing/graduate/dnp/ms-to-dnp/>)