NURSING, DNP

Program Description
The Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Doctor of Nursing Practice Program is an online, part-time, post-master's, clinical doctorate for registered nurses interested in expanding their skills as nurse leaders or nurse practitioners. This program prepares graduates to provide the most advanced level of nursing care for individuals, families, organizations and communities. This includes direct care of individual patients, management of care for individuals and populations, administration of nursing systems, development and implementation of health policy and teaching nurses in both basic and specialty programs.

Because courses are delivered 100 percent online, students can remain in the communities where they live and work while completing program requirements. Travel may be required for students to interact with state or national experts in their areas of study. The curriculum is consistent with program standards set forth in the Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Practice. Students enrolled in the program will complete a scholarly project designed to improve patient or system outcomes.

Student Learning Outcomes
Students will:

1. Integrate nursing science knowledge from the biophysical, psychosocial, analytical, and organizational sciences and ethics as the basis for practice.
2. Provide culturally relevant health promotion and disease prevention initiatives based on epidemiological, bio-statistical, environmental, and other scientific evidence for diverse populations.
3. Demonstrate visionary organizational leadership by designing and implementing efficient effective practice and policy models.
4. Apply advanced levels of clinical scholarship, systems thinking and analytical methods in evidence-based management and practice.
5. Translate and disseminate knowledge to transform caring management and practice.
6. Leverage information systems and patient care technology for the improvement and transformation of health care.
7. Analyze, develop, and advocate for healthcare policies to improve healthcare systems across diverse constituencies.
8. Collaborate inter-professionally to improve patient and population outcomes through practice, education, and leadership.

Graduation Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Work</td>
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<tr>
<td>Core Courses</td>
<td>33</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advanced Specialty Courses</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>DNP Project Seminar (1 hr/each of last 4 semesters)</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>1000 hours of field experience</td>
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<tr>
<td>May be completed within the</td>
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<tr>
<td>required courses</td>
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<tr>
<td>DNP Project</td>
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</table>

May be completed throughout the required courses

Total Credit Hours 40

The Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi College of Graduate Studies Recency of Credit rule requires that all credit earned for a graduate degree must be completed within seven years of the first semester in which a student is enrolled in a graduate program. This requirement means that students are expected to complete their DNP program in seven years. In rare situations, an exception to this seven-year policy may be granted from the Dean for the College Graduate Studies when a student is unable to complete courses in this time period. The student must complete a request with an explanation as to why the exception should be made as soon as the student determines that courses will not be completed within this time frame. The request should be submitted to the Graduate Nursing Department Academic Advisor and the Associate Dean of Graduate Nursing Programs.

Program Requirements for all DNP Graduate Students
Students will be considered out of compliance if a designated immunization or other item required to be submitted to the CONHS Castle branch database manager or other agency is not updated by the designated deadline throughout their clinical courses. Additionally, there may be further requirements from a clinical facility that students will be required to meet. Any student who is out of compliance may be disenrolled from his/her classes.

The following program requirements apply to all nursing graduate students upon admission and throughout program of study. Students must:

1. Have completed a graduate nursing program from an NLNAC or CCNE accredited school of nursing.
2. Have completed within the past seven years, a graduate-level inferential statistics course with a grade of B or better. Students admitted with without having completed this requirement must complete it within the first academic year of the DNP program.
3. Hold current unencumbered licensure as a registered nurse with authorization to practice in Texas.
4. Upon admission to the College, complete a criminal background check.
5. Complete a ten panel non-chain of custody urine drug screen.
6. Purchase professional liability coverage through the University.
7. Meet Texas Department of State Health Services immunization requirements for students in health professions programs. Students must complete and present evidence that immunizations are complete and current prior to starting classes. Immunizations must remain current throughout the program. Students will not be allowed into courses or clinical laboratory agencies if evidence of compliance is missing. These requirements, as stated in the Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, Part 1, Chapter 97, Subchapter B, Rule 97.64 (https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac%24ext.TacPage/?sl=R&app=9&dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=25&pt=1&ch=97 include the following:
   a. “Students may be provisionally enrolled for up to one semester to allow students to attend classes while obtaining the required vaccines and acceptable evidence of vaccination.”
b. "Students cannot be provisionally enrolled without at least one dose of measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine if direct patient contact will occur during the provisional enrollment period."

c. "Polio vaccine is not required. Students enrolled in health-related courses are encouraged to ascertain that they are immune to poliomyelitis."

d. "One dose of tetanus-diphtheria toxoid (Td) is required within the last ten years."

e. "Students who were born on or after January 1, 1957, must show, prior to patient contact, acceptable evidence of vaccination of two doses of measles-containing vaccine administered since January 1, 1968."

f. "Students must show, prior to patient contact, acceptable evidence of vaccination of one dose of rubella vaccine."

g. "Students born on or after January 1, 1957, must show, prior to patient contact, acceptable evidence of vaccination of one dose of mumps vaccine."

h. "Students shall receive a complete series of hepatitis B vaccine prior to the start of direct patient care or show serologic confirmation of immunity to hepatitis B virus."

i. "Students shall receive two doses of varicella vaccine unless the first dose was received prior to thirteen years of age."

Rule 97.65 lists the following exceptions to the immunization requirements:

i. "Serologic confirmations of immunity to measles, rubella, mumps, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, or varicella are acceptable. Evidence of measles, rubella, mumps, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, or varicella illness must consist of a laboratory report that indicates either confirmation of immunity or infection."

ii. "A parent or physician validated history of varicella disease (chickenpox) or varicella immunity is acceptable in lieu of vaccine. A written statement from a physician or the student's parent or guardian, or school nurse, must support histories of varicella disease."

8. Complete a tuberculosis screening annually.

9. Hold a current American Heart Association or Red Cross Healthcare Provider CPR certification.

The CONHS will provide students with information about procedures to meet these admission requirements. See the BON website, www.bon.texas.gov (http://www.bon.texas.gov), for the statuses and rules regulating licensure.

For additional information, please see the Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, Part 1, Chapter 97, Subchapter B (https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac%24ext.ViewTAC/?tac_view=5&t=25&p=1&ch=97&sch=8&rl=Y), which is accessible at http://www.sos.state.tx.us/tac/index.shtm (http://www.sos.state.tx.us/tac/index.shtm/). Please note that some agencies where you may choose to complete clinical experiences may have stricter requirements than the state minimum standards. Students will have to meet agency requirements to gain access for clinical.

Health insurance coverage is highly recommended as neither the university nor clinical agencies are held responsible for emergency/health care arising from a laboratory assignment. See University Student Handbook.

Progression, Retention, and Dismissal

All students must meet the standards for minimal performance and progression established by Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Office of Graduate Studies. See catalog section on Graduate Academic and Degree Requirements.

1. If a student earns a grade of C, D, F, or W the student:
   a. Must repeat a course in which a grade of C or lower or W (Withdrawal) was earned.
   b. May be placed on scholastic probation if the GPA falls below 3.0 because of the C, D, F, or W.
   c. Will be removed from scholastic probation in accordance with university policy. See Scholastic Probation and Enforced Withdrawal in this catalog.
   d. May not progress to courses for which that course is a prerequisite when a grade of C, D, F, W or I (Incomplete) was earned.

2. If the student earns a second C or below in the program, the student cannot progress further and is required to withdraw from the program even when the GPA does not fall below 3.0.

3. The student cannot progress to next course after withdrawing from two courses in the program unless approved by the APG Committee. A plan to complete the program must be submitted to the Committee before a progression decision can be made. Admission to courses that need to be completed will depend on space availability.

4. The student may be dismissed from the program without previous warning for unsafe and/or unprofessional behavior identified by College administrators and faculty. The conduct of nursing students should meet ethical standards as defined by the American Nurses Association (ANA) in the Code of Ethics (https://www.nursingworld.org/practice-policy/nursing-excellence/ethics/). Personal integrity is reflected in professional judgments. Consequently, the College reserves the right to dismiss students from the program for unprofessional or unsafe behavior. See College of Nursing and Health Sciences Student Handbook for examples.

Advising

Every effort has been made to assure the accuracy of the information in this catalog. Students are advised, however, that such information is subject to change without notice. Therefore, students should consult with their academic advisors each semester prior to registration. Students should be aware that courses are offered upon sufficient demand and faculty availability.

A student is assigned an academic advisor and a faculty chair. The student and advisors work together to generate a program plan according to the student's academic, occupational and family needs. The advising team and student work together until the student graduates.

For Additional Information

Website: http://conhs.tamucc.edu

Contact:

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Campus Address:

Island Hall 339

Mailing Address:
Nursing, DNP

College of Nursing and Health Sciences
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
6300 Ocean Drive, Unit 5805
Corpus Christi, Texas 78412-5805

Admission Requirements

Students seeking admission to the Doctor of Nursing Practice program will need to:

1. Complete an application to the University for admission to graduate study and to the DNP Program.
2. Have earned a Master of Science in Nursing or equivalent Master's degree.
3. Provide evidence of current valid unencumbered licensure as a registered nurse with authority to practice in Texas.
4. Have earned a satisfactory grade point average of 3.0 on 4.0 scale in their graduate nursing program.
5. Write a 500 word essay explaining why they are enrolling in a Doctor of Nursing Practice program.
6. Submit three letters of recommendation from individuals knowledgeable about their potential to work effectively in advanced, professional, and scholarly roles.
7. Provide a current resume that delineates an applicant's professional contributions and work experiences and contains sufficient information to represent the applicant's accomplishments in nursing.
8. Hold national certification as a Nurse Practitioner (for DNP in NP only).
9. Submit a copy of authorization to practice as an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) in Texas (for DNP in NP only).
10. Have completed within the past seven years, a graduate-level inferential statistics course with a grade of B or better. Provisional admission is possible for students who do not meet this requirement. Students admitted with provisional status must complete this requirement within the first academic year of the DNP program and before enrolling in any research course.
11. Have completed a graduate level research course.

Program Requirements

Curriculum

The core nursing courses consist of graduate-level study of the scientific knowledge that comprises the discipline and profession of nursing, and prepares the student for advanced nursing practice.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 6300</td>
<td>Health Policy and Economics for the DNP *</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 6301</td>
<td>Epidemiology and Statistics for Evidence-Based Practice *</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 6302</td>
<td>Genomics in Health Care *</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 6303</td>
<td>System Behavior and Impact on Health Care *</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 6304</td>
<td>Application of Evidence in Practice I *</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 6305</td>
<td>Principles of Nursing Education for Teaching and Patient Care *</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 6306</td>
<td>Informatics and Technology for Advanced Practice *</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

Advanced Specialty Course

Select one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 6321</td>
<td>Application of Advanced Principles for Clinical Nursing Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 6331</td>
<td>Advanced Principles for Executive Practice</td>
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DNP Seminar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 6395</td>
<td>DNP Project Seminar (taken each of final 4 semesters)</td>
<td>4</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Online offering

Field Experiences

Students are expected to complete a minimum of 1000 hours of field experience related to their courses and focus of study. Appropriate field or clinical hours completed in an MSN program will be counted as part of the 1000 hours (up to 500). Applicants will be required to demonstrate these hours were completed in relevant settings. The Graduate Nursing Department has final authority in approving the total number of hours completed outside the DNP program. Students will be responsible for identifying and selecting agencies or preceptors for their field experiences. For more information please see the CONHS Doctoral Student Handbook under Current Students.

DNP Project

All students must complete a scholarly project as a requirement for the DNP degree. The project provides an opportunity for students to demonstrate their ability to develop effective interventions for patients and patient populations with complex health problems. The projects will be completed through multi-disciplinary collaborative partnerships and under faculty guidance.