

Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

GRADUATE STUDIES | UMass DARTMOUTH

Program Overview

The DNP program at the UMass Dartmouth College of Nursing prepares advanced practice nurses who will:

- Function as adult gerontology primary care nurse practitioners working in increasingly diverse populations, complex healthcare systems and clinical nursing education; or psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner
- Transform patient care through interdisciplinary collaboration, population-focused and evidenced-based health interventions, and measurement of the outcomes of these interventions at both the individual and community aggregate levels; and
- Be the future leaders that advance nursing and health care practices in Southeastern Massachusetts, the Commonwealth, and beyond.

The graduate of the DNP program will lead the transformative reform of health systems to achieve and maintain safe clinical practice environments, promote health, wellness and high quality patient care, and translate research into innovative practices that improve health outcomes and contain health care costs to both patients and society.

The DNP course work includes translation research methods, theory, health policy, population health, informatics, systems leadership, leadership residencies, and a capstone project to achieve the goals for the DNP and to meet national accreditation and certification standards.

Faculty and principal area of expertise

- ▶ **Deborah Armstrong**, Assistant Professor; PhD, University of Massachusetts Worcester; Spinal cord injury, Pathophysiology
- ▶ **Marilyn Asselin**, Associate Professor; PhD, University of Rhode Island; Reflection in practice, knowledge utilization, leadership, reflective teaching practice, qualitative methodology
- ▶ **Anne Marie Caron**, Lecturer, DNP, RN, ANP-BC, University Massachusetts Dartmouth, Long term care elders, geriatric medicine, antibiotic stewardship, chronic illness management
- ▶ **Elizabeth Chin**, Assistant Professor; PhD, University of Massachusetts Worcester; COPD, self-management, symptom management, qualitative methodology, learning differences
- ▶ **Kathleen Elliott**, Lecturer and DNP Clinical Coordinator, DNP, ANP-BC, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth; Substance Misuse Disorders and Medically Underserved populations.
- ▶ **Christine Gadbois**, Lecturer, DNP, APHN-BC, University Massachusetts Dartmouth; Administration, public health, public policy, behavioral health, disabilities, home health
- ▶ **Divina Grossman**, Professor, PhD, RN, FAAN, University of Pennsylvania; Health disparities, health equity, diversity and cultural competence, hypertension and blood pressure, chronobiology and circadian rhythms

- ▶ **June Andrews Horowitz**, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research & Professor; PhD, RN, PMHCNS-BC, FAAN, New York University (PhD); family mental health, perinatal/postpartum mental health disorders -- specifically postpartum depression, mother-infant interaction, neurophysiologic markers for depressed mothers and their infants, intervention research, mixed methods research
- ▶ **Susan Hunter Revell**, Associate Professor; PhD, University of Rhode Island; Spinal cord injury, technology in the classroom
- ▶ **Sharon Keating**, Lecturer, RN, FNP, University of Rhode Island; Technology to improve weight loss in adolescents and emerging adult patients
- ▶ **Mary McCurry**, Associate Professor; PhD, Boston College; Decision making, family care givers, technology in the classroom
- ▶ **Stephen Padget**, Assistant Professor, PhD, RN, University of Washington; health policy, systems change, nursing workforce
- ▶ **Margaret Rudd Arieta**, Lecturer, DNP, PPCNP-BC, University Massachusetts Dartmouth; Emerging adults, Type I Diabetes, asthma, informatics
- ▶ **Gail Russell**, Professor Emeritus; EDD, NEA-BC, Columbia University; Leadership in health systems
- ▶ **Monika Schuler**, Assistant Professor, PhD, RN, CNE, Northeastern University; Role Development and nursing education
- ▶ **Kristen Sethares**, Professor; PhD, CNE, Boston College; chronic cardiac illness, self-care, Symptom management, quantitative methodology
- ▶ **Janet Sobczak**, Associate Professor, PhD, PHMNP-BC, PPCNS-BC, Medical School of Georgia, Substance addictions, eating disorders, trauma, women's mental health, sexuality qualitative methods, mixed methods
- ▶ **Caitlin Stover**, Graduate Program Director of MS, Assistant Professor, PhD, RN, PHCNS-BC, CNE, University of Massachusetts Worcester; Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Healthcare, Health Disparities, Community Program Planning and Evaluation
- ▶ **Jennifer Viveiros**, Assistant Professor, PhD, University Massachusetts of Dartmouth; Memory, cognitive impairment education, and heart failure

Degree and certificate

Doctor of Nursing practice (DNP) with a focus in Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner and Psych Mental Health Nurse Practitioner.

An RN-BS student with GPA of 3.3 or better and the recommendation of RN-BS program director may take up to 9 graduate credits (from among the following courses: NUR 500, 511, 520, or 547) that count as undergraduate electives. If the student applies and is admitted to graduate study immediately after receiving the BS degree, the courses will also count toward the DNP degree.

In addition, the Graduate Admissions Program (GAP) is open to registered nurses who hold a BS or BA degree in another field. GAP students take NUR 503 Transition to Advanced Practice Nursing in which they complete a portfolio that documents how they attained undergraduate nursing program outcome objectives.

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Degree and certificate, continued

Finally, a 27 credit, post-MS, DNP program is available for nurses who hold an MS in Nursing and certification as an APRN.

Our Psych Mental Health Nurse Practitioner track meets the critical needs of the surrounding communities for psychiatric and mental health providers who can provide services to treat clients across the lifespan, conduct transitional research and contribute to evidence based practice. This program meets the requirements for MA licensure and national certification as an Advanced Practice Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner. This track is offered as a hybrid plan (blended online/on campus courses).

Program Requirements

In addition to completing the UMD admission package, applicants to the DNP program must:

- Have a GPA of 3.0 in undergraduate study.
- Hold a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from a program accredited by the NLNAC or CCNE. Registered Nurses with a bachelor degree in a related field may seek admission through the GAP program.
- Hold a current license to practice professional nursing in MA or be eligible to obtain a license. Please submit a copy of your license.
- Have at least one year of clinical experience in acute care nursing
- Submit three references that document competence and leadership in professional nursing practice. If possible, one reference should be from a supervisor who is a professional nurse that holds a DNP and one from a nurse educator.
- GRE is NOT required.
- Applications are due **March 15** for Fall matriculation. Applications submitted by March 15 will receive priority. All applications received after March 15 will be reviewed on a rolling admission basis through May.

Degree Requirements

DNP students complete 63 academic credits that include over 1000 hours of clinical practice. In addition, students complete a scholarly project that translates research into practice and measures the effectiveness of this project in terms of both health outcomes and cost effectiveness.

Program Highlights

The nursing faculty create rich and meaningful student experiences that build on undergraduate education and clinical competencies to address the career aspirations of the student. Classroom, laboratory, and clinical experiences are structured to expand the skills and grow the confidence of the student as APRNs and nurse leaders. The support and collaboration of community partners—both clinicians and health care agencies—are essential components of this program.

Faculty Research

The faculty of the College of Nursing conduct research in two broad areas—living with chronic illness and innovations in nursing education. Support for this work comes from a variety of sources—the US Department of Health Education and Welfare, National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education, and many professional groups, and community

agencies. Faculty have numerous small grants from internal and external sources. Recently, Dr. Kirsten Sethares' work on congestive heart failure and patient self-care was recognized when she was an invited presenter at the Chancellor's Colloquium.

The faculty of the College of Nursing are recognized experts and are actively involved in service projects in SE MA and beyond. Our faculty serve as consultants for our practice partners and professional groups. Faculty are frequently invited speakers at professional meetings and give peer-reviewed poster and podium presentations throughout the US. Many faculty volunteer for local, regional, national and international health initiatives.

Alumni

The UMD graduate nursing program opened in the late 1980s and has produced over 250 MS graduates who work in southeastern Massachusetts and beyond. In 2007, the PhD in Nursing admitted its first cohort of students and has grown steadily. The new DNP program positions the graduates of UMD in 2015 and after to meet revised certification criteria for advanced practice nurses. This is a very important new program for the College.

Many graduates continue their affiliation with the College of Nursing by serving as preceptors, mentors, clinical instructors and guest lecturers for our students. We are very proud of the many accomplishments of our graduates and their continuing commitment to UMD. Some examples are:

- Dr. Mary McCurry, Associate Professor is a graduate of the ANP track of the MS program.
- Dr. Margaret Arieta-Rudd, DNP Faculty at UMass Dartmouth, is a graduate of the Post-MS DNP Program.
- Dr. Christine Gadbois, Director of Population Health and Nursing Services, The Providence Center, DNP Adjunct Faculty at UMass Dartmouth, is a graduate of the Post-MS DNP Program.

Contact information

June Andrews Horowitz, PhD, RN, PMHCNS-BC, FAAN
Interim DNP Program Director and
Associate Dean for Graduate Programs & Research
508.999.8251
jhorowitz@umassd.edu

To access online application
www.umassd.edu/admissions/apply/

Please forward all credentials to:

Office of Graduate Studies
UMass Dartmouth
285 Old Westport Road
Dartmouth, MA 02747-2300

Questions?
graduate@umassd.edu
508.999.8604 voice
508.999.8183 fax
umassd.edu/graduate