

DNP Program Podcast

Hello, my name is Maggie and I am a staff member in The Graduate School at Grand Valley State University. Thank you for taking the time to learn more about GVSU's Doctor of Nursing Practice graduate program. Today we're going to cover the admissions process, program requirements, and the qualities that distinguish this program.

Let's start by explaining to you what this program entails. The Kirkhof College of Nursing Doctor of Nursing Practice program prepares nurses to function at the highest level as either nurse practitioners in clinical practice or systems leaders in administrative practice. Graduates of the program will be able to influence policy and practice standards; becoming leaders in designing systems and delivering care to meet the needs of diverse populations.

GVSU's Doctor of Nursing Practice program, or DNP program, offers three emphasis areas: The NEW Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Program, Health Systems Leadership, and Advanced Practice Nursing with concentrations in Adult/Older Adult Primary Care and Child/Adolescent Primary Care.

The new Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Program was established in response to the chronic lack of access to mental health treatment across the country. This is a major health care crisis and this program is designed for nurses who are ready to be part of the solution. The Doctor of Nursing Practice degree with a specialization in Psychiatric Mental Health care prepares advanced practice nurses to respond to this need while also addressing the other systemic issues that impact their patients. Advanced practice psychiatric nurses (psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners [PMHNPs]), are prepared to provide advanced mental health treatment across the lifespan to individuals with mental health disorders and are certified by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC).

The Health Systems Leadership program prepares students to become systems leaders in administrative practice. Prospective students can choose from a BSN to DNP track, or a Post-MSN to DNP track.

The Advanced Practice Registered Nurse emphasis prepares you to be a nurse practitioner and to focus on primary care for either children and adolescents or adults.

The DNP program takes 3-4 years to complete for nurses holding a Bachelor's degree depending on whether you participate as a full time or part time student. This program is completed in a hybrid-online format. For prospective students that already hold a Master's degree, a custom program plan is developed based on their Master's degree and educational goals.

Standard Grand Valley admission requirements include completion of the online application as well as a minimum of a Bachelor's degree in nursing from an accredited institution of higher education. Your application must include official transcripts, and if English is not your native language you must provide scores from one of our approved standardized tests such as the PTE Academic, TOEFL, IELTS, or Duolingo. There is a \$30 nonrefundable application fee, however this fee is waived if you attended GVSU previously or are currently attending GVSU.

Additional college admission requirements, program details and the online application can be found on the Kirkhof College of Nursing website, www.gvsu.edu/kcon, underneath the Programs tab.

The great news about Grand Valley's graduate programs is that tuition rates do not change based on residency status. In other words, there are no extra costs for being an out of state student. Current tuition costs and information about scholarships and financial aid can be found at www.gvsu.edu/financialaid or by calling 616-331-3234. For information on graduate assistantships, please contact The Graduate School at gradschool@gvsu.edu.

GVSU's Doctor of Nursing practice program is offered in a hybrid format with the majority of the work happening online. Access to a computer with a high-speed connection will be needed. Generally, the nursing courses meet on-campus five times per semester in a classroom setting, with classes clustered on Thursdays and Fridays.

The Kirkhof College of Nursing has a reputation for excellence and our graduates are highly sought after by employers. Our success has been due to the Kirkhof College of Nursing's efforts to develop a Doctor of Nursing Practice program that has been responsive to the changing dynamic of health care and our commitment to preparing the most sophisticated and skilled nursing professionals for today and the future. GVSU's Doctor of Nursing Practice program is consistent with the American Association of Colleges of Nursing's call to produce advanced clinicians who are able to address the complex care needs of this environment. In addition, the Doctor of Nursing Practice program is supported by the National Academy of Science, which has advocated for the development of professional practice doctorates as a route to advanced clinical work in nursing. Employers are quickly recognizing the unique contributions these expert nurses are making in the practice area, and the demand for doctorally-prepared nurses continues to grow.

That is just a snapshot of the Doctor of Nursing Practice graduate program at Grand Valley State University. We hope that you will consider applying to a graduate program at GVSU. Any questions can be directed to the Graduate Program Director, Dr. Katherine Moran, at morakath@gvsu.edu or to The Graduate School at gradschool@gvsu.edu. Thank you for your time and we hope you have enjoyed this podcast.