



SACRAMENTO
STATE

BSN to DNP Information Session

Fall 2026 Admission

Welcome!

Christie Smart, DNP, RN, CNE
(Graduate Program Coordinator)

Program Outline

- We are a BSN to DNP program
- The program is 72 total units
- Eight semesters including summers (3 years)
- Full time track only
- 1,000 total practice hours
- Two focuses: Nurse Educator & Nurse Leader

Program Delivery

- On campus intensives prior to each Fall semester to build a community of scholars, assess student learning, and an in person oral defense.
- Curriculum is fully online with asynchronous and synchronous learning.
- Clinical practicum experiences arranged in collaboration between the student and faculty.

Curriculum 1-2

Semester 1 Fall (9 units)

- **NURS 206:** Advanced Role Development in Nursing (3 units)
- **NURS 210:** Research for Advanced Nursing: Methods & Measurement (3 units - WI) (45 practicum hours)
- **NURS 208:** Ethics & Bioethics (3 units)

Semester 2 Spring (9 units)

- **NURS 213:** Seminar in Organizational & Systems Leadership (3 units)
- **NURS 217:** Population Health & Epidemiology (3 units) (35 practicum hours)
- **NURS 218:** Social Justice & Health Equity (3 units) (20 practicum hours)

Curriculum 3-4

Semester 3 Summer (9 units)

- **NURS 220:** Financial and Market Influences in Healthcare (2 units)
- **NURS 230:** Advanced Concepts in Pathophysiology (3 units)
- **NURS 231:** Pharmacology for Advanced Practice (2 units)
- **NURS 232:** Advanced Physical Assessment Across the Lifespan (2 units) (15 practicum hours)

Semester 4 Fall (9 units)

- **NURS 219:** Healthcare Policy & Advocacy (3 units) (35 practicum hours)
- **NURS 221:** IRB & Proposal Writing (1 units) (20 practicum hours)
- **NURS 222:** Application of Theories for Advanced Nursing Practice (3 units - WI) (35 practicum hours)
- **NURS 660A:** DNP Project Part 1 (2 units = 90 hours) (*Ch 1: problem statement & research question + Ch 2: lit review & critical analysis*)

Curriculum 5-6

Semester 5 Spring (9 units)

- **NURS 620:** Translating Evidence into Practice (2 units) (15 practicum hours)
- **NURS 622:** Quality Improvement & Risk Management (3 units) (45 practicum hours)
- **NURS 624:** Advanced Statistics & Biostatistics (3 units)
- **NURS 660B:** DNP Project Part 2(1 unit = 45 hours) (*Ch 3: methodology development & proposal approval*)

Semester 6 Summer (9 units)

- **NURS 626:** Instructional Design & Technology (3 units)
- **NURS 628:** Healthcare Informatics & Technology (2 units)
- **NURS 630:** Principles of Teaching and Learning (2 units) (10 practicum hours)
- **NURS 660C:** DNP Project Part 3(2 units = 90 hours) (*Ch 4: Implementation & synthesis of findings*)

Curriculum 7-8

Semester 7 Fall (9 units)

- **NURS 632:** Educational Program Development & Assessment (3 units) (25 practicum hours)
- **NURS 634:** Advanced Concepts in Executive Leadership (3 units) (25 practicum hours)
- **NURS 636:** Practicum in Educational Program Development in Nursing (3 units = 135 clinical hours) OR NURS 637: Practicum in Executive Leadership (3 units = 135 clinical hours)

Semester 8 Spring (9 units)

- **NURS 640:** Scholarly Dissemination & Advanced Professional Engagement (2 units) (25 practicum hours)
- **NURS 650:** Independent Practicum DNP Residency (4 units = 180 hours)
- **NURS 660D:** DNP Project Part 4 (3 unit = 135 hours) (*Ch 5: Outcomes & recommendations; oral defense; manuscript draft*)
- **Oral Defense of Project**

Curriculum Information

- Courses must be taken in the sequence noted
- Practice hours are accounted for in the courses
- Curriculum is designed for nurse educator and nurse leadership certification exams (depending upon certification and experience additional hours may be needed for certification)

Admission Requirements

Fall 2026

- Admission shall be granted on a competitive basis; meeting the minimum requirements qualifies an individual for but does not guarantee admission to the program. Requirements for admission shall apply to all DNP applicants and shall include the following:

Requirements

- Acceptable bachelor's degree in nursing (accredited)
- Cumulative 3.0
- Active, unencumbered RN license
- Sufficient preparation & experience to be successful in a DNP program
- Evidence
 - Letters of recommendation
 - Written statement of purpose
 - We may require a personal interview

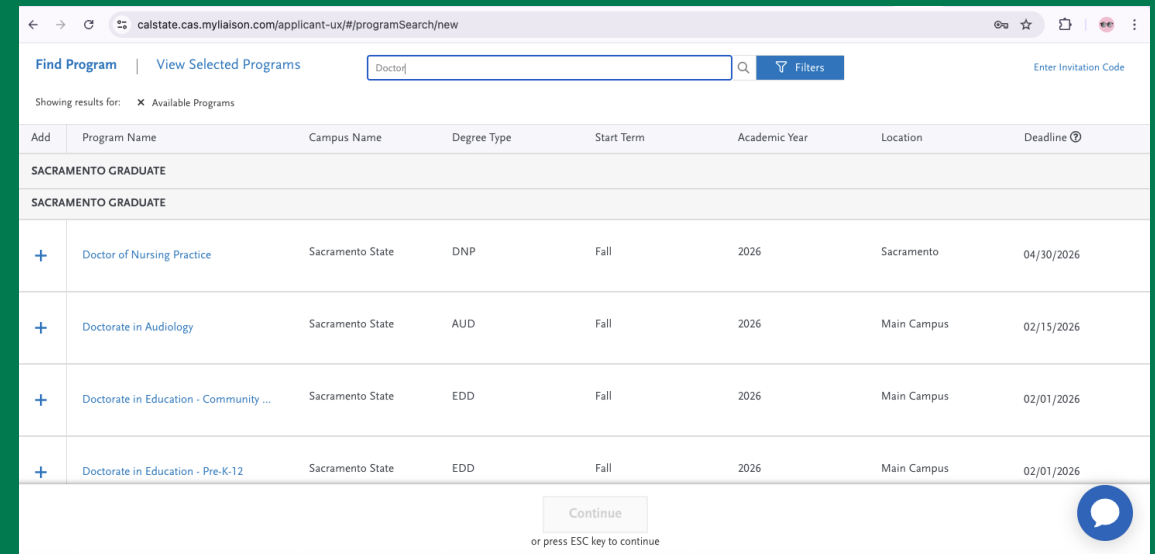
Application Procedures

Fall 2026 admission

- Complete the university application by the deadline selecting the Doctor of Nursing Practice major
- Submit the following materials
 - A statement of purpose
 - One full set of transcripts (all colleges & universities attended)
 - Minimum two letters of recommendation
 - Current RN license
 - Current resume or CV

Application Website

- Go to Calstate apply
- When prompted to select a program, search the programs by entering “doctor” in the search bar and scroll down to Sacramento State. Click on the “+” next to the “Doctor of Nursing Practice” and it will be added to your list.



Timeline

Fall 2026 admission

- CSU Apply applications are open (website)
- Will need to complete application and supplemental materials
- March 31, 2026: Closing date for applications
- Middle of April: Notification of application decision
- April 30th: Acceptance of admission

Graduation Requirements

- Completion of all courses in the program
- A GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Completion of 1000 practice hours
- Completion of DNP project and defense

Campus Services Access

- **Wellness center**
- **Counseling**
- **Writing center**

Questions?

Contact:

Dr. Christie Smart

Christie.smart@csus.edu



Resources

- **Application**
 - <https://www.csus.edu/graduate-studies/future-students/application-information.html>
 - Scroll down to the Cal State Apply – Graduate Application Guide
- **Calstate Apply**
 - <https://www.calstate.edu/apply>
 - Also linked on Office of Graduate Studies Page
- **Sac State Nursing**
 - <https://www.csus.edu/college/health-human-services/nursing/>