

**A PROPOSAL FOR A MULTI-CAMPUS COLLABORATIVE
DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE DEGREE PROGRAM AT
THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**

Executive Summary

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree is a professional doctorate designed to develop competencies for advanced clinical and leadership roles. In 2004 The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) recommended the establishment of the DNP as the professional, practice-focused doctoral degree in nursing. According to AACN by 2015 it is expected that the DNP will be the required credential for Advanced Practice Registered Nursing (APRN) certification, including the roles of Clinical Nurse Specialist, Nurse Practitioner, Certified Nurse Midwife and Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist.

DNP programs prepare students at the highest level for careers in leadership and advanced nursing practice. Programs admitting post-master's students, such as this proposed program, build on master's level competencies in clinical practice, scholarship, leadership, and advocacy. The proposed collaborative, multi-campus DNP program will be jointly developed by the four UC campuses that have current nursing programs (UC Davis; UC Irvine; UCLA; and UCSF) and will be predicated on the AACN DNP Essentials as described in the proposal narrative. This unique collaborative effort will leverage the collective education, leadership, research and clinical talent of faculty associated with the four schools. It will provide didactic and project-focused content and mentoring over a seven-consecutive-quarter curriculum model, utilizing distributed online and live learning strategies.

Establishing this collaborative DNP program in the UC system will be beneficial and DNP students will be uniquely able to enhance the campuses' academic and research missions. This unique program will increase opportunities to prepare APRNs to meet the demands of a changing healthcare landscape. The collaborative program design will capitalize on the educational richness of participating campuses, represent a strong educational brand unrivaled in the state, and present a model of fiscal sustainability. The four UC nursing campuses are known nationally and internationally for their innovative research, education and clinical practice excellence. The DNP graduate will complement other faculty in education and mentoring of students, and expand opportunities for new educational models, practice innovation and other healthcare improvements.

Program Administration

The program will be managed by an overarching Program Director (PD), responsible for implementation, governance and accreditation of the program. Each campus will have a dedicated Associate PD, who will be the liaison between students and program administration, maintain records of student progress, and provide oversight for individual campus faculty. Both PD and Associate PD may participate in teaching. Program faculty at each campus will teach and contribute to the program based on their clinical and academic expertise. Core coursework will be a shared programmatic responsibility, and each participating campus will support delivery of a portion of core courses, as well as immersion and capstone project experiences. Administrative support staff will be available on each campus to support admissions, recruitment, course scheduling, technology use and other faculty needs. All administrative, technology and faculty support needs will be accommodated through each campus' program budget. Each campus is moving forward with a planned three-site program at the start. A

contingency plan has also been developed for two campuses to start and the remaining two campuses to join once appropriate approvals are obtained.

Core faculty necessary for and interested in teaching DNP students have been identified at each campus. Collectively the faculty has strengths in teaching, curriculum development, distance-based education, leadership, research and clinical practice. These faculty resources will be augmented as needed by hiring additional faculty with funds generated by program fees. The DNP program is designed to be self-sustaining and managed exclusive of state funding. Tuition and fees will be set to ensure an adequate operational portfolio, while ensuring program marketability. Anticipated technology needs to deliver online coursework will be shared across the program campuses, and will utilize a single online vendor (UC Irvine Distance Learning Center) that will support faculty development and course administration needs. Because the proposed DNP degree program is a new degree as well as substantially online, appropriate accreditation will be sought from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) and the Western Association of Colleges of Nursing (WASC). A plan for ongoing program evaluation has been crafted, as indicated in the narrative.

The UC Collaborative DNP Program will be administered by each participating campus under the oversight of the PD. The application process for all prospective students will be the same for each participating campus. Students will rank a home campus, which will be the designated campus to support the DNP Project and residency work upon admission. Although all admission requirements and tuition will be identical for each applicant, each campus will maintain a separate budget. Currently employed students will be encouraged to apply, as linkages between potential DNP projects and the workplace are considered desirable. The per-quarter coursework load is consistent with other DNP programs and can accommodate employment simultaneously. Every effort will be made to keep the student cohort unified, though students desiring part-time study will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The anticipated enrollment for year one of the program is ten students per campus, with a ramp-up enrollment to 20 students per campus per cohort by year 3-5. Enrollments are anticipated to occur once annually.

Curriculum

The DNP program will build on master's level preparation. The focus on the DNP is on leadership, health policy and evidence-based practice and quality care. Students will be mentored in their roles through residencies with nursing leaders and/or leaders in senior healthcare management positions. These residencies may take place in or near the student's work setting or place of residence, and will be held separate from compensated employment. DNP program faculty will mentor and facilitate the residency process throughout the program of study. Multiple distributive learning strategies will be used for coursework including web-conferencing, online and face-to-face, and will include both synchronous and asynchronous methods. Approximately 80% of didactic coursework including core courses and the DNP Project series will be supported through online strategies. A total of 51 quarter units will be required for graduation, which is within the range of units required by the majority of DNP programs nationally. Of these, 17 units represent residency experiences in a mentored practice site. The program is designed as a seven- consecutive-quarter curriculum and can be completed in less than two years. This program duration is within the range of many DNP programs nationally, and thus enhances our marketability.

To satisfy AACN requirements for the DNP degree, students must complete a total of 1000 post-Baccalaureate practice residency hours. Up to 500 hours of advanced practice Master's degree and post-Master's certification program clinical hours will be accepted as part of this 1000 hour requirement. The program will directly support the remaining hours as residency. A series of residency-support courses, DNP Project Courses I-IV, will strategically parallel these residency hours longitudinally.

Adequate learner socialization with peers and role development are valued by the program. Three required on-site, credit-bearing immersion courses (Prologue, Intersession and Epilogue) will be held at the beginning, midpoint and conclusion of the curriculum to provide students the opportunity to interact directly with the entire cohort of peers and faculty, and access campus resources as needed. During quarter 5 the Intersession course will coincide with the DNP residency and project course series, as well as entry of the next student cohort. This will provide additional opportunities for peer interaction, mentorship and team building.

The proposed coursework for the DNP builds on the clinical, research, leadership and policy content of the Master’s program and is expected to complement the PhD program by providing opportunities for PhD and DNP faculty and learners to collaborate in generation and translation of research. Students will have an enriched educational experience made possible through multiple UC programs within the same academic units, and will benefit from collective faculty expertise in evidence-based and translational research, clinical expertise across the lifespan, leadership and policy.

Sample UC DNP Program Curriculum

	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Year 1	DNP Prologue (2u) Concepts & Contemporary Issues for the DNP (3u) Critical Appraisal of EBP (3u)	Methods & Measurements for Translational Practice Inquiry (3u) Improving Health Outcomes Through QI & Pt. Safety (3u)	Adv. Health Policy & Advocacy (3u) Organizational Systems & health Economics (3 u) DNP Project I: Conceptualization & Planning (1u)	Transforming Healthcare Through Interprofessional Collaboration (3u) Adv. Concepts in Clinical Prevention & Population Health (3 u) DNP Residency (2u)
	8	6	7	8
	Quarter 5	Quarter 6	Quarter 7	
Year 2	DNP Intersession (2u) DNP Project II: Project Proposal (1u) DNP Residency (5u)	DNP Project III: Project Implementation (1u) DNP Residency (5u)	DNP Epilogue (2u) DNP Project IV: Project Evaluation (1u) DNP Residency (5u)	
	8	6	8	
				Total: 51 units