



# **DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE (DNP)**



**ST. JOHN  
FISHER  
UNIVERSITY**

[www.sjf.edu](http://www.sjf.edu)



**“The DNP is the ultimate clinically practice focused degree awarded to nurses who have aspirations of translating evidence-based care into practice, improving systems of care, and measuring outcomes of groups of patients and communities. Our DNP graduates are prepared to effect change and take on high-level roles in health systems, academia, and policy making, with the goal of improving health outcomes for individuals, communities, and the nation as a whole.”**

— Tricia K. Gatlin  
Dean, Wegmans School of Nursing

## WELCOME

The Wegmans School of Nursing at St. John Fisher University prepares its graduates to practice in increasingly complex, diverse, economically challenged, and research-based health care organizations. The science of nursing practice is enhanced at Fisher by the values-based education that is rooted in the educational philosophy of the Basilian Fathers. This is the tradition at Fisher and the model of education that best serves nursing professionals practicing in a world of challenges and discovery. The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program at the Wegmans School of Nursing continues this educational mission and tradition through the preparation of advanced practice nurses who will provide expert patient care, assume health care leadership roles, and evolve advanced nursing practice in response to society’s changing needs.

The format of the DNP program includes an innovative structural design created to meet the needs of practicing nurses. Instructional activities include blended hybrid courses, the integration of technology throughout the coursework, and the use of simulation, case studies, and seminars. We expect that our graduates will make major contributions in the fields of advanced practice, clinical scholarship, and leadership in health care organizations. We welcome the opportunity to discuss our program with you. If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Admissions at [grad@sjf.edu](mailto:grad@sjf.edu) or call (585) 385-8064.

Sincerely,

Tricia K. Gatlin, Ph.D., RN, CNE  
Dean, Wegmans School of Nursing

## OVERVIEW

The DNP program is a rigorous advanced practice clinical doctorate which reflects the evolution and development of professional nursing. The program has two entrance points. Students who have completed a bachelor’s degree in nursing may enter at the post-baccalaureate program. As part of the post-baccalaureate program, students will be prepared as either a nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist. The post-baccalaureate entry program is a minimum of 62 credits and three years of full-time study. Students interested in the post-baccalaureate program should consult the admission criteria for the master’s program in nursing.

Those students who have a master’s degree in nursing and advanced specialization as a nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, nurse midwife, or nurse anesthetist may enter the post-master’s program. The post-master’s entry program is a 33-credit, two-year program of full-time study.

# PURPOSE, PROGRAM OUTCOMES, AND GOALS

## PURPOSE

The purpose of the DNP program is to prepare the graduate as an expert clinician for direct or indirect care roles in advanced practice and in clinical leadership.

## PROGRAM OUTCOMES

At the completion of the program, the student will enact the following outcomes:

- Implement and evaluate clinical practice based on scientific knowledge.
- Assume advanced practice nursing roles as an expert clinician.
- Demonstrate advanced leadership skills necessary to meet the challenges of increasingly complex health care organizations.
- Demonstrate analytical methodologies for the evaluation of clinical practice and the application of scientific evidence to improve professional practice.
- Apply clinical scholarship methodologies for organizational quality improvement, evidence-based practice, and health care outcomes.
- Use advanced skills to design, develop, and implement the use of contemporary technological information systems.
- Demonstrate expertise in the analysis, formulation, and implementation of health care policy.
- Collaborate with interdisciplinary teams necessary to meet health care needs of individuals and populations.
- Apply ethical theories, legal and practice standards, and advocacy to decision-making in health care issues.
- Apply population-based methodologies for health promotion and disease prevention in advanced practice.

## GOALS

The goals of the program are to:

- Provide a high-quality educational program that prepares candidates for successful careers as clinical experts and leaders.
- Implement a program of study that promotes expert clinical practice, continuous practice improvement, effective leadership practices, and clinical scholarship.
- Participate in the evolution, development, and improvement of clinical practice for professional nursing.
- Create and implement a rigorous clinically focused doctoral program which demonstrates the continuous improvement of clinical practice and scholarship.
- Impact and improve clinical practice, clinical outcomes, health policy, and care delivery methodologies.

## DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE BY THE NUMBERS

**2** PROGRAM  
ENTRY POINTS

**5** POST-BACCALAUREATE  
OPTIONS

**1** FISHER  
FAMILY

## PROGRAM DESIGN

The DNP program provides both full- and part-time options for study. Courses are held on weekday evenings during the fall, spring, and summer semesters. A student who chooses the full-time option can complete the 33-credit-hour post-master's program in six semesters. A part-time student who takes two courses per semester can complete the post-master's program in seven semesters.

It is expected that each DNP student will complete a minimum of 1,000 hours of clinical practice in accordance with the American Association of Colleges of Nursing's "DNP Roadmap Task Force Report" (2006). For the post-master's student, coursework in the program will provide the additional clinical practice hours, building upon the practice hours that were part of the student's master's degree, to meet the 1,000-hour requirement. For the post-baccalaureate student, the 1,000 clinical practice hours will be completed within the program.

Clinical placements will occur in interdisciplinary settings with an expert clinical scholar/mentor. Each setting will provide students with extensive advanced clinical practice experiences and allow the students the opportunity to implement emerging science and practice innovations to improve the health care system.

Each student will undertake a DNP scholarly project supported by scholarly evidence reflecting a practice site and population of interest. The student will appoint a DNP Committee in collaboration with the Graduate Program Chair. The DNP Committee and the DNP Scholarly Project Handbook will support the successful completion of this doctoral project. There is no dissertation requirement.

## DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

### POST-MASTER'S REQUIREMENTS

**Post-master's** candidates are required to:

- Successfully complete a minimum of 33 credit hours.
- Successfully complete 1,000 hours of clinical scholarship. Master's advanced practice clinical hours will count toward the 1,000 hours.
- Successfully complete a DNP scholarly project.

### POST-BACCALAUREATE REQUIREMENTS

**Post-baccalaureate** candidates are required to:

- Successfully complete 62-72 credit hours. Candidates should meet with their faculty advisor to discuss specific degree requirements. Credit hours include courses in one of the following advanced practice roles:
  - Adult/Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner
  - Adult/Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
  - Adult/Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist
  - Primary Care Family Nurse Practitioner
  - Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner
- Successfully complete 1,000 hours of clinical scholarship.
- Successfully complete a DNP scholarly project.



## CURRICULUM

For information about the curriculum and/or detailed course descriptions, please refer to the Graduate Catalog at <http://go.sjf.edu/graduate-catalog>.

## ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAM

The Doctor of Nursing Practice program operates on a rolling admissions basis. Applications are reviewed as they are received and admissions decisions are made within four weeks of receipt of a completed application.

For more information about the admissions process, including specific application requirements, visit <http://go.sjf.edu/dnp-application> or call the Office of Admissions at (585) 385-8064.

## FINANCIAL AID

Students applying for federal financial aid may do so at <https://fafsa.gov>. Information is available at <https://studentaid.gov>.

The FAFSA code for St. John Fisher University is 002821.

For more information about financing the doctoral program, prospective candidates should contact the Office of Student Financial Services at (585) 385-8042 or [fnaid@sjf.edu](mailto:fnaid@sjf.edu).

Students are encouraged to apply for financial aid as soon as possible.



## WHERE DO OUR GRADUATES GO?

As a graduate of the DNP program at the Wegmans School of Nursing, you will gain more than an advanced professional nursing title; you will be known as a Fisher nurse – an elite group.

Our graduates practice in a variety of health care settings at the local, regional, and national levels.





## ABOUT THE WEGMANS SCHOOL OF NURSING

The Wegmans School of Nursing builds on Fisher's values-based education to produce nursing graduates trained to provide exceptional patient care.

Program offerings include the traditional nursing and RN to BSN online programs at the undergraduate level, master's programs in nursing and mental health counseling, and a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program.

## ACCREDITATION

The baccalaureate, master's, and DNP programs at St. John Fisher University are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. The Wegmans School of Nursing is also accredited by the New York State Education Department.

## TAKE A CLOSER LOOK

To schedule an appointment, attend an Information Session, or observe a class, call the Office of Admissions at (585) 385-8064 or visit <http://go.sjf.edu/graduate>.



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