About the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program
The University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) College of Nursing (CON) offers a program of graduate study leading to a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree. The DNP is designed for nurses seeking a terminal degree in nursing practice and offers an alternative to research-focused doctoral programs. It prepares nurse leaders for the highest level of professional nursing practice. Graduates will have an exceptional blend of clinical, organizational, economic, and leadership skills and be prepared to contribute to health care transformation as practitioner-scholars. Doctoral nursing practice encompasses advanced clinical practice that influences health care outcomes for individuals, families, and populations including the direct care of individual patients, management and care coordination for individuals and populations, administration of nursing and health care organizations, and the development and implementation of health policy.

The DNP creates opportunities for advancement in nursing including clinical and health systems leadership, changing health care delivery, improving patient outcomes, and clinical teaching in higher education. The DNP program is consistent with the national agenda to transform American health care offering opportunities for inter-professional collaboration and health care policy advocacy. In addition, it is supported by the National Academy of Science, which has advocated for the development of professional practice doctorates as a route to advanced clinical work in nursing.

The DNP curriculum at UIC consists of three domains of competencies for advanced practice in direct clinical care or systems (DNP core practice, specialty-specific practice, and role competencies). Our mission is to develop advanced practitioners of nursing into evidenced-based, intra-disciplinary providers who meet the needs of a rapidly expanding healthcare field.

DNP Degree Requirements
Degree requirements vary by option (post-baccalaureate, post-masters) and by specialty area. Individual program plans are developed in conjunction with an advisor upon admission into a DNP program. Most students will complete the program in 3-6 years (varies by specialty, route of entry, and part-time or full-time enrollment).

How to Apply
- An admission cohort will begin the DNP curriculum each fall semester.
- For admission consideration, the UIC Graduate application and all supplemental materials must be received by January 15 of the calendar year in which the student desires entry.
- Required application materials include:
  - UIC Professional application (available online)
  - Application fee
  - Transcripts
  - Nursing Supplemental application
  - Current résumé
  - Three letters of recommendation (electronic submission)
  - Official GRE scores required if cumulative GPA from the most recently completed degree (baccalaureate or higher) is less than 3.25/4.00.

Information Sessions
Information sessions are offered throughout the year at our regional campuses and in Chicago. Details about upcoming sessions are available at http://go.uic.edu/nursinginfosessions.

Additional Information
For additional information about the DNP or our other degree programs, please visit our website at http://www.nursing.uic.edu/academics-admissions or contact: University of Illinois at Chicago College of Nursing 845 South Damen Avenue (MC 802) Chicago, IL 60612 Phone: 312.996.7800
About the Neonatal Nurse Practitioner (NNP) Program

The Neonatal Nurse Practitioner DNP Program was developed using the foundation of Patient and Family-Centered Care within Advanced Practice Nursing Education.

The Neonatal Nurse Practitioner Program at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) College of Nursing (CON) was developed to educate and prepare advanced practice neonatal nurses to manage and care for the ill neonate, as well as partner with their families to improve outcomes. This program is highly specialized and clinically focused in order to provide comprehensive, hands-on, culturally competent, evidence-based care.

Students in the NNP program at UIC will explore evidenced-based practice, interprofessional collaboration, quality, safety, health technology, and health policy. Graduates of the UIC NNP program are prepared for direct care roles as a Neonatal Nurse Practitioners and are leaders in developing clinical programs that improve outcomes for high-risk infants and families, particularly those in community-based referral centers serving rural and medically underserved areas.

DNP Program of Study

The NNP/DNP concentration consists of 84 hours of course work in a hybrid environment that includes online, blended, and on-campus courses (available at our regional campuses in Chicago, Peoria, Quad Cities, Rockford, or Urbana). It requires 1000 hours of clinical practica; approximately 600 of the required clinical hours are in the NNP clinical specialty. Clinical practica are arranged at Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Units with experienced NNP preceptors.

NUSP 549 Biological Basis for Women’s Health and Perinatal Nursing II (2 credit hours): The anatomy, physiology, and genetics of conception, embryonic development, and fetal and neonatal growth and development as the biological basis for women’s health and perinatal nursing.

NUSP 560 Advanced Neonatal Management I: The High Risk Neonate (4 credit hours): Focuses on the unique nursing care and to meet neurodevelopmental needs and vulnerabilities of high-risk infants emphasizing patient and family centered care practices that enhance outcomes.

NUSP 561 Advanced Neonatal Management II: The Acutely Ill Infant (3 credit hours): Focuses on the assessment, stabilization, and theoretical management of acutely ill infants with common problems associated with prematurity while emphasizing the development of the parental care partnership.

NUSP 562 Advanced Neonatal Management III: The Gravely Ill Infant (3 credit hours): Focuses on complex disturbances, alterations, and multi-organ interactions of the cardiopulmonary, neuromuscular, neurosurgical, renal, and gastrointestinal systems while fostering and supporting the parental partnership in the gravely ill infants care.

NUSP 563 Essentials of Patient and Family Centered Care (2 credit hours): Analysis of theoretical and research components of socio-culturally appropriate patient and family centered care, as well as its impact on patients, families, health delivery, and outcomes.

NUPR 574 Advanced Neonatal Nurse Clinical Practicum (15 credit hours): A 15-credit-hour practicum that responds to advanced nursing role changes and emphasizes the integration of theory into practice with the development of clinical expertise.

NUPR 574 Advanced Neonatal Nurse Clinical Practicum (15 credit hours): Incorporating the principles of patient and family centered care the student will assess, stabilize, and manage infants with common or complex disturbances, physiologic alterations, and multi-organ system dysfunction while addressing their unique neurodevelopmental needs and vulnerabilities in partnership with the parents.

NNP Program Faculty

To discuss an individual program plan, please contact:

Mary Puchalski, DNP, APN, CNS, NNP-BC
Neonatal Nurse Practitioner Program Director
312.996.7929
mpuchal@uic.edu

Additional information about the NNP program is available at http://go.uic.edu/nnp.