Nursing Department: Post-Master’s-Doctor of Nursing Practice Program

-About the Department
The Department of Nursing at Salisbury University provides a rigorous, science-based program 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 also is evident in the consistently excellent certification rates for Family Nurse Practitioner graduates throughout the history of the program.

About the Post-Master’s D.N.P.
Doctor of Nursing Practice (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 post-master’s D.N.P. curriculum is designed to maximize nurses’ abilities to translate evidence into practice, and to utilize new knowledge about healthcare systems, quality improvement and information technology to improve healthcare outcomes in the region.

Serving as leaders in healthcare reform, D.N.P. graduates are able to shape the future of healthcare, making revisions with purpose and efficiency. Post-master’s 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.

Students of SU’s Post-Master’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
- individualized coursework tailored to each students experience
- competitive pricing in both tuition and fees
- courses delivered in distance-accessible format

Why the Post-Master’s D.N.P.?
The Post-Master’s D.N.P. Program prepares leaders in nursing practice to guide healthcare reform for the future. With increasingly complex patients and multi-layered systems of care, experts are needed in the field. Nurses have traditionally worked closely with patients and are well-suited to guide future reform measures to focus on 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.

Many hospitals are moving toward Magnet status. Having a highly educated nursing staff facilitates this move toward excellence; therefore, the D.N.P. credential is highly 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.

“Th e 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

D.N.P. STUDENTS
SU’s Post-Master’s D.N.P. Program is for nurses in advanced practice roles, including:
- Nurse Executives
- Nurse Educators
- Nurse Practitioners
- Clinical Nurse Specialists
- Nurse Midwives
- Nurse Anesthetists

About the Curriculum
The post-master’s D.N.P. curriculum incorporates interdepartmental course work designed to address the varied educational needs of the D.N.P. students and to meet the American Association of Colleges of Nursing’s (2006) Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Nursing Practice.

Students develop new strategies to improve safety in healthcare, to use resources more efficiently, to increase evidence-based practice, and to integrate information technology and quality improvement strategies throughout all levels of care. Twenty-seven credit hours in nursing, finance and political science comprise the core of the curriculum, with another eight credit hours relating directly to the D.N.P. Project and Practicum coursework taken toward the end of the program. Additionally, a three-credit graduate elective chosen by the student with the approval of his or her advisor is used to supplement the core requirements and is tailored to student interests.

The program is designed to span approximately three years, with some variability due to individual students’ needs for clinical hours. Courses are
taught by experienced faculty, with small classes that foster close student-faculty working relationships. Classes are delivered in a distance-accessible format with occasional face-to-face meetings held on campus generally in the evenings.

The D.N.P. prepares graduates to manage complex health care needs in a cost effective and collaborative manner. The curriculum emphasizes the use of evidence-based practice and technology to guide administrative and clinical decisions, as well as policy development. D.N.P. students work with an advisor and committee to complete their D.N.P. Project and Practicum requirements for graduation. There are an unlimited number of possibilities for Projects and Practicum ideas. Sample areas of focus include:
- evidence-based practice initiatives
- quality improvement strategies
- information technology innovations
- health policy reforms

Clinical Hours Requirement
Students ultimately must have 1,000 total clinical hours for program completion and may need to take additional credits if they had fewer than 600 clinical hours in their M.S. program. All students must complete a minimum of 400 practicum hours at Salisbury University while enrolled in the D.N.P. Program. Program plans will be individually determined between the student and the director of the D.N.P. Program.

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