

DOCTOR *of* NURSING PRACTICE

BSN-DNP Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the benefit of completing the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree?

The Doctor of Nursing Practice degree has additional competencies beyond the independent nurse practitioner core competencies. These competencies will advance nursing practice to the highest level and includes leadership, quality, evidence based practice and inquiry, technology and information literacy, health policy, and health systems.

2. What is the population focus being offered for the BSN-DNP program at Baptist College?

The population focus is the **Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner**. This role specifically works with the acutely ill patient, which may be seen in a variety of settings, but is considered to be physiologically unstable, technologically dependent, or highly vulnerable to complications. These patients include adolescence throughout adulthood.

3. Will Baptist offer any other concentrations in the future?

There are plans to offer additional concentrations. Those decisions will be communicated as timely as possible.

4. What are the minimum requirements for acceptance to the BSN-DNP program at Baptist College?

- Applicants must have an earned Baccalaureate in Science of Nursing degree or a Master of Science in Nursing (entry level) from a regionally accredited college or university.
- Earned cumulative GPA of 3.0/4.0 scale on all collegiate course work, or 3.2/4.0 during their nursing degree program.
- Must be in good standing and eligible to return to any institution previously attended.
- Hold an unencumbered Tennessee RN nursing license or have unencumbered authority to practice as an RN via multi-state privilege at the time of application, and maintain licensure requirements throughout the duration of the program of study.
- Be a United States citizen or permanent resident.
- English proficient; TOEFL test requirement for those whose native tongue is not English.
- Complete two years of clinical nursing experience in an acute care setting prior to enrolling in the clinical courses. One year of experience in caring for the critically ill patients is desired.
- Submit a written essay outlining the applicant's professional goals, expectations and desired achievements from the program.
- Submission of a professional resume'.
- Complete a faculty panel interview.

5. How many credit hours are in the curriculum?

The curriculum totals 63 credit hours and 1080 practice hours.

6. How long will it take to complete the program full-time?

The full-time curriculum is designed to be completed in eight trimesters, which is about three full years.

7. Is the program being offered online?

The program is not considered to be fully online. However, much of the course delivery format will be facilitated in an online or hybrid learning format.

8. Will Baptist accept part time students? How long will that program take?

The first cohort of students will admit under the full-time program timeline. A part-time option is anticipated in the future and will take four years to complete.

9. I have my Associate degree or Diploma in nursing. Can I enter this program with my current credentials?

This program is designed for the post baccalaureate graduate. Baptist College offers a RN-BSN degree option. Once you have attained your BSN, you could then apply for the post BSN-DNP program.

10. I have already taken some Master's level courses. Will Baptist accept them for transfer credit?

Baptist does have a Transfer Credit policy and will evaluate potential courses for transfer based on comparable curriculum objectives and age of the course. Decisions are made on an individual basis.

11. What licensure requirements are there for Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioners? Does APRN licensure cross other states?

After program completion, you will sit for the Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner certification exam through the American Nurses Credentialing Center or through the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses. Once certified, you are then able to apply for advanced practice licensure in the state you are requesting practice. There is no multi-state licensure for APRNs. Currently, APRNs must carry an advanced practice license for each state they are practicing in.

12. Who can I contact for more information?

For program specific information, please contact the Acting Graduate Program Chair, Dr. Cathy Stepter at cathy.stepter@bchs.edu or 901-572-2505.

For application and admissions information, please contact the Graduate Program admissions officer, Chris Cotton at christopher.cotton@bchs.edu or 901-572-2465.