

# Graduate Program IN NURSING



03/2017

## Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

**Post-BSN to DNP Degree:** Viterbo University's graduate nursing program is specifically designed to be relevant and responsive to the needs of practicing professional nurses who wish to formally advance their knowledge and skills and seek an advanced nursing role. The program track choices include the family nurse practitioner (individual and family/life span) or the adult-gerontology nurse practitioner role, both specific to primary care. The third program track choice is the dual degree MBA and DNP.

**Post-MSN to DNP Degree:** The Post-MSN to DNP degree program is specifically designed to be relevant and responsive to the needs of those who wish to formally expand their knowledge, skills and influence within the advanced nursing role at the DNP terminal/highest level.

## The Viterbo University Difference

At Viterbo, the graduate nursing program is small and personal. The dedicated faculty members are well prepared in both their respective nursing roles and teaching. They also are very approachable and student centered. The curriculum has been planned with working professionals and commuter students in mind, with classes held in a blended online/on-campus delivery method. The nursing building brings with it cutting edge technology and friendly, learner-centered spaces. The curriculum is based on the expressed needs for all nursing professionals in advanced roles to have increased knowledge of informatics and healthcare technologies, quality improvement and safety, organizational and systems leadership, inter-professional collaboration for improving patient/population outcomes, and advocacy, as well as an advanced scientific and humanities-based background for practice (AACN, *The Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Nursing Practice*, 2006).

## Graduate Nursing Program Mission

The graduate program prepares nursing leaders who are dedicated to improving the health outcomes of diverse populations through advanced knowledge and skills, and faithful service within their chosen roles and settings.

## For More Information

[www.viterbo.edu/dnp](http://www.viterbo.edu/dnp)

## Graduate Outcomes

### This program will prepare graduates who:

- practice in an expanded, specialized, and/or advanced practice role.
- affirm the dignity of life and human diversity.
- advocate for quality outcomes for individuals, families, populations, and systems.
- demonstrate ethical leadership and faithful service in their chosen roles and settings.
- facilitate the translation of research and evidence into practice.
- utilize technology to impact best practice.

## Curriculum

The **Post-BSN to DNP degree** offers foundational courses and advanced role/population specific practice courses that prepare graduates for a selected primary care nurse practitioner role and population focus. This degree can be accomplished in four years of study. Total credits and clinical hours needed for graduation vary according to choice of tracks. Beginning fall 2017, a dual degree MBA/DNP option will be available.

### The Post-MSN to DNP degree program offers four options:

- **Option One:** For certified and practicing APRNs who want to expand their knowledge, skills, and influence within their previously chosen role preparation and earn the DNP.
- **Option Two:** An extended program that includes the additional course work necessary to be eligible for initial certification as an adult-gero or family nurse practitioner along with earning the DNP.
- **Option Three:** For MSN\* prepared nurses who are not APRNs and who wish to pursue advanced specialty practice with the aggregate/systems/organizational focus.
- **Option Four:** For MSN\* prepared nurses who are not APRNs and wish to pursue a dual degree program of study (MBA/DNP).

*\*A master's degree in a related field may be considered.*

## Cost/Financial Aid

Fee per credit is based on the specific courses in which the student is enrolled. Lab fees, clinical fees, and specific DNP fees may apply. The base cost/credit is currently \$810 for 2017-18. Federal student loans may be available to those who qualify. Contact the Viterbo University financial aid office for more information at 608-796-3900.

## Certification

Graduates of the family nurse practitioner and adult-gerontology nurse practitioner tracks are eligible to apply for the national certification exams available for these primary care roles (AANPCB, ANCC).

## Accreditation

- The North Central Commission on Higher Education
- Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education



## Application Procedure

Visit our web page at [www.viterbo.edu/dnp](http://www.viterbo.edu/dnp) to apply online and for instructions about additional documentation needed to complete the application, and also for expanded curricular information. Qualifying for the first priority admission review requires a complete application by Jan. 15. Continued review of applications and acceptance will be ongoing until the limits are met or until May 1. Those interested are encouraged to have all of their materials in by the end of December if possible.

## Admission Requirements

### Post-BSN to DNP Program:

- A bachelor's degree in nursing from an ACEN or CCNE accredited school with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or greater on a 4.0 scale.
- One year of relevant professional practice as an RN prior to beginning classes.
- Official scores on Miller Analogies Test (MAT). MAT score is waived if applicant has at least five graduate credits at B or better. Information on taking the MAT exam in La Crosse can be obtained by calling the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse at 608-785-8074. Persons in other locations in Minnesota, Iowa, or Wisconsin should check [www.viterbo.edu/dnp](http://www.viterbo.edu/dnp) for more information. Advance arrangements are necessary at all sites. A "Candidate Information" booklet for the MAT is available at [www.milleranalogies.com](http://www.milleranalogies.com). GRE may be substituted for the MAT if student prefers.



### Post-MSN to DNP Program:

- A master's degree in nursing from an ACEN or CCNE accredited school with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or greater on a 4.0 scale.
- Current certification and practice as a APRN, unless seeking either initial NP preparation as part of the Post-MSN to DNP track, the Ethical Leadership track, or the Post-MSN to MBA/DNP track.

### Additional admission documents for both programs:

- Completed application (includes recommendations, and personal statement).
- Transcripts from undergraduate and graduate education (see instructions on the application).
- Evidence of current unrestricted licensure as a registered nurse and/or certification as a nurse practitioner.



## Additional Prerequisite/Ongoing Requirements:

### Post-BSN to DNP:

- Prior introductory statistics course and introductory research course (graduate or undergraduate).

### Post-MSN to DNP:

- Satisfactory completion of graduate courses in advanced pathophysiology, advanced pharmacology, and advanced health assessment (for options one and two), or must take at Viterbo if seeking initial NP preparation.
- Satisfactory completion of undergraduate or graduate research course and statistics course.

### Both programs:

- The ability to meet both university and clinical agency health and personnel requirements, including specified immunizations and satisfactory criminal/caregiver required background checks, throughout program.
- A highly functioning personal computer, high speed internet, and at least intermediate level personal computer skills (ability to use the Microsoft Windows environment, the Internet, Microsoft Word, and PowerPoint) are necessary.
- Evidence of current CPR throughout program.

## For further information regarding admission contact:

**Mary Ellen Stolder, Ph.D., ANP-BC**

or

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## Graduate Nursing Program Curricular Model



Apply online at  
<https://www.viterbo.edu/applyonline.aspx>

