Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

Post-BSN to DNP Degree: Viterbo University’s graduate nursing program is specifically designed to be relevant and responsive to the needs of practicing professional nurses who wish to formally advance their knowledge and skills and seek an advanced nursing role. The program track choices include the family nurse practitioner (individual and family/life span) or the adult-gerontology nurse practitioner role, both specific to primary care.

Post-MSN to DNP Degree:
- Option One: For certified and practicing nurse practitioners who want to expand their knowledge, skills, and influence within their previously chosen role preparation and earn the DNP.
- Option Two: An extended program that includes the additional course work necessary to be eligible for initial certification as an adult-gero or family nurse practitioner along with earning the DNP.
- Option Three: For MSN* prepared nurses who are not APRNs and who wish to pursue advanced specialty practice with the aggregate/systems/organizational focus. *A master’s degree in a related field may be considered.

The Viterbo University Difference
At Viterbo, the graduate nursing program is small and personal. The dedicated faculty members are well prepared in both their respective nursing roles and teaching. They also are very approachable and student-centered. The curriculum has been planned with working professionals and commuter students in mind, with classes held in a blended online/on-campus delivery method. The nursing building brings with it cutting edge technology and friendly, learner-centered spaces. The curriculum is based on the expressed needs for all nursing professionals in advanced roles to have increased knowledge of informatics and health care technologies, quality improvement and safety, organizational and systems leadership, interprofessional collaboration for improving patient/population outcomes, and advocacy, as well as an advanced scientific and humanities-based background for practice (AACN, The Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Nursing Practice, 2006).

Graduate in Nursing Program Mission
The graduate program prepares nursing leaders who are dedicated to improving the health outcomes of diverse populations through advanced knowledge and skills, and faithful service within their chosen roles and settings.

For More Information
www.viterbo.edu/gradnursing
Graduate Outcomes

This program will prepare graduates who:
- practice in an expanded, specialized, and/or advanced practice role.
- affirm the dignity of life and human diversity.
- advocate for quality outcomes for individuals, families, populations, and systems.
- demonstrate ethical leadership and faithful service in their chosen roles and settings.
- facilitate the translation of research and evidence into practice.
- utilize technology to impact best practice.

Curriculum

The Post-BSN to DNP degree offers foundational courses and advanced role/population specific practice courses that prepare graduates for a selected primary care nurse practitioner role and population focus. This degree can be accomplished in four years of study. Total credits and clinical hours needed for graduation vary according to choice of tracks.

- **Option One:** program for currently practicing NPs can be accomplished in two years. Mostly online courses reduce the number of campus visits necessary each semester. Some classes are completely online. Clinical practicums require additional time and can be done in the student’s home location if possible.
- **Option Two:** program includes initial NP preparation and is an extended program of four years.

The Post-MSN to DNP degree program is for applicants who wish to pursue advanced specialty practice with the aggregate/systems/organizational focus. This degree can be accomplished in three years of study.

Cost/Financial Aid

Fee per credit is based on the specific courses in which the student is enrolled. Lab fees, clinical fees, and specific DNP fees may apply. The base cost/credit is currently $750 for 2015–16. Federal student loans may be available to those who qualify. Contact the Viterbo University financial aid office for more information at 608-796-3900.

Certification

Graduates of the family nurse practitioner and adult-gerontology nurse practitioner tracks are eligible to apply for the national certification exams available for these primary care roles (AANPCP, ANCC).

Accreditation

- The North Central Commission on Higher Education
- Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (currently accredited at the MSN level; accreditation at the DNP level will be applied for at the prescribed time)
Application Procedure
Visit our Web page at www.viterbo.edu/gradnursing to apply online and for instructions about additional documentation needed to complete the application, and also for expanded curricular information. Qualifying for the first priority admission review requires a complete application by Jan. 15. Continued review of applications and acceptance will be ongoing until the limits are met or until May 1. Those interested are encouraged to have all of their materials in by the end of December if possible.

Admission Requirements

Post-BSN to DNP Program:
• A bachelor’s degree in nursing from an NLNAC or CCNE accredited school with a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or greater on a 4.0 scale.
• One year of relevant professional practice as an RN prior to beginning classes.
• Official scores on Miller Analogies Test (MAT). MAT score is waived if applicant has at least five graduate credits at B or better. Information on taking the MAT exam in La Crosse can be obtained by calling the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse at 608-785-8074. Persons in other locations in Minnesota, Iowa, or Wisconsin should check www.viterbo.edu/gradnursing for more information. Advance arrangements are necessary at all sites. A “Candidate Information” booklet for the MAT is available at www.milleranalogies.com. GRE may be substituted for the MAT if student prefers.

Post-MSN to DNP Program:
• A master’s degree in nursing from an NLNAC or CCNE accredited school with a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or greater on a 4.0 scale.
• Current certification and practice as a nurse practitioner, unless seeking initial NP Preparation as part of the Post-MSN to DNP or seeking the Ethical Leadership track.

Additional admission documents for both programs:
• Completed application (includes recommendations, and personal statement).
• Transcripts from undergraduate and graduate education (see instructions on the application).
• Evidence of current unrestricted licensure as a registered nurse and/or certification as a nurse practitioner.
Additional Prerequisite/Ongoing Requirements:

Post-BSN to DNP:
- Prior introductory statistics course and introductory research course (graduate or undergraduate)

Post-MSN to DNP:
- Satisfactory completion of graduate courses in advanced pathophysiology, advanced pharmacology, and advanced health assessment (for options one and two), or must take at Viterbo if seeking initial NP preparation
- Satisfactory completion of undergraduate or graduate research course and statistics course

Both programs:
- The ability to meet both university and clinical agency health and personnel requirements, including specified immunizations and satisfactory criminal/caregiver required background checks, throughout program.
- A highly functioning personal computer, high speed Internet, and at least intermediate level personal computer skills (ability to use the Microsoft Windows environment, the Internet, Microsoft Word, and PowerPoint) are necessary.
- Evidence of current CPR throughout program.

For further information regarding admission contact:

Mary Ellen Stolder, Ph.D., ANP-BC
Graduate Nursing Program Director
Viterbo University School of Nursing
900 Viterbo Drive
La Crosse, WI 54601
608-796-3625

or

Bobbi Hundt
Graduate Nursing Program Administrative Assistant
Viterbo University School of Nursing
900 Viterbo Drive
La Crosse, WI 54601
608-796-3671

Graduate Nursing Program
Curricular Model

Apply online at https://www.viterbo.edu/applyonline.aspx