

# VILLANOVA

## COLLEGE OF NURSING

### GRADUATE NURSING PROGRAM Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

The Villanova University Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program is designed for advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs), including nurse practitioners, certified registered nurse anesthetists, clinical nurse specialists, and certified nurse midwives, as well as nurse administrators. Our DNP program is a practice-focused doctoral program providing students with advanced knowledge in evidence-based practice, organizational leadership, and financial acumen to lead innovation in nursing practice and healthcare. The complex issues and changing landscape of healthcare have created a need for nurse leaders to respond effectively and implement solutions with interdisciplinary teams or independently in order to achieve positive healthcare outcomes for individuals and populations.

Explore this scholarly program that allows you to:

- plan ahead with rolling acceptance
- continue working while learning either full- or part-time
- collaborate with experts
- connect with convenience through distance learning
- attain the required advanced knowledge and skills to navigate the complexities of the healthcare system.
- transform your career

#### **DISTINGUISH YOURSELF - AND YOUR FUTURE - WITH A VILLANOVA DNP**

At Villanova, you will have access to a scholarly faculty and the resources of one of the finest universities in the country, plus an education based in a state-of-the-art facility, providing you with the foundation to advance the nursing field. The College of Nursing enjoys a reputation as a center for excellence because of the quality of its faculty and students, commitment to an institutional mission and the performance of alumni for over 60 years.

#### **LEARN FROM FACULTY LEADERS**

The faculty in the College of Nursing have distinguished careers, embracing professional leadership positions and providing consultation at the national and international levels. They are



faculty who have engaged in research, practice and scholarly activities. The program is planned so that classes remain small to facilitate student-professor interaction.

#### **DISCOVER A UNIQUE DOCTORAL PROGRAM**

The program is animated by Augustinian Catholic values that characterize the mission of the University: the unity of knowledge, the holistic nature of human beings, the importance of community, the discovery of truth and a commitment to addressing the needs of disadvantaged and marginalized populations.

The College of Nursing, established in 1953, has a reputation of excellence and is highly respected for its contribution to graduate education of nursing faculty, administrators and advanced practitioners, which commenced in 1980.

The Doctor of Nursing Practice is a 32-credit program. The full-time option is offered in five consecutive semesters designed to meet the needs of the working professional; the part-time option in eight semesters. The curriculum is implemented using a distance learning approach complemented by on-campus sessions. The on-campus sessions begin with a one-week information and educational seminar the summer of the first semester. Students have the opportunity to come to campus each semester to meet with their cohort and faculty. Whether you are on campus or at home, the College provides you with a personalized experience—one of the hallmarks of a Villanova Nursing program.



**VILLANOVA**  
**UNIVERSITY**  
College of Nursing



### THE DNP PROJECT

The emphasis of the DNP program is on broad “systems thinking” in order to facilitate the design and implementation of models of patient care and clinical practice. A scholarly DNP project offers students the opportunity to apply advanced empirical and theoretical knowledge to design, implement, evaluate and intervene in the clinical environment based on the evidence. A DNP advisor assists the student through the DNP project process. It is expected that students will focus on clinical issues and/or organizational systems that promote safe, effective, efficient and accessible care for individuals, groups or populations.

### ENVISION YOUR ROLE IN THE FUTURE OF NURSING AND HEALTH CARE

As a graduate of the DNP program, you will be able to demonstrate:

- Advanced clinical judgment, expertise and specialization in a defined area.
- Advanced levels of systems thinking and accountability in designing, delivering, and evaluating evidence-based practice to improve healthcare quality, safety, and outcomes.
- Leadership in the development and implementation of patient-driven, institutional, local, state, federal and/or international health policy in a select content/ specialty area.
- Use of leadership skills to design, direct, implement and execute a scholarly project.
- Effective collaboration with nursing and other disciplines in clinical practice to promote cultural competence in response to the healthcare needs and concerns of society.

### PREREQUISITES

- Applicants must be a Post-Master’s Advance Practice Nurse or Nurse Administrator
- 3.5 grade point average in master’s program
- Applicants must hold licensure in nursing in a jurisdiction of the United States
- B or better in a graduate level nursing research course
- Applicants must hold a national certification in their area of specialty

### APPLICATION PROCESS

Students begin the program with a one week on campus visit in Summer Session I (early June). Complete applications are reviewed on a rolling basis and are accepted until the cohort is full.



*“I want to express my sincere thanks to the DNP program for preparing me so well to be a clinical nurse leader. I utilize the DNP Essentials daily, and have become the team expert in quality projects. I rave about my superb Villanova DNP education to everyone who will listen!” -- Janet Dunn, DNP, CRNP, ACNP-BC, CHFN*

### LEARN MORE

For a complete description of the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program, including complete application instructions, forms and relevant deadlines, visit [www.villanova.edu/nursing/dnp](http://www.villanova.edu/nursing/dnp).

Mailing address:  
Doctor of Nursing Practice Program  
College of Nursing  
Villanova University  
800 Lancaster Avenue  
Villanova, PA 19085-1690  
Fax: 610.519.7650

Debra Shearer, EdD, MSN, FNP-BC  
Director, Doctor of Nursing Practice Program  
[debra.shearer@villanova.edu](mailto:debra.shearer@villanova.edu)  
610.519.8337

Olivia Tintea  
Program Assistant, DNP & PhD Programs  
[olivia.tintea@villanova.edu](mailto:olivia.tintea@villanova.edu)  
610.519.4914