Winona State University
Graduate Programs in Nursing

Admission Requirements

Admission criteria for the Masters and BSN-DNP Programs in Nursing include:

1. Baccalaureate degree in nursing from a Nationally accredited graduate program in nursing;
2. Undergraduate coursework in physical assessment;
3. Undergraduate courses in nursing research and statistics required;
4. Computer literacy with knowledge of word processing, spreadsheet, and data base programs;
5. Transcripts of past education with GPA of 3.0 or greater on a 4.0 scale (1 official transcript from each institution attended);
6. Applicants with GPA less than 3.0 will be considered for provisional admission on an individual basis;
7. Applicants whose first language is not English must take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS);
8. Minimum of one year clinical nursing experience (recommended);
9. Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (AGACNP) applicants need to meet additional requirements:
   a. One year critical care experience strongly preferred (e.g., ICU, ER, ICU/CUU, unit providing high acuity care with fast-paced decision making and complex procedures)
   b. ACLS (Advanced Cardiac Life Support) certification
   c. ECG interpretation course required prior to beginning clinical courses
10. Evidence of current, unencumbered license as a Registered Nurse. Minnesota licensure typically required for all clinical courses. Other state license may also be required for clinical experiences in those states according to state statute;
11. Applicants submit three (3) references from persons who can comment competently on the applicant’s background and suitability for nursing masters/dotalor study. At least one professional reference from a professional who occupies the student’s chosen advanced practice nursing role (e.g. nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, nurse educator, nurse administrator/leader); one professional reference; and one academic or professional reference;
12. Statement of professional goals;
13. Clinical paperwork including a background check required after admission (clinical requirement, fees assessed);
14. Applicants seeking admission to the Graduate Programs in Nursing may be required to have a personal interview with program faculty;
15. Graduate Programs in Nursing tuition rates apply;
16. BSN-DNP Applicants Only:
   a. Professional Resume’;
   b. Applicants asked to provide clinical practice question that you are most interested in studying in your clinical scholarship courses. Applicants should provide background for why this clinical question is important for clinical nurse scholars to answer and be formatted in the PICO or PICOT style. In addition, the applicant may provide ideas for the most appropriate clinical setting within which this question can be answered;

*A recommended resource book for those considering the DNP is: The Doctor of Nursing Practice: A Guidebook for Role Development and Professional Issues by Lisa Astalos Chism (2013). It offers a background for why the DNP is important for practice; differences between the DNP and Ph.D.; expectations for possible coursework in a DNP program; and hints for transitioning into one’s role with a DNP degree. It may answer questions for anyone pondering a DNP program. (Jones and Bartlett Publishers: ISBN# 978-0-4496-4560-1).

*Provisional Admittance - Provisional admittance may be granted to applicants who have an Undergraduate Grade Point Average (GPA) below 3.0. Students accepted provisionally must maintain a 3.0 graduate GPA for their first 12 semester credits, during which time they must take at least one of the following courses: NURS 600 – Scientific and Ethical Foundations; NURS 606 – Nsg Information Management and Decision Making; or STATS 601 – Statistical Methods

Revised/Approved: 8-21-2014