

# SETTING THE STANDARD

## DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

The changing demands of this nation's complex health care environment require the highest level of scientific knowledge and practice expertise to assure high quality patient outcomes.

Creighton University School of Nursing is the first in the state to offer the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree, the highest level of preparation for clinical practice. Noted for innovative programs that keep pace with the ever-changing field of nursing, Creighton has earned a national reputation for providing excellence in nursing education and commitment to service. With less than 100 schools offering the DNP degree, Creighton is among the universities setting the standard.

The DNP is designed for nurses seeking a terminal degree in nursing practice and offers an alternative to research-focused doctoral programs. The DNP is a professional doctorate, such as a doctor of pharmacy, doctor of physical therapy or doctor of medicine.

### ► PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE NOW

The Institute of Medicine and others have issued a call for the transformation of health care. While all levels of nurses will continue to be in high demand and play important roles in health care delivery, it will be those that hold a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree who will be responsible for leading the evolution of the health care field.

"Creighton University School of Nursing DNP graduates will be equipped to provide the leadership. They will be competent in translating research into practice, evaluating evidence, applying research in decision-making and implementing viable innovations

to change practice," says Eleanor Howell, Ph.D., R.N., dean of the Creighton University School of Nursing.

Howell attributes the movement toward doctoral preparation to the increasing complexity of health care, expanded knowledge, as well as a move to doctoral preparations by other health professions, such as pharmacy, occupational therapy and physical therapy.

**"Health care delivery is moving towards an interdisciplinary system with a team consisting of nurse, physician, pharmacist and other specialists delivering core care," Howell says. "Nurses with clinical expertise and communication skills such as negotiation, mediation, facilitation, and dialogue techniques will be imperative."**

Through courses with Creighton University's Werner Institute for Negotiation and Dispute Resolution, the most richly endowed program of its kind in the country, Creighton DNP's will be able to guide communication and teamwork, as well as shape policy on bioethics, patient safety and best practices.

### ► READY TO LEAD THE WAY

The DNP is designed for professionals that are eager to do more.

**"I had been practicing as a nurse practitioner and teaching graduate students — very fulfilling and challenging endeavors — but I felt something was missing," said Katie**



Archana Chatterjee, MD, and Katie O'Keefe, DNP, confer on a course of care for their patient. Interdisciplinary collaboration and teamwork are key competencies needed for the 21st century health care delivery system.

**O’Keefe, DNP, APRN, assistant professor of nursing at Creighton University School of Nursing. “I wanted a more integrated practice experience. The DNP degree filled a gap in my nursing education.** As a DNP clinician, I feel that my practice is more innovative and evidence-based. As an educator, I feel even more prepared to encourage and mentor graduate students.”

DNPs will be prepared to seek a practice leadership role in a variety of settings — manager of quality initiatives, executive in a health care organization, director of clinical programs, or a faculty position responsible for clinical program delivery and clinical teaching.

Creighton University School of Nursing is committed to working with DNP students to match a program of studies to their individual needs and career goals. And as the first in the state to offer this program, students will no longer have to travel outside of the region to pursue their DNP degree.

“Creighton has always supported me in my educational goals,” says Creighton DNP student Joyce Sasse, a psychiatric nurse practitioner and clinical nurse specialist. “Fewer physicians are seeking degrees in the cognitive sciences, such as psychiatry, and DNPs will be able to fill the shortages.”

## ▶ THE CREIGHTON DIFFERENCE

Creighton University, founded in 1878, is on the forefront as one of the finest Jesuit, Catholic universities in the United States. We are sustained by our tradition, which seeks to educate women and men who are not only proficient in their professions, but enlivened with a

spirit of service to create a more just world. We educate competent, compassionate and committed students who can become agents of change.

Creighton faculty members have clinical practices and conduct research to enhance teaching, to contribute to the betterment of society, and to discover new knowledge. Faculty and staff stimulate rigorous critical and creative thinking and provide ethical perspectives for dealing with an increasingly complex world.

Service and outreach experiences offered through our programs are an important hallmark of a Creighton education. Doctor of Nursing Practice graduates will be prepared to help build connections for better understanding and partner with all people, all communities and all societies in health care delivery and the shaping of health policy.



*Katie O’Keefe, DNP, believes that her practice is more innovative and evidence-based after completing the DNP program — making her an even better clinician than before.*

For more information, contact Erron Holland at (800) 544-5071 or [nursing@creighton.edu](mailto:nursing@creighton.edu).

## DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE CURRICULUM

### Research/Theory Core Courses

Statistical and Data Analysis for Evidence-Based Nursing Practice

Epidemiology

Exploring Evidence for Improving Outcomes

Evaluative Methods for Evidence-Based Nursing Practice

DNP Scholarly Project Seminar

### Leadership/Policy Core Courses

Care Management and Outcomes Improvement

Systems and Dispute Systems Design

Approaches for Improving Collaboration and Resolving Conflicts in Health Care Organizations

Ethical Dimensions of Health Services and Leadership Policy

Health Care Policy and Law

### Roles

#### Clinical Nurse Specialist\*

- Adult
- Behavioral Health (under development)

- Neonatal
- Pediatric (acute care focus)

#### Nurse Practitioner\*

- Adult Acute Care
- Adult Primary Care
- Adult Behavioral Health
- Family Primary Care
- Neonatal
- Pediatric Acute Care

#### Clinical Systems Administration

#### Advanced Public Health Nurse

- Public Global Health (under development)

### Specialty Areas

- Gerontology
- Oncology
- Cardiology

\*Additional courses in curriculum, instruction, and educational evaluation are available to students regardless of their specific role option. The education courses are based on graduate level competencies, rather than baccalaureate level competencies.

- Principles of Learning & Instruction
- Educational Evaluation
- Practicum in Community-Based Teaching-Learning

Electives are offered in health systems administration, education, gerontology, oncology, cardiology, community global health and behavioral health nursing.

To best serve our students, we regularly explore specialty courses and populations for special emphasis in the graduate curriculum. The curriculum is subject to change.

**Creighton**  
UNIVERSITY

### School of Nursing

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