

**Policy S-5.01**  
**UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA**  
**COLLEGE OF NURSING**

Page 1 of 4

**TITLE:**                   **ADMISSION TO DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE PROGRAM**

**POLICY:**               The Academic Affairs Committee reviews admission criteria annually and advises the Associate Dean for Student Affairs (ADSA) on admission policy. Data on all applicants are compiled by the Office for Student Affairs (OSA)

**RATIONALE:**       The College of Nursing screens applicants in order to select appropriate candidates and ensure adequate resources (e.g., faculty and clinical placements) for the delivery of high quality nursing education. Applicants are selected based upon criteria that demonstrate the greatest potential for success in the program.

**CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION:**

The following criteria will be utilized in the process of admission to the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program:

General Criteria:

1. A score of 500 or higher on each of the verbal and quantitative sections in the prior version of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test. In the current version of the GRE a minimum score of 153 in the verbal section and 144 in the quantitative section.
2. Completion of the GRE Analytical Writing Measure is optional.
3. Current licensure (or eligibility) as a Registered Nurse in the State of Florida.
4. A baccalaureate degree in nursing from a CCNE or NLNAC accredited program.
5. A GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in the upper division nursing major.
  - A. International students or students whose native language is not English are required to pass one of the following tests with a satisfactory score of:
    - Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL):
      - Computer-based: 213
      - Paper-based: 550
      - Web-based: 80
      - iBT Speaking Component: 26
    - International English Language Testing System (IELTS):
      - Overall score: 6.5
      - Speaking Component: 7
    - Michigan English Language Assessment Battery (MELAB):
      - Overall score: 79
6. Successful completion of the University of Florida English Language Institute Program.

**Policy S-5.01**  
**UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA**  
**COLLEGE OF NURSING**

Page 2 of 4

- B. International students or students whose native language is not English with unsatisfactory scores on the TOEFL and TOEFL iBT Speaking Component, IELTS, or MELAB; unsuccessful completion of the UF English Language Institute Program; or an unacceptable score on the verbal part of the GRE must achieve an acceptable score on an essay administered by the Academic Written English Program at UF.
- 7. Completion of Additional Requirements listed below.
- 8. Demonstrated ability in (or potential for) clinical excellence and leadership.
- 9. Students must be either a U.S. citizen, legal U.S. resident, or hold a valid visa.

Criteria for Applicants with a Master's Degree in Nursing:

- 1. Numbers 1, 2, and 6 from the General Criteria section above.
- 2. A Master's Degree in Nursing from a CCNE or NLNAC accredited program.
- 3. A master's degree program GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (or equivalent).
- 4. Current RN or ARNP licensure (or eligibility for) in the State of Florida. The type of licensure requirement is dependent on area of study.
- 5. Completion of Additional Requirements as listed below.

**NOTE:** Applicants who are nationally certified as advanced practice nurses and hold a master's degree in a field other than nursing may be considered for admission on a case by case basis.

Additional Information for MSN to DNP Admission

- 1. Admitted DNP applicants who do not meet ONE of the requirements listed below **or** who wish to pursue study in a track other than that of their MSN preparation, will have an individualized plan of study that will require additional coursework.
  - a. National certification as an APN or
  - b. Florida licensure as an ARNP after July 1, 2006 or
  - c. UF MSN degree earned in 1990 or later or
  - d. MSN from a CCNE/NLNAC accredited program that included separate courses in pathophysiology, health assessment and pharmacology.
- 2. Prior to graduation, **all DNP** students will be required to demonstrate at least 1000 total clinical hours as a part of their graduate degree program (MSN plus DNP or DNP).

Additional Requirements for All DNP Applicants:

- 1. Three letters of recommendation: two must address clinical competence and leadership ability, and one must address academic ability.
- 2. An essay (double-spaced, 1500 word maximum, using current APA format guidelines) describing the following:

**Policy S-5.01**  
**UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA**  
**COLLEGE OF NURSING**

Page 3 of 4

- a. Your academic expectations of the program;
  - b. How the DNP will affect your future career;
  - c. The experiences that you feel have best prepared you for doctoral study (e.g., clinical, educational, or leadership experiences);
  - d. A clinical problem or area of interest in which you might be interested in developing your final project;
  - e. What the most difficult issues are that you anticipate while in the DNP program, and how you plan to handle them.
3. Resume/curriculum vitae. Please include awards, honors, and academic scholarships.
  4. Personal Data Record.
  5. Official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended.

**PROCEDURE:**

Applications will be screened by the OSA, reviewed by the Admissions Advisory Committee and appropriate Track Coordinators; and recommended to the Dean for admission. Applicants meeting all criteria and requirements will be recommended for admission on a space-available basis, pending a review by the Track Coordinator.

1. Deadline for completion of applicant file is March 15 and September 15 for currently enrolled Accelerated BSN students for a Spring start date. Applications will be accepted after the March 15 deadline on a space-available basis.
2. Applicants will be rank-ordered according to selection criteria, and this order will be considered in determining admission should there be more qualified applicants than spaces available.
3. Students who do not meet the stated criteria but have a minimum of 420 in each category of the prior form of the GRE or a minimum of 148 Verbal and a 140 Quantitative in the current form of the GRE and a minimum of 3.00 in their upper-division nursing BSN GPA or a minimum of 3.00 in their MSN program will be sent a Petition Form (Attachment # 1) which will be reviewed by the Graduate Admission Advisory Committee using the Petition Review Form (Attachment # 2).
4. Successful applicants are recommended to the Dean of the College of Nursing for admission, and all applicants are informed of the outcome.
5. Applicants admitted based upon Petition Review will be admitted on a conditional basis, which will be stipulated in the admission letter.

**Policy S-5.01  
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA  
COLLEGE OF NURSING**

Review or Approval Authority	Responsible Party	Initial Approval / Review	Most Recent Approval / Review Of Changes	Editorial Changes	Policy A-01 Review
Approval	<b>Academic Affairs Committee*</b>	04/05	5/14		5/14
Review	Leadership Council	12/05	5/14		
Approval	General Faculty	12/05	5/14		
Approval	Dean	12/05	5/14		

**\*Bold = committee responsible for A-01 review**

**Policy S-5.01  
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA  
COLLEGE OF NURSING**

Page 1 of 1

Attachment # 1

**Petition Form - DNP**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

To petition for re-consideration of admission, respond to the questions listed and submit this form along with your responses to questions below to the College of Nursing Admissions Office.

1. What about you now, or your past clinical/educational/leadership experiences can assist you in overcoming the area that did not meet admission criteria in your original application (300 – 500 words)?
2. List your previous clinical/educational/leadership experiences and describe how they will facilitate your ability to be successful in the program (300 – 500 words).
3. Many students who enroll in the DNP program will have multiple responsibilities. Given the limited number of hours in a day, and the time commitment required to successfully progress through the program, describe at least three (3) strategies you will adopt to assist you in managing the responsibilities in your life so that you may concentrate on your studies.
4. Are you the first generation of your family to attend college?
5. Are you a member of a group under-represented in the nursing profession? If yes, please explain.
6. List any college or university awards, honors, or scholarships you have received:

**Policy S-5.01  
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA  
COLLEGE OF NURSING**

**Attachment # 2**

**Petition Review Form - DNP**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

		Possible Points	Actual Points
1.	Written response to petition questions reflects: a) Organization and clarity of thought b) Appropriate grammar and spelling	1 1	
2.	Related work experience a) 0-1 year b) 1-2 years c) 3 or more years	1 2 3	
3.	Leadership experience in activities related to the nursing profession: a) Work-related b) Community c) Professional	1 1 1	
4.	First generation in college	1	
5.	College or University a) Awards b) Honors c) Academic Scholarships	1 1 1	
6.	Member of a group under-represented in nursing	1	
7.	Upper division BSN GPA or MSN GPA a) 3.0 to 3.2 b) 3.21 to 3.5 c) Greater than 3.51	1 2 3	
8.	Verbal GRE Score a) 420 to 450            148-150 b) 460 to 490            151-152 c) 500 or above        153 or above	1 2 3	
9.	Quantitative GRE Score a) 420 to 450            140 - 141 b) 460 to 490            142-143 c) 500 or above        144 or above	1 2 3	
9.	Realistic strategies for managing academic and other responsibilities presented: First Second Third	1 1 1	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>25</b>	

Note: Score must be at least 18 of 25

Faculty review decision: \_\_\_\_ Admit    \_\_\_\_ Deny    \_\_\_\_ Refer to Dean