What can I do with a Doctor of Nursing Practice?

Use this resource to research some of the career options associated with this degree and specialization. Please refer to the User Guide for more detailed tips on how to make the most of this resource.

About this program

The CCNE-accredited Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree program is designed for advanced practice nurses who want to move into administrative positions, nurse administrators who want to expand their leadership responsibilities, or nurse leaders who want to design and implement health care delivery programs. The curriculum emphasizes effective health care delivery; patient advocacy; and health care policy development, implementation, and reform. Throughout the program, learners gain competency in assessing and applying theory, building therapeutic relationships, designing and implementing therapeutic interventions, and leading and managing in the health care environment. Upon successful completion of this degree program, learners are prepared to apply the knowledge and skills needed to meet diverse patient needs and improve health care delivery. The DNP degree program is not a clinical degree program and is not designed to prepare advanced practice registered nurses for roles as nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, certified nurse midwives, or certified nurse anesthetists. Registered nurses who have a master’s degree in nursing, those who have a master’s degree in a field other than nursing, and those who have a BSN degree may pursue Capella’s DNP.

Related job titles to explore†

The sample job titles below represent a range of options for professionals with this degree and specialization. While some titles represent entry-level positions, others may require previous experience in the field.

- Nursing instructor
- Chief nursing officer
- Health care director
- Health care systems coordinator
- Education consultant
- Lobbyist or legislative consultant
- Trainer
- Nurse educator
- Nurse manager
- Nursing administrator
- Nursing director
- Nursing operations director
- Nursing professor
- School system administrator (health services)

This program is not designed to prepare graduates for entry-level or advanced practice licensure as a nurse. North Carolina residents are not eligible to enroll in this program.

†These are examples intended to serve as a general guide. Because many factors determine what position an individual may attain, Capella cannot guarantee that a graduate will secure any specific job title.

Note: Some positions require licensure and/or other designations. We encourage you to research requirements for your job target and career goals.
Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

Related employment settings to explore

Professionals with this degree and specialization may work in a variety of industries and settings. The following list of employment settings is not exhaustive, but is intended to provide an introduction to the opportunities in this field.

- Community mental health agency
- Hospital
- Medical clinic
- Health care organization
- Insurance company
- Home health care services
- Government—local, state, federal
- Community health agency
- Nursing care facility
- School system (K–12)
- Social service agency
- Land-based or online college or university
- Community college
- Self-employment

Samples of associated skills

- Employing a science-based theoretical foundation to develop and evaluate new practices and approaches to health care delivery
- Developing, implementing, and evaluating evidence-based health promotion, prevention, and intervention service delivery models for individuals, aggregates, and populations
- Leading and creating health and care delivery models for quality improvement
- Employing interprofessional collaboration skills to improve patient and population health
- Developing, implementing, and advocating for health care policy that meets the needs of specific populations
- Evaluating and analyzing theory and research-based methods to improve the reliability of health care practices and outcomes
- Leading planning and implementation of health care technologies for quality improvement appropriate for specialized areas of practice

Sources for job listings

Explore specific job postings to clarify your career goals, better understand the required skills and experience, customize your job search documents, or target your job search.

National League for Nursing Career Center
www.nln.org/about/career-center

National Student Nurses’ Association Career Center
www.nsna.org/CareerCenter/UltimateAdventure.aspx

Indeed
www.indeed.com

LinkedIn
www.linkedin.com

LinkUp
www.linkup.com

American Association of Colleges of Nursing Career Link
www.aacn.nche.edu/career-link

American Nurses Association Career Center
http://careers.ana.org

Nurse.com
www.nurse.com

Nurse Path
www.nursepath.com

Health eCareers
www.heathecareers.com
Professional associations & industry information

Utilize professional associations to gain familiarity with the field, learn about current issues and industry trends, identify opportunities to get involved, make professional connections, and contribute your subject matter expertise. Consider joining state or local chapters to meet professionals in your region.

- American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
  [www.aacn.nche.edu](http://www.aacn.nche.edu)
- National League for Nursing  
  [www.nln.org](http://www.nln.org)
- American Nurses Association  
  [www.nursingworld.org](http://www.nursingworld.org)
- Discover Nursing  
  [www.discovernursing.com](http://www.discovernursing.com)
- Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses  
  [www.amsn.org](http://www.amsn.org)
- National Council of State Boards of Nursing  
  [www.ncsbn.org](http://www.ncsbn.org)
- International Council of Nurses  
  [www.icn.ch](http://www.icn.ch)
- Minority Nurse  
  [www.minoritynurse.com](http://www.minoritynurse.com)
- American Assembly for Men in Nursing  
  [www.aamn.org](http://www.aamn.org)
- National Black Nurses Association  
  [www.nbna.org](http://www.nbna.org)
- National Association of Hispanic Nurses  
  [www.thehispanicnurses.org](http://www.thehispanicnurses.org)
- O*Net Occupational Information Network  
  [www.onetonline.org](http://www.onetonline.org)
- Wall Street Journal Career Journal  
  [www.careerjournal.com](http://www.careerjournal.com)
- Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy  
  [www.amcp.org](http://www.amcp.org)

Salary information

- JobSmart Salary Survey  
  [www.jobstar.org](http://www.jobstar.org)
- Occupational Outlook Handbook  
  [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)
- Salary.com  
  [www.salary.com](http://www.salary.com)
- NACE Salary Calculator  
Career Center resources & services

The Career Center assists learners and alumni in developing and implementing their career management goals resulting in measurable career outcomes. Career counselors serve learners and alumni in all Capella University schools and degree programs. Services are free of charge to learners and alumni.

iGuide Career Center
This comprehensive career site contains a wealth of information on career planning, job searching, resume and CV writing, interviewing, and more.

Career Connection
Career Connection allows users to search for jobs, research employers, or apply for jobs with employers who are interested in recruiting Capella learners and alumni. In addition to the jobs posted in the Capella Network of employers, users can extend their search and find additional employment opportunities through a national network of employers.

Career counseling and job search advising
Career counselors consult with learners and alumni individually by phone and e-mail.

Resume and curriculum vitae (CV) review
Career Center staff members are trained in resume and CV critique. The online Career Center in iGuide provides sample resumes, CVs, and cover letters to help learners and alumni get started. When the draft is ready, Career Center staff work with the learner or graduate to transform the documents into effective self-marketing tools.

On-demand tutorials
Recorded interactive media pieces are created specifically for Capella’s learners, alumni, and prospective learners. The interactive elements provide you opportunities to work with the material in a meaningful way and make connections to your experiences and situations. Because they are recorded, you can access them at your convenience.

Career seminars
The Career Center offers free, five-day seminars, which are facilitated by Career Counselors in the Capella courseroom and are designed for learners enrolled in all specializations.

- Career Exploration and Planning seminar focuses on articulating skills, interests, and work values; gaining a better understanding of target industries and professions; and creating an action plan to move toward the desired career goal.
- Effective Job Search Strategies seminar focuses on specific job search strategies to help you meet your short-term employment goals, as well as strategies for managing your career over the long-term.

Visit the online Career Center to learn more about services and resources available to help you reach your career goals.