DNP Admissions
Frequently Asked Questions

What is the timeline for admissions?

We admit students for the fall semester only. The application opens in early September and all application materials (including transcripts) must be received by February 1. The faculty admissions committee reviews applications in February and March. Applicants will be notified in April of the admission decision.

What are you looking for in an application?

We conduct a comprehensive review of applications to identify the best candidates for admission to the program. Specifically, we are looking for evidence of your academic ability, potential for leadership and understanding of the advanced practice role.

What is a Statement of Purpose?

The Statement of Purpose is an important part of the application for admission because it offers you an opportunity to expand on your academic and professional background as reflected in your transcript and CV and share your motivation and goals for pursuing a clinical doctoral degree. The statement also provides the review committee evidence of your ability to communicate your ideas in writing.

Please address the following topics in your statement and limit your response to a maximum of 1000 words. (4 pages, double spaced, upload as a PDF)

1. Role - Briefly describe your current professional role. Discuss your motivation for pursuing doctoral study and your vision of how the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree will help you attain your short- and long-term goals.
2. Problem-solving ability - Identify and describe a significant clinical and/or system problem. Explain why this is a clinical problem, what steps you may take to investigate this problem, what you anticipate might get in the way of solving this problem, and how you will measure or know if the problem is resolving or resolved.
3. Leadership ability - Describe a situation in which you have demonstrated leadership ability. Identify how you envision being a leader in nursing or health care in the future.

Who should I ask to write my letters of recommendation?

We advise that you seek recommendations from individuals who understand the demands and rigor of graduate education in nursing and can speak to your ability to succeed in graduate school. At least one recommendation should be completed by a nurse with a master’s or doctoral degree.

Your recommenders should be able to address your clinical knowledge and leadership strengths as well as your academic skills, including oral and written communication.

Make it as easy as possible for your recommenders! Provide them with a copy of your resume and a draft of your Statement of Purpose so they can better address your interests and background. Advise
them that they will receive an email from UW-Madison with instructions to upload an electronic file to our website.

**Do I need to take statistics prior to admission?**

All DNP students (Post-BS and Post-MS) must complete a graduate-level statistics course before they begin their DNP coursework in the fall. It is important to note that the course must be taken before beginning the program, but does not need to be taken before admission. Students may wait until they receive their admission decision and then enroll in a summer course.

This policy is in effect for all students who begin the DNP program in fall 2016 or later. Previously, Post-BS students were able to take a statistics course during their first fall semester.

Statistics courses must be completed with a grade of B or better and must be completed within the last five years. See our list of pre-approved statistics courses and instructions [here](#).

**Do you require the GRE?**

We do not require the GRE for admission to the DNP program.

**Do you interview applicants?**

Interviews are not a part of the admission process.

**I live out of state. Do I need a Wisconsin nursing license to apply for the program?**

You do not need a Wisconsin nursing license in order to apply for the program. You will need a Wisconsin nursing license if your clinical placements are in Wisconsin.

**I have applied to the same program in the past. Do I need to submit transcripts again?**

Yes, you need to submit a new set of official transcripts for each application to the School of Nursing.

**Do I need to submit a transcript from UW-Madison?**

No, we can obtain transcripts for all coursework completed at UW-Madison.

**My transfer credits from one institution show on my transcript from another school. Do I need to submit both transcripts?**

Yes, you need to submit a transcript from each institution where you took college-level courses.

**When do you need to receive my transcripts?**

We need to receive your transcripts by the application deadline, which is February 1.

**If I’m not admitted to the program, can I appeal the decision?**

Generally speaking, no, there is not an appeal process for admissions. The only grounds for reconsideration would be a processor error.