

# NURSING PRACTICE, D.N.P. (POST-BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING)

Saint Louis University's Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) program is a practice-focused doctoral degree that educates nurses to become expert clinicians, leaders in health policy and catalysts for improved health care delivery. We offer nurse practitioner specialties in adult/gerontological acute care, family, and family psychiatric-mental health.

SLU's Trudy Busch Valentine School of Nursing is renowned for excellence in nursing education. U.S. News and World Report consistently ranks our graduate program as a top program in their Best Graduate Schools survey.

Students may choose from four concentrations, allowing them to customize the patient population that they will work with most:

## Adult-Gerontological Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Concentration

If you choose the adult-gerontological acute care nurse practitioner program, you will learn to use complex monitoring and invasive therapies, high-intensity interventions and continuous vigilance within the range of high-acuity care to help meet the specialized physiological and psychological needs of adults of all ages, including the frail elderly.

Adult-gerontological acute care nurse practitioners work in emergency departments, tertiary care settings, intensive care units, trauma centers and specialty medicine areas treating patients with acute, critical and chronic illnesses and those with disabilities or injuries. Graduates are eligible for national certification through the American Nurses Credentialing Center and/or the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses.

## Family Nurse Practitioner Concentration

The family nurse practitioner program prepares you to provide primary health care to patients of all ages. You will help prevent disease, assess and manage acute and chronic health problems, and consult and refer patients within the health care system. The family nurse practitioner program emphasizes quality relationships with patients, families and communities, and the education and coordination of services aimed at specific health outcomes.

Family nurse practitioners, also known as FNPs, work in various settings and are well-suited to rural populations where specialty care may not always be available. Graduates are eligible for national certification from the American Nurses Credentialing Center and/or the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Program.

## Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Concentration

If you pursue the psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner program, you will work with children, adolescents and adults of all ages with acute and/or complex mental health needs, or psychiatric diagnoses. The psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner program encourages evidence-based, culturally sensitive, recovery-oriented and holistic care.

You will be prepared to apply the nursing process and medical/medication management to promote optimal mental health while

engaging in ongoing collaboration with clients, their families, significant others and the interprofessional team. Graduates are eligible for national certification through the American Nurses Credentialing Center and the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Program.

## Program Highlights

- Full- and part-time curriculum plans
- A variety of specialty areas and role options
- The option to emphasize research in any specialty area
- Responsive faculty who are nationally recognized for teaching excellence, nursing leadership, scholarly research and student mentorship
- Faculty advisors who are individually assigned to mentor each student throughout the program
- An online library
- An online writing center
- State-of-the-art teaching facilities

## Curriculum Overview

The Post-Bachelor of Science in Nursing to Doctor of Nursing Practice (B.S.N.-D.N.P.) program requires a total of 62 to 68 credits beyond the B.S.N., depending on the population specialty focus. The courses can be taken during a four-year period. Students will complete the program with 1,000 clinical hours.

Two visits to Saint Louis University's campus are required. The first is a two-day residency at the Valentine School of Nursing, where your knowledge of the curriculum's content, including diagnostic reasoning, clinical assessment skills, and therapeutic communication, will be assessed. The second campus visit is at the end of the program to present the D.N.P. project.

## Careers

Graduates of the D.N.P. program are prepared to be nurse clinicians or educators. Graduates influence health policy at institutional, local, state and national levels and formulate strategies to maximize patient health.

Nurse practitioners earned a median salary of \$129,210 in 2024, with the top 25% earning more than \$149,500 and the lowest paid 25% around \$109,940, according to U.S. News & World Report's 2026 Best Jobs ranking. NPs once again ranked as the No. 1 job in America for 2026, reflecting strong demand and robust compensation, by the U.S. News. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that NP employment will grow about 35% from 2024 to 2034, with roughly 128,400 new positions opening over that period — far exceeding the average for all occupations.

## Tuition

Tuition	Cost Per Credit
Doctor in Nursing Practice (DNP)	\$1,450

Additional charges may apply. Other resources are listed below:

Information on Tuition and Fees (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/tuition/>)

Miscellaneous Fees (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/fees/>)

Information on Summer Tuition (<https://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/student-financial-services/tuition-summer-current/>)

## Scholarships and Financial Aid

Financing for this program may be available through grants, scholarships, loans (federal and private) and institutional financing plans. For price estimates, please review the SLU cost calculator (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/tuition-and-costs/calculator.php>).

The Saint Louis University Trudy Busch Valentine School of Nursing offers scholarship and graduate research assistantship opportunities (<https://www.slu.edu/nursing/scholarships/>) to eligible graduate students. Additionally, most nursing students will participate in a tuition assistance program provided through their employer.

For more information, visit the Office of Student Financial Services (<https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/>).

## Accreditation

The Saint Louis University Trudy Busch Valentine School of Nursing is fully approved by the Missouri State Board of Nursing.

The baccalaureate degree program in nursing, master's degree program in nursing, Doctor of Nursing Practice program and post-graduate advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) certificate program at Saint Louis University's Trudy Busch Valentine School of Nursing are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, 665 K Street N.W., Suite 750, Washington, D.C., 20001. The commission's phone number is 202-887-6791.

Saint Louis University is approved by the Washington State Board of Nursing to conduct practice experiences in the state of Washington for the a). MSN PCPNP b). MSN FNP; c). DNP FNP; d). post master's certificate FNP programs, e) MSN PMHNP; f) BSN-DNP PMHNP; g) post master's certificate PMHNP; and h) post master's DNP PMHNP.

## Licensure Disclosure

For information about whether this program meets any state board of nursing's educational requirements for eligibility to take a state licensure exam, please see our Professional Licensure Disclosure page (<https://www.slu.edu/provost/professional-licensure.php>).

## Learning Outcomes

1. Knowledge for Nursing Practice: Critiques nursing's distinct and shared disciplinary perspectives and generates new theoretical and empirical insights from the humanities and natural, social, behavioral and nursing sciences to advance clinical judgment and transform nursing practice.
2. Person-centered Care: Innovates nursing care through the relational lens, which fosters caring relationships, mutuality, active participation and individual empowerment in the delivery and communication of compassionate person-centered nursing care through *cura personalis*.
3. Population Health: Influences diverse stakeholders to transform partnerships, shape health policy and advance equitable population health outcomes related to the social determinants of health.
4. Scholarship for Nursing Discipline: Generates, transforms and leads the integration of best evidence and client values into clinical decision-making.

5. Quality and Safety: Transforms quality of care and redefines strategies to minimize risk of harm to clients and providers through system effectiveness and individual performance.

6. Interprofessional Partnerships: Drives interprofessional engagement with care team members, clients, families, communities and other stakeholders to optimize care, enhance the health care experience and strengthen outcomes.

7. Systems-Based Practice: Innovatively mobilizes resources to provide safe, quality and equitable care to diverse populations within complex health care systems to address social and structural determinants of health.

8. Informatics and Health Care Technologies: Leverages information processes and technologies to transform and lead the delivery of safe, high-quality and efficient health care services.

9. Professionalism: Advances a sustainable professional nursing identity, accountability, perspective, collaborative disposition and ethical principles that reflect nursing's characteristics and values.

10. Personal, Professional and Leadership Development: Champions activities and self-reflection through Ignatian pedagogy, which fosters personal health, resilience and well-being while supporting the acquisition of nursing expertise, lifelong learning and the leadership continuum.

## Requirements Admission Requirements

The Trudy Busch Valentine School of Nursing adheres to the principles of a holistic admission process in which selection criteria are broad-based and linked to our University's and school's mission and goals. While we do consider academic metrics, we also look at applicant experiences, attributes, potential for success, and how applicants may contribute to the school's learning environment and to the profession.

### Applicant Criteria

- Baccalaureate degree in nursing from a program accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency.
- Cumulative grade point average of 3.20 or higher on a 4.00 system.
- An unencumbered registered nurse license in the state in which clinical experience will be done.
- Current CPR certification from the American Heart Association.
- Completion of an undergraduate-level descriptive and inferential statistics course.
- Completion of a beginning-level health assessment or equivalent course.

### International Students

International students on F-1 or J-1 student visas are not eligible for admission to this nursing program because this program is offered completely online.

International students on H-1B visas are eligible to apply to the program.

### Application Requirements

Applying for the B.S.N.-D.N.P. program requires careful planning to ensure that all admission requirements are met. You may experience a delay in processing if the application instructions are not followed exactly as listed.

Please follow the five steps outlined below to apply:

- Step 1: Application**  
 Submit the application form and pay the associated fee through NursingCAS (<https://nursingcas.org/>). Select Saint Louis University. Applicants can also apply free through the SLU application portal here (<https://gradapply.slu.edu/account/register/?r=https%3a%2f%2fgradapply.slu.edu%2fapply%2f>).
- Step 2: Transcripts**  
 Please submit your official transcripts from all colleges/universities attended directly to NursingCAS (<https://nursingcas.org/>). They will provide details when the application is initiated.
- Step 3: Resume or Curriculum Vitae**  
 Attach your CV/résumé documenting your education, clinical nursing experience, and service to the nursing profession/community within the NursingCAS (<https://nursingcas.org/>) application.
- Step 4: Professional Goal Statement**  
 Attach your professional goal statement within the NursingCAS (<https://nursingcas.org/>) application. The goal statement should outline your goals for doctoral study, research translation area of interest for the capstone project and your career goals. The statement should be one-to-two pages and double-spaced.
- Step 5: RN License**  
 Attach a copy of your unencumbered registered nurse license in the state in which clinical experience will be done within the NursingCAS (<https://nursingcas.org/>) application.

### Application Deadlines

Admissions are rolling until the following deadlines:

- Fall semester start: July 15
- Spring semester start: December 15
- Summer semester start: April 15

### Review Process

Applications will be reviewed shortly after all application requirements have been submitted.

## Program Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Program Core Requirements</b>		
NURS 5000	Epidemiology	3
NURS 5040	Advanced Practice Nursing: Role Acquisition	1
NURS 5080	Advanced Pharmacology	3
NURS 5110	Advanced Health Assessment Across the Lifespan I	0,2
NURS 5111	Advanced Health Assessment Across the Lifespan II: Diagnostic Reasoning	1
NURS 5140	Health Promotion	3
NURS 5160	Principles of Practice Management	2
NURS 5170	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
NURS 5200	Gen Research Methods	3
NURS 5900	Residency	0
NURS 6120	Health Care Policy & Delivery Systems	3
NURS 6130	Interprofessional Collaboration	3
NURS 6140	Leadership in Health Care	3
NURS 6150	Clinical Informatics	3

NURS 6160	Evidence-Based Practice I	3
NURS 6170	Evidence-Based Practice II	3
NURS 6805	Introduction to Applied Statistics for Healthcare Research	3
NURS 6960	Doctor of Nursing Practice Project Management (can be taken over multiple semesters, 3 credits total)	3
NURS 6961	Doctor of Nursing Practice Project (can be taken over multiple semesters, 3 credits total)	3
<b>Concentrations</b>		<b>16-20</b>
Select one of the following:		
Adult-Gerontological Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (p. 3)		
Family Nurse Practitioner (p. 3)		
Primary Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (p. )		
Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (p. 4)		
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>62-68</b>

### Continuation Standards

Students must maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.00 in all graduate/professional courses.

### Adult-Gerontological Acute Care Nurse Practitioner

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Concentration Courses</b>		
NURS 5260	Advanced Clinical Studies I: The Acute Care Setting (150 Clinical Hours)	5
NURS 5270	Advanced Clinical Studies II: The Acute Care Setting (150 Clinical Hours)	5
NURS 5810	Advanced Practice Nursing Practicum: Adult Gerontological Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (AGACNP) (150 Clinical Hours)	2
NURS 5811	Advanced Practice Nursing Practicum: Adult Gerontological Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (AGACNP) (300 Clinical Hours)	4
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>16</b>

### Family Nurse Practitioner

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Concentration Courses</b>		
NURS 5280	Advanced Clinical Studies I: Adults and Older Adults (150 Clinical Hours)	5
NURS 5290	Advanced Clinical Studies II: Women and Children (150 Clinical Hours)	5
NURS 5812	Advanced Practice Nursing Practicum: Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) (150 Clinical Hours)	2
NURS 5813	Advanced Practice Nursing Practicum: Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) (300 Clinical Hours)	4
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>16</b>

## Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Concentration Courses</b>		
NURS 5400	Psychotherapy in Advanced Practice Nursing	3
NURS 5340	Advanced Clinical Studies I: Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing (150 Clinical Hours)	4
NURS 5350	Advanced Clinical Studies II: Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing (150 Clinical Hours)	5
NURS 5430	Psychopharmacology	2
NURS 5814	Advanced Practice Nursing Practicum: Psychiatric Mental-Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) (150 Clinical Hours)	2
NURS 5815	Advanced Practice Nursing Practicum: Psychiatric Mental-Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) (300 Clinical Hours)	4
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>20</b>

## Roadmap

This roadmap is just one example of a semester-by-semester plan of study for this program. There are other plans students can and do take. The plan of study for each particular student is established in consultation with each student's academic advisor; *this roadmap does not replace academic advising appointments.*

### Roadmap notes:

- This Roadmap assumes full-time enrollment unless otherwise noted.
- Courses/Milestones marked with an "!" are critical and must be completed in the semester listed in the Roadmap to ensure a timely graduation.
- Course availability and sequencing are subject to change.

## Adult-Gerontological Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Concentration

Course	Title	Credits
<b>Year One</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
NURS 5040	Advanced Practice Nursing: Role Acquisition	1
NURS 5170	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
NURS 5140	Health Promotion	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>7</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
NURS 5080	Advanced Pharmacology	3
NURS 6130	Interprofessional Collaboration (1st session 8-Week Course, 75 Clinical Hours)	3
NURS 6140	Leadership in Health Care (2nd session 8-Week Course, 75 Clinical Hours)	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>9</b>
<b>Summer</b>		
NURS 5000	Epidemiology	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>3</b>

### Year Two

<b>Fall</b>		
NURS 6150	Clinical Informatics (1st session 8-Week Course)	3
NURS 6120	Health Care Policy & Delivery Systems (2nd session 8-Week Course)	3
NURS 6160	Evidence-Based Practice I (75 Clinical Hours)	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>9</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
NURS 5200	Gen Research Methods	3
NURS 5110	Advanced Health Assessment Across the Lifespan I	2
NURS 5111	Advanced Health Assessment Across the Lifespan II: Diagnostic Reasoning	1
NURS 6170	Evidence-Based Practice II	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>9</b>

### Summer

NURS 6805	Introduction to Applied Statistics for Healthcare Research	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>3</b>

### Year Three

<b>Fall</b>		
NURS 5260	Advanced Clinical Studies I: The Acute Care Setting (! 150 Clinical Hours)	5
NURS 5900	Residency	0
<b>Credits</b>		<b>5</b>

### Spring

NURS 5270	Advanced Clinical Studies II: The Acute Care Setting (! 150 clinical hours)	5
NURS 5160	Principles of Practice Management	2
<b>Credits</b>		<b>7</b>

### Summer

NURS 5810	Advanced Practice Nursing Practicum: Adult Gerontological Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (AGACNP) (150 Clinical Hours)	2
<b>Credits</b>		<b>2</b>

### Year Four

<b>Fall</b>		
DNP Orientation		
NURS 6960	Doctor of Nursing Practice Project Management	3
NURS 5811	Advanced Practice Nursing Practicum: Adult Gerontological Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (AGACNP) (300 Clinical Hours)	4
NURS 6961	Doctor of Nursing Practice Project (225 Clinical Hours)	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>10</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>64</b>

## Family Nurse Practitioner

Course	Title	Credits
<b>Year One</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
NURS 5040	Advanced Practice Nursing: Role Acquisition	1
NURS 5170	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
NURS 5140	Health Promotion	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>7</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
NURS 6130	Interprofessional Collaboration (1st session 8-Week Course, 75 Clinical Hours)	3
NURS 6140	Leadership in Health Care (2nd session 8-Week Course, 75 Clinical Hours)	3
NURS 5080	Advanced Pharmacology	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>9</b>
<b>Summer</b>		
NURS 5000	Epidemiology	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>Year Two</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
NURS 6120	Health Care Policy & Delivery Systems (2nd session 8-Week Course)	3
NURS 6150	Clinical Informatics (1st session 8-Week Course)	3
NURS 6160	Evidence-Based Practice I (75 Clinical Hours)	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>9</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
NURS 5200	Gen Research Methods	3
NURS 5110	Advanced Health Assessment Across the Lifespan I	2
NURS 5111	Advanced Health Assessment Across the Lifespan II: Diagnostic Reasoning	1
NURS 6170	Evidence-Based Practice II	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>9</b>
<b>Summer</b>		
NURS 6805	Introduction to Applied Statistics for Healthcare Research	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>Year Three</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
NURS 5280	Advanced Clinical Studies I: Adults and Older Adults (150 Clinical Hours)	5
NURS 5900	Residency	0
<b>Credits</b>		<b>5</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
NURS 5290	Advanced Clinical Studies II: Women and Children (150 Clinical Hours)	5
NURS 5160	Principles of Practice Management	2
<b>Credits</b>		<b>7</b>

<b>Summer</b>		
NURS 5812	Advanced Practice Nursing Practicum: Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) (150 Clinical Hours)	2
<b>Credits</b>		<b>2</b>
<b>Year Four</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
NURS 6960	Doctor of Nursing Practice Project Management	3
NURS 5813	Advanced Practice Nursing Practicum: Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) (300 Clinical Hours)	4
NURS 6961	Doctor of Nursing Practice Project (225 Clinical Hours)	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>10</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>64</b>

## Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Concentration

Course	Title	Credits
<b>Year One</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
NURS 5040	Advanced Practice Nursing: Role Acquisition	1
NURS 5170	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
NURS 5140	Health Promotion	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>7</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
NURS 6130	Interprofessional Collaboration (1st session 8-Week Course, 75 Clinical Hours)	3
NURS 6140	Leadership in Health Care (2nd session 8-Week Course, 75 Clinical Hours)	3
NURS 5080	Advanced Pharmacology	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>9</b>
<b>Summer</b>		
NURS 5000	Epidemiology	3
NURS 5430	Psychopharmacology	2
<b>Credits</b>		<b>5</b>
<b>Year Two</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
NURS 6120	Health Care Policy & Delivery Systems (2nd session 8-Week Course)	3
NURS 6150	Clinical Informatics (1st session 8-Week Course)	3
NURS 6160	Evidence-Based Practice I (75 Clinical Hours)	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>9</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
NURS 5200	Gen Research Methods	3
NURS 5110	Advanced Health Assessment Across the Lifespan I	2
NURS 5111	Advanced Health Assessment Across the Lifespan II: Diagnostic Reasoning	1

NURS 6170	Evidence-Based Practice II	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>9</b>
<b>Summer</b>		
NURS 6805	Introduction to Applied Statistics for Healthcare Research	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>Year Three</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
NURS 5340	Advanced Clinical Studies I: Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing (150 Clinical Hours)	4
NURS 5900	Residency	0
<b>Credits</b>		<b>4</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
NURS 5350	Advanced Clinical Studies II: Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing (150 clinical hours)	5
NURS 5400	Psychotherapy in Advanced Practice Nursing	3
NURS 5160	Principles of Practice Management	2
<b>Credits</b>		<b>10</b>
<b>Summer</b>		
NURS 5814	Advanced Practice Nursing Practicum: Psychiatric Mental-Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) (150 Clinical Hours)	2
<b>Credits</b>		<b>2</b>
<b>Year Four</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
NURS 6960	Doctor of Nursing Practice Project Management	3
NURS 5815	Advanced Practice Nursing Practicum: Psychiatric Mental-Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) (300 Clinical Hours)	4
NURS 6961	Doctor of Nursing Practice Project (225 Clinical Hours)	3
<b>Credits</b>		<b>10</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>68</b>

## Contact Us

Apply for Admission (<https://nursingcas.org/>)

For additional admission questions, please contact the School of Nursing's recruitment and enrollment staff:

314-977-8995  
slunurse@slu.edu