The School of Nursing Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program prepares nurses for leadership roles as advanced practice nurses (clinical nurse specialists or nurse practitioners) who provide direct care and lead practice development and evaluation. Students in the DNP program choose from three population foci: adult/gerontology (acute care or primary care), pediatrics, or psychiatric mental health. Those interested in dual preparation as an advanced practice nurse and nurse educator may add a nursing education focus.

The program is available for nurses with a baccalaureate degree in nursing (post-B.S. option) and nurses with a master’s degree in nursing practice (post-M.S. option). Students admitted to either option follow the course sequence designated in the program plan and progress as a group.

The program of study features a combination of formal course work, clinical practice, and scholarly inquiry. Most coursework is delivered in a hybrid format, utilizing both required in-person class sessions and distance learning technologies.