

Fast-Track DNP to PhD Program Proposal

Students currently matriculated in the Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) program at UMass Lowell may apply for admission to the Doctorate of Philosophy (PhD) Program while still in the DNP program. This innovative option allows students to “double count” two courses – for both degrees, saving time and money upon completion of the PhD program.

Admission Requirements:

- Completion of 12 UMass Lowell credits in the DNP program
- Students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5 in the DNP program at the time of the application.
- A final GPA of 3.5 in the DNP Program
- Satisfactory GRE Score
- An interview with PhD nursing faculty.
- Three letters of recommendation
- Graduate application form completed (graduate application fee will be waived)
- Personal statement letter of professional goals and research interests
- Curriculum vitae

Before graduating from the DNP program, students must meet with a PhD program advisor and develop a course plan for the PhD program.

Recommendations for courses to be counted for both programs include:*

Up to six credits of graduate-level (700) courses may be taken by a student in the UMass Lowell DNP program to be counted toward both DNP and PhD degrees. Courses credited to the PhD degree require a grade B or better.

1) Courses that are required in both programs that could be counted for both programs include:

- a) Epidemiology in Health Promotion NURS.7070 (online) and/or
- b) PUBH.5770, Introduction to Biostats OR PSYC.7000 Advanced Quantitative Methods

2) One of the following required PhD courses could take the place of the elective in DNP program:

- NURS.7130 Curriculum and Teaching in Nursing (blended) (3 cr.)
- NURS.7020 Theoretical Foundations of Health Promotion (blended) (3 cr.)
- NURS.7160 Qualitative Research (blended) (3 cr.)
- NURS.7310 Health Promotion Research (blended) (3 cr.)
- NURS.7300 Quantitative Research Methods and Grantsmanship (online or blended)

- Other courses choices would need to be approved on a case by case basis by the DNP Coordinator and the PhD Program Director.
- **Note:** Courses that were double counted as part of the UMass Lowell Fast-Track **BS to MS** or **MS to DNP** program cannot be counted again as a course for UMass Lowell Fast-Track **DNP to PhD** program. There is no “triple” counting of course across three programs.