

## Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Program

### MSN Degree Plans

The MSN curriculum provides students with the knowledge and experience to assume leadership positions in overall health care delivery and fulfill the fundamental requirements to secure middle and top-level administrative positions in health care agencies. The School of Nursing at [New Mexico State University](#) offers two MSN Program options, an MSN in Nursing Administration and the Roadrunner MSN Option.

#### Nursing Administration

This option is open to nurses who possess an RN license and a Baccalaureate degree in Nursing (BSN). The MSN in Nursing Administration prepares students for administrative careers in nursing and health care. The MSN degree also prepares the student for potential future doctoral education in nursing.

#### Roadrunner MSN (2nd degree option)

This Degree Plan is currently under development. Please check back for updates or contact us directly.

For more information on the Roadrunner MSN track, please contact us at 575-646-7311 or email us at [nursing@nmsu.edu](mailto:nursing@nmsu.edu).

Students who enroll in the MSN program options are required to come to campus at least once each year for a 3 to 4 day orientation. MSN coursework is completed each semester online via the internet. It is highly recommended that students are competent in the use of basic word processing and presentation software, preferably Microsoft Office, and have some experience in navigating the internet and have basic computing skills.

In order to better assist you with your technology competencies, please take the time to complete the [Online Student Assessment](#). If and when accepted into the School of Nursing MSN Program you must have access to a computer and the internet in order to complete assignments online.

### Graduate Student Working Online



Priority admission for the MSN Administration option deadline is February 15, 2013.

Incomplete packets will not be accepted.

For more information about the MSN program, please contact the School of Nursing Graduate Program at 575-646-7770 or email us at [nursing@nmsu.edu](mailto:nursing@nmsu.edu). You can also visit us on campus. We

are located in room 132 of The College of Health and Social Services.

To [apply for](#) entry into the NMSU School of Nursing Master of Science in Nursing Administration or the Roadrunner to MSN degree option, please download the appropriate application below and submit before the semester deadlines.

- [MSN Administration Degree Plan](#)
  - [MSN Application for Admission \(Admin Track Only\)](#)
  - [Roadrunner MSN Degree Plan](#)
  - [Roadrunner to MSN Application for Admission](#)
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For specific questions related to the MSN Program, contact:

- [MSN Administration](#)  
Karen Pech – Program Advisor  
575-646-7770, [kpech@nmsu.edu](mailto:kpech@nmsu.edu)
  - [Associate Director for Graduate Studies](#)  
Dr. Kathleen Huttlinger– Professor  
575-646-4387, [khuttlin@nmsu.edu](mailto:khuttlin@nmsu.edu)
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See also:

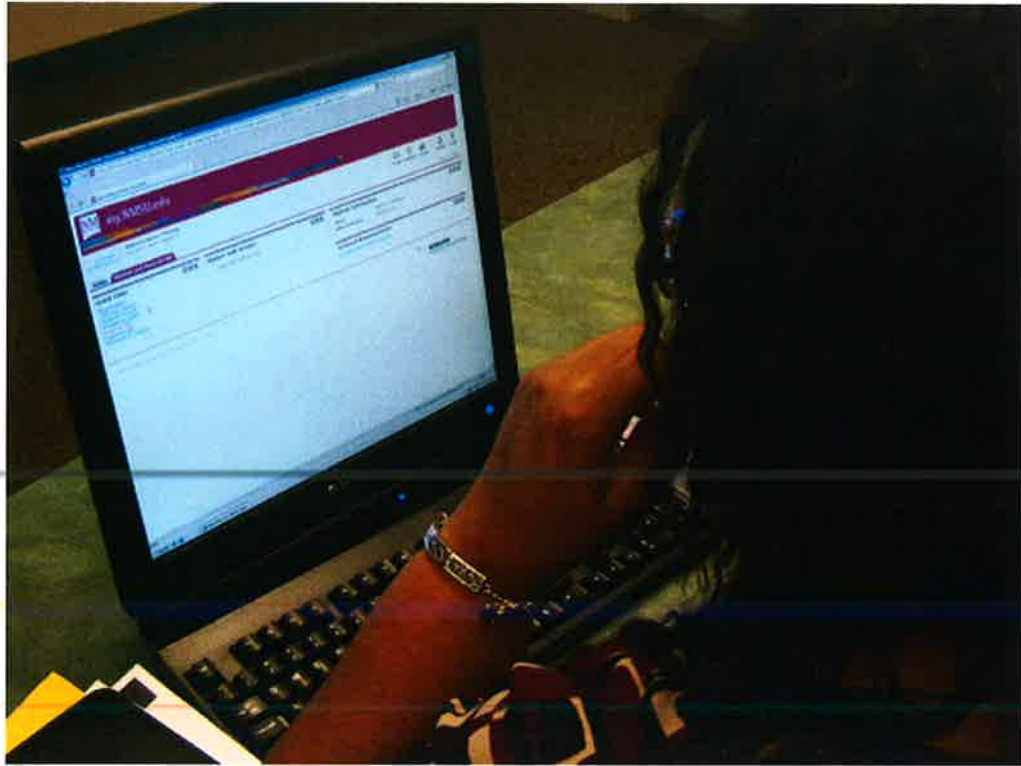
- [Download site for Adobe Acrobat Reader](#)
  - [MSN Handbook \(PDF\)](#)
  - [MSN Student Support Site \(for current students within Blackboard\)](#)
  - [NMSU Graduate School](#)
  - [FAQ Online Courses](#)
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## Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) @ NMSU School of Nursing

New Mexico State University, School of Nursing has phased out the Master's degree program in the advanced nursing specialties of

### Working Online



Doctoral student busy online.

Psych/Mental Health Nursing, Adult Health and Public/Community Health. The Master's degree program in Nursing Administration will continue to be offered as currently designed.

In place of the other three Master's degree specialties, the School of Nursing offers the Doctor of Nursing Practice. The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) is a doctoral degree for nurses at the highest level of nursing practice. The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) has proposed that the DNP degree will be the level of entry for all advanced practice nurses by 2015. Practice-focused doctoral nursing programs prepare leaders for the highest level of practice and is the terminal practice degree.

The changing demands of today's complex health care environment, outlined in recent reports from the Institute of Medicine, require that nurses serving in specialty positions have the highest level of scientific knowledge and practice expertise possible. Nurses are constantly working with individuals who have a high level of preparation in their respective fields – physicians, pharmacists, and other health providers. The effectiveness of nurses is directly related to the amount and type of education they receive, and recent research has established a clear link between higher levels of nursing education and better patient outcomes. What distinguishes this definition of practice from others is that it includes both direct care provided to patients by individual clinicians as well as direct care policies, programs and protocols that are organized, monitored, and continuously improved upon by expert nurse clinicians.

The DNP should not be confused with the PhD in Nursing, also offered through the SON, which is a research-focused degree and aimed at those wishing to pursue an academic or research career.

**Enrollment** in the DNP Program (for both BSN and Post-MSN) begins in the fall semester of each year.

There are two avenues to pursue the Doctor of Nursing practice: the BSN to DNP and the Post MSN to DNP. The Psych/Mental Health focal area is being offered on odd numbered years, 2013, 2015, etc. Individuals selecting this option will be prepared to take the national certification exam for the Psych/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner role.

The Clinical focal areas for Public/Community Health and Adult/Gerontology will be offered on even years 2014, 2016, etc., and are contingent on a minimum, continuous enrollment of a 5 student cohort. Importantly, in order to accommodate students for a timely progression, only FULL-TIME applicants for **admission** in the BSN to DNP track will be accepted. Those who need to drop from the program will need to reapply for the next cohort in that major. Students who wish to drop from one focal area and switch to another focal area must "re-apply" for that major.

The Post MSN to DNP track is for those who wish to obtain the DNP and who possess a Master's **degree in Nursing** and "current" national certification as a Clinical Nurse Specialist or Nurse Practitioner. Both Part-time and Full-time applicants for enrollment are being accepted for this track.

All courses for the BSN-DNP and Post MSN-DNP are web-based. There is a once a year, mandatory, 2-3 day on campus orientation/seminar required for all students prior to each fall semester. Inability to attend the orientation and seminar will result in dismissal from the program. In addition, some clinical tracks (psych and adult gero) "may" require on-campus week long clinical immersion sessions. Check with the program advisor for specific dates.

Students should have basic computer skills and feel comfortable navigating the internet. Additional help will be provided for those students with little or no computer skills. Please take a moment to complete the **Online Student Assessment** so we may evaluate the areas we can better assist you in.

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## DNP Application Process

Enrollment for the 2012-2013 DNP cohort (both BSN and Post-MSN) is CLOSED. Please **apply for** 2013-2104 cohort. Applications for the 2013-2014 cohort are due by February 15, 2013.

The application process consists of two parts. The first part is to apply to and be accepted by the Graduate School at New Mexico State University. See <http://gradschool.nmsu.edu/> for application process, forms, etc.

NOTE: Two sets of official transcripts from all universities/colleges attended must be sent from that institution: One set needs to go directly to the NMSU Graduate school in a sealed envelop and one set to the School of Nursing in a sealed envelop. Student/applicant-delivered transcripts are unacceptable.

The second part is the submission of an application packet directly to the School of Nursing (SON). All materials in the packet must be delivered to the SON by the due date. Call, 575-646-7770 or email the graduate advisor, **Karen Pech**, if you would like to have an application packet mailed to you.

- **DNP Application Packet**
- **FAQs for Online Courses**
- **Online Student Assessment**

## Criteria for Admission

### BSN–DNP (full-time enrollment only)

1. Bachelor's degree in Nursing. Minimal undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or better.
  2. Current, and unencumbered, RN license from one of the 50 U.S. States or Territories
  3. Must have completed an upper division (300–400 level course or higher) inferential statistic course within 5 years of application date
  4. If applying for BSN–DNP, student must agree to sign a commitment to enroll for full-time study and attend the annual DNP seminar and orientation held at the beginning of each fall semester.
  5. Personal interview with one of the graduate faculty (will be arranged and can be by phone, Skype, or Adobe Connect).
  6. A letter of intent which specifies career goals and a clear statement of how the DNP will advance your clinical practice.
  7. Current CV/resume
  8. A 2–4 page description of an example of a common occurrence in clinical practice that you would like to see changed. This will be used as an example of your writing ability.
  9. 3 references from those in clinical practice who know you best and can comment on your abilities to succeed in a higher level and advanced role.
  10. Official transcripts (see above)
  11. Must meet all clinical clearances and liability based on clinical site that will be used for advanced practice (all liabilities and clearances must be obtained by first enrollment date)
- **BSN–DNP Adult Health/Gerontology Nursing Degree Plan**
  - **BSN–DNP Community Health Nursing Degree Plan**
  - **BSN–DNP Family Psych/Mental Health Nursing Degree Plan**



### Post MSN–DNP (both full-time and part-time enrollment)

1. Master's degree in Nursing. Minimal MSN grade point average of 3.2 or better.
2. Current, and unencumbered, RN license from one of the 50 U.S. States or Territories
3. Current certification as a Clinical Nurse Specialist or Nurse Practitioner
4. Must have completed an upper division inferential statistic course within 5 years of application date
5. Must agree to sign a commitment to enroll either Part-time or Full-time and attend the annual DNP seminar and orientation held at the beginning of each fall semester.
6. Personal interview with one of the graduate faculty (will be arranged and can be by phone, Skype, or Adobe Connect).
7. A letter of intent which specifies career goals and a clear statement of how the DNP will advance your clinical practice.
8. Current CV/resume
9. A 2–4 page description of an example of a common occurrence in clinical practice that you would like to see changed. This will be used as an example of your writing ability.
10. 3 references from those in clinical practice who know you best and can comment on your abilities to succeed in a higher level and advanced role.
11. Official transcripts (see above)
12. Must meet all clinical clearances and liability based on clinical site that will be used for advanced practice (all liabilities and clearances must be obtained by first enrollment date).

- [MSN–DNP Full-time Degree Plan \(PDF\)](#)
- [MSN–DNP Part-time Degree Plan \(PDF\)](#)

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For specific questions related to the DNP Program, contact:

- Graduate Program Advisor  
Karen Pech – Academic Advisor  
575–646–7770, [kpech@nmsu.edu](mailto:kpech@nmsu.edu)
- Associate Director for Graduate Studies  
Dr. Kathleen Huttlinger– Professor  
575–646–4387, [khuttlin@nmsu.edu](mailto:khuttlin@nmsu.edu)

For International Students:

All international students "must" contact the Center for International Programs to determine eligibility before contacting the School of Nursing.

**Center for International Programs**

Telephone: 575–646–5483

Email: [cip@nmsu.edu](mailto:cip@nmsu.edu)

## Doctorate of Philosophy in Nursing @ the School of Nursing at NMSU

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The New Mexico State University School of Nursing online PhD program prepares graduates to pursue careers as leaders in nursing research, education, practice, and/or health policy. It develops nursing knowledge with a focused emphasis on meeting the health care needs of diverse populations on the US–Mexico border and in rural communities.



The program enables graduates to reach their potential as nurses facing the global challenges and opportunities of the 21st century. It challenges their intellectual curiosity, focuses their passion for nursing science, and builds lifelong collegial relationships in an international community of students, faculty, alumni, and scholars.

New students start class in the summer of each year and are required to:

- come to main campus once a year for 1 week
- attend a research conference, selected by faculty, once a year
- complete all assignments online
- complete comprehensive written & oral examinations
- complete dissertation

Students should have basic computer skills and feel comfortable navigating the internet. Additional help will be provided for those students with little or no computer skills. Please take a moment to complete the [Online Student Assessment](#) so we may evaluate the areas we can better assist you in.

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### How to Apply

Admission to the PhD program is in accordance with the general regulations of the Graduate School. Additional requirements include a MSN from an accredited [college or university](#); successful completion of an inferential statistics course; three professional letters of recommendation; a letter stating personal goals for graduate education, completion of writing requirement, interview with nursing faculty, resume identifying practice experience; and proof of licensure or eligibility for licensure as a Registered Nurse in any of the 50 United States, the District of Columbia, or U.S. territories. All materials should be sent to the School of Nursing with the Graduate School application materials placed in a separate envelope.

For specific questions related to the PhD Program, contact:

- Graduate Program Advisor  
Karen Pech – Academic Advisor  
575-646-7770, [kpech@nmsu.edu](mailto:kpech@nmsu.edu)
- Associate Director for [Graduate Studies](#)

Dr. Kathleen Huttlinger– Professor  
575–646–4387, [khuttlin@nmsu.edu](mailto:khuttlin@nmsu.edu)

DEADLINE for application submission for Summer 2012 cohort is January 15, 2013. Incomplete application packets will not be considered.

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See also:

- [PhD Application](#)

ALL APPLICANTS NOTE: For writing sample “packet”, please contact Ms Karen Pech ([kpech@nmsu.edu](mailto:kpech@nmsu.edu)) with mailing address for her to send out the instructions for the writing sample to you.

- [PhD Handbook](#)
- [FAQ Online Courses](#)

International Students:

Contact the [Center for International Programs](#)

Telephone: 575–646–5483

Email: [cip@nmsu.edu](mailto:cip@nmsu.edu)

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Visit our website for information on application deadlines, program requirements and contact information:

[www.rmsu.edu/~nursing](http://www.rmsu.edu/~nursing)



## Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree Plans

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) is a doctoral degree for nurses at the highest level of nursing practice. The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) had proposed that the DNP degree will be the level of entry for all advanced practice nurses by 2015. A practice-focused doctoral nursing program prepares leaders for the highest level of practice and is the terminal practice degree.

The changing demands of today's complex health care environment, outlined in recent reports from the Institute of Medicine, require that nurses serving in specialty positions have the highest level of preparation in their respective fields - physicians, pharmacists and other health providers.

The effectiveness of nurses is directly related to the amount of education they receive, and recent research has established a clear link between higher levels of nursing education and better patient outcomes.

What distinguishes this definition of practice from others is that it includes both direct care provided to patients by individual clinicians as well as direct care policies, programs and protocols that are organized, monitored and continuously improved upon by expert nurse clinicians.

There are two avenues to pursue the Doctor of Nursing Practice: The BSN to DNP and the Post MSN to DNP. The BSN to DNP has clinical focal areas in Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, Adult Health Nurse

Practitioner and Public/Community Health Clinical Nurse Specialist, with 95 total credit hours required for this track.

The Psych/Mental Health focal area is offered on odd numbered years, 2011, 2013, etc. Individuals selecting this option will be prepared to take the national certification exam for the Psych/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner role.

The Clinical focal areas for Adult Health and Public/Community Health are offered on even years, 2012, 2014, etc. Individuals in these options are also prepared to take national certification exams in their respective fields.

The Post MSN to DNP track is for those who wish to obtain the DNP and who possess a master's degree in Nursing and "current" certification as a Clinical Nurse Specialist or Nurse Practitioner. A total of 85 credit hours are required for this track.

In order to accommodate students for timely progression, only FULL-TIME applicants for admission are accepted for BSN to DNP and MSN to DNP options. No part-time options are available at this time.

All courses for the BSN-DNP and Post MSN-DNP are web-based along with a mandatory one week residency requirement every August.



Practice-focused doctoral nursing programs prepare leaders for the highest level of practice.



Visit our website for information on application deadlines, program requirements and contact information:

[www.nmsu.edu/~nursing](http://www.nmsu.edu/~nursing)



### Roadrunner to MSN degree option

The School of Nursing also offers the RR to MSN degree option for individuals with undergraduate degrees in fields outside of nursing. Graduates of the RR to MSN option

obtain a generic master's degree in Nursing (MSN) in two and a half years.

Upon completion of all coursework the successful student, enrolled in the RR to MSN option, is eligible to take the NCLEX-RN and apply for RN licensure in the state of New Mexico.

The RR to MSN option is a blend of face-to-face and online work with undergraduate clinicals completed in the Las Cruces region.

Graduates are prepared to assume positions of leadership in a wide variety of health care service areas including acute care, clinical education, research, health promotion, disease management and rehabilitation and outpatient services. This degree also lays the groundwork for doctoral education.

## Master of Science in Nursing Degree Plans

*The MSN curriculum provides students with the knowledge and experience to assume leadership positions in overall health care delivery and fulfill the fundamental requirements to secure middle and top-level administrative positions in health care agencies.*

*The School of Nursing at New Mexico State University offers two MSN Program options: the MSN in Nursing Administration and the Roadrunner (RR) to MSN option.*

### Nursing Administration degree option

The Nursing Administration degree option is open to nurses who possess an RN license and a Baccalaureate degree in Nursing (BSN).

The MSN in Nursing Administration prepares students for administrative careers in nursing and health care. The MSN degree lays the groundwork for doctoral education.



## The Ph.D. in Nursing program

We prepare individuals to assume leadership roles in academia and health care settings, emphasizing teaching, research, and professional service activities.

### Program focus

- Nursing scholarship to facilitate development of new knowledge and nursing education directed at improving nursing care outcomes for individuals, families, communities and systems
- Holistic nursing scholarship as it relates to improving the care of individuals, families, groups, and communities experiencing or at risk for health disparities

### Program requirements

Primary content delivery for this program is through distance education, with some attendance at NMSU Las Cruces required.

New students begin class in the summer of each year and are required to

- attend NMSU Las Cruces for one week, once a year;
- attend a research conference, selected by faculty, once a year;
- complete all assignments online using WebCT;
- complete written and oral examinations; and
- complete a dissertation.



## How to Apply

You must be approved for admission to the Graduate School before admission to the Ph.D. in Nursing program. For more information and to download an application, contact the School of Nursing.

575-646-8170  
phd\_nurse@nmsu.edu  
[www.nmsu.edu/~nursing/phd.html](http://www.nmsu.edu/~nursing/phd.html)

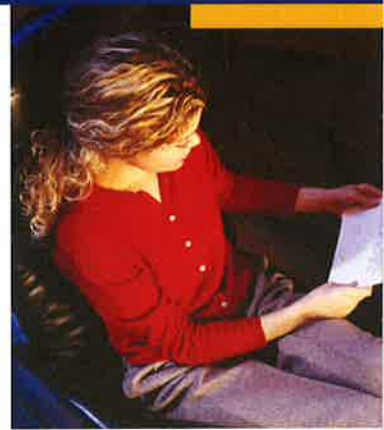
All application materials should be sent to the School of Nursing with the Graduate School application materials placed in a separate envelope.

### International Students:

Contact the International Programs office  
575-646-5483  
cip@nmsu.edu  
[www.nmsu.edu/~ip/](http://www.nmsu.edu/~ip/)

### Program admission requirements:

- MSN from an accredited college or university
- Successful completion of an inferential statistics course
- Three professional letters of recommendation
- Letter stating personal goals for graduate education
- Completion of writing requirement
- Interview with nursing faculty
- Resumé identifying practice experience
- Proof of licensure or eligibility for licensure as RN in any of the U.S. states, territories or the District of Columbia



[www.nmsu.edu/~nursing](http://www.nmsu.edu/~nursing)