About the Department
The Department of Nursing at Salisbury University provides rigorous, science-based programs taught by experienced faculty. The B.S., M.S. and D.N.P programs are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), providing objective validation of the quality of our curriculum. This quality is also evident in the consistently high NCLEX-RN pass rates of undergraduate students and the excellent certification rates for Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) graduates throughout the history of the program.

About the Post-B.S.-D.N.P. Program
The post-baccalaureate D.N.P. program allows students with a bachelor’s degree in nursing to enter directly into doctoral study while also earning the FNP credential. In addition to the core master’s and doctoral courses, students complete courses in advanced human physiology, advanced health assessment, family nursing, pharmacotherapeutics, adult health care management, women’s and children’s health care management, and issues in advanced nursing practice. Coursework includes a combination of didactic and clinical practicum experiences. Students must accrue 1,000 hours of clinical practicum hours prior to graduation. Graduates will be eligible to take the certification exams offered by the FNP American Nurses Credentialing Center and the American Academy of Nurses Practitioners.

About the D.N.P.
The D.N.P. is designed for registered nurses seeking terminal degrees in nursing practice and offers an alternative to research-focused doctoral programs. Nursing is moving in the direction of other health professions in the transition to the D.N.P. Medicine (M.D.), dentistry (D.D.S.), pharmacy (Pharm.D.), psychology (Psy.D.), physical therapy (D.P.T) and audiology (Aud.D.), all require or offer practice doctorates. D.N.P. graduates practice at the highest level, whether working with individuals, groups or organizations, and serve as leaders in health care in the state and region. The D.N.P. curriculum is designed to maximize nurses’ abilities to translate evidence into practice, and to use new knowledge about healthcare systems, quality improvement and information technology to improve healthcare outcomes in the region and beyond. Serving as leaders in healthcare reform, D.N.P. graduates are able to shape the future of healthcare, making revisions with purpose and efficiency.

D.N.P. graduates develop new strategies to meet the growing needs of patients with complex problems in multi-tiered health delivery systems. They are experts in the region’s healthcare systems, able to lead organizations and agencies as they revise their policies and procedures to meet the new demands of healthcare reform. D.N.P. graduates will also be able to move into clinical faculty roles, helping to ease the shortage of RNs in the area by serving as faculty for the local institutions of higher education.

Program Benefits
- Students of SU’s D.N.P. program benefit from:
  - close interaction with faculty who are engaged in local healthcare systems
  - small classes with a high level of faculty interaction
  - courses delivered in distance-accessible format
  - individualized coursework tailored to each student’s experience
  - competitive pricing in both tuition and fees

“The changing demands of this nation’s complex healthcare environment require the highest level of scientific knowledge and practice expertise to assure quality patient outcomes.” — American Association of Colleges of Nursing, 2017

www.salisbury.edu/nursing/dnp
Why the D.N.P.?
The D.N.P. program prepares family nurse practitioners to ease the shortage of primary health care providers and guide healthcare reform for the future. With increasingly complex patients and multi-layered systems of care, experts are needed in the field. D.N.P graduates are ideally suited to appraise, translate and utilize current research evidence with the ultimate goal of improving patient outcomes. Gaining the systems perspective, technological expertise and skills to translate research into practice will empower D.N.P. graduates to be healthcare leaders for the region.

As the push for hospitals to achieve Magnet status continues to gain momentum, highly educated nursing staff will continue to be in high demand. The D.N.P. credential will become increasingly valuable to nurses and the institutions where they are employed. Additionally, studies have shown that patient care is better with a more highly educated nursing staff.

Admission Requirements:
Admission to the post-B.S.-D.N.P. program requires acceptance to the University for graduate study, as well as acceptance into the post-B.S.-D.N.P. program. Admission to the post-B.S.-D.N.P. program is a competitive process, and the following required items are considered as final:
- Official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended.
- B.S. in nursing from a nationally accredited program.
- Applicants with GPA of 3.50 (on a 4.0 scale) for the B.S. (nursing) are given first priority; applicants with B.S. (nursing) program GPA 3.0–3.49 may be considered on an individual basis.
- Proof of successful completion of Statistics and Research (minimum grade of C required).
- GRE - Analytical Writing Score (minimum 3.5/6.0).
- Current and active United States Registered Nursing (RN) license.
- Current resume or curriculum vitae.
- Three academic or professional references / letters of recommendation
- A 500 to 1,000-word essay outlining the differences between the D.N.P. and other doctoral degrees and how the D.N.P. aligns with the applicant’s professional goals.
- Residency/Domicile Information form (for those students applying for in-state tuition).
- Documents required of international students: Please consult the Center for International Education at (www.salisbury.edu/inted/ISS/admissions).
- Proficiency in spoken and written English with the following minimum TOEFL scores: 550 for the paper-based examination and 79 for the Internet-based examination.

All post-B.S.-D.N.P applicants will be interviewed by the graduate program director or designee. Clinical experience is not required for the post-B.S.-D.N.P., but students are encouraged to work in professional nursing roles during summer and semester breaks.

FACULTY
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- Associate Professor Debra A. Webster, Ed.D., RN-BC, CNE
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