



Wake Forest®

Academic Nursing Programs

Doctor of Nursing Practice

DNP Program

Course Descriptions

Conceptual Models of Quality and Safety (2 credits) This seminar provides an overview of theoretical models that are frequently used in patient safety and quality improvement literature. Students then analyze and apply select theoretical and conceptual models used in quality improvement, leadership and research in healthcare.

Leadership and Collaboration (3 credits) This course prepares nurses to integrate leadership skills into collaborative practice that promotes change in healthcare systems and policy. Students will explore their leadership style, interactions with other professionals, and leadership impacting groups, organizations, and the community. Emphasis is placed on strategic thinking, influence, and negotiation strategies required for effective leadership in healthcare.

Healthcare Management, Finance and Law (3 credits) This course prepares the nurse leader to navigate organizational, financial, and legal environments in order to ensure delivery of compliant and quality healthcare. Students will produce a business plan for a change management project.

Foundations of Research Analysis (2 credits) This course focuses the research process on comprehension and synthesis of current scientific literature. Throughout the course, interactive learning is used to guide critical analysis of nursing research studies and communicate their effect on the practice environment.

Healthcare Policy, Advocacy and Ethics (3 credits) This course examines the ethical principles of moral reasoning and its practical application. Students debate and critique moral, ethical, and political arguments using case studies, as well as examine current political events that impact nursing practice.

Informatics and Data Driven Healthcare (3 credits) This course analyzes the application of data in the healthcare system and the policies surrounding its collection and use. Students explore the role of the electronic health record, telemedicine, and ethical *big data* collection in improving population and individual health and driving clinical decision making. Students will evaluate the use of technology for health planning and delivery of care.

Biostatistics and Epidemiology (2 credits) This course explores the application of biostatistics and epidemiology to clinical decision-making in nursing. Students will apply basic concepts of design and statistical inference to the study of health for selected clients, populations, and settings.

Translating Research into Practice (3 credits) This course builds upon the concepts from Foundations of Research Analysis to provide a broader understanding of the research process. Students learn to translate scientific evidence into nursing practice thereby impacting organizational systems and patient populations.

Doctoral Study (6 credits over 3 semesters) During the doctoral study, students will synthesize learning throughout the program through the construction and dissemination of an evidence-based practice project. The scholarly project will be derived from practice needs that focus on a change initiative such as a quality improvement project, program evaluation, evaluation of a new practice model, or a systematic literature review. Students work in pairs.

Wake Forest School of Law Electives – 3 credits required

DNP law electives are listed under “Track Courses” on the WF MSL Health Law Policy website: <http://msl.law.wfu.edu/degree/healthlawpolicy/>

The Wake Forest University Law School Academic Calendar can be found at:

<http://academics.law.wfu.edu/calendar/>

Bioethics and Law (1.5 credits) A survey of leading topics where ethical issues are prominent in health care delivery, including the “right to die,” genetic therapies and research, organ transplantation and advances in biotechnology.

Telemedicine (1.5 credits) The legal landscape governing of the use of digital information and telecommunications technologies in delivery of patient care. Coverage will include licensing and credentialing, technology, business models, contracts and governance issues impacting this rapidly growing global industry.

Paying for Health Care (3 credits) The changing landscape of how we pay for health care, consisting of Medicare, Medicaid, private insurance, and health insurance reform. Analysis of the current fee-for-service system and its alternatives, as well as the policies behind these models.

Health Care Compliance (1.5 credits) In-depth coverage of ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements in two critical areas: 1) privacy and security of health care information under state and federal law, including HIPAA, HITECH Act, cybersecurity issues, and state breach notification laws; and 2) billing for health care services, including exposure under the federal False Claims Act and compliance audits under Medicare.

The Provider-Patient Relationship (1.5 credits) The core duties and liabilities in treatment relationships, including formation and termination of the relationship, informed consent, malpractice liability as well as licensure and scope of practice.

Detecting Wrongdoing with Investigations, Monitoring and Audits (3 credits) An introduction to the detection of wrongdoing in the workplace, with an emphasis on the following key methods: investigations, monitoring and auditing. Coverage includes essential investigation components and pitfalls, as well as the seven basic tools of auditing and monitoring.

Cybersecurity (3 credits) The laws and regulations that apply to data privacy, data security, and data breaches, including cybercriminal combat, privacy, and many other cybersecurity issues. Coverage will include security of sensitive information, such as employee records, financial data, and health information. After discussing the compliance requirements, students will develop a cyber risk mitigation strategy for their workplace.

The Business of Healthcare (3 credits) An analysis of the corporate forms unique to health care, including liability and tax implications, as well as various certification and accreditation issues and Certificate of Need laws. Also covered are antitrust laws governing health care market participants, including direct care providers, hospitals, and other institutional providers, pharmaceutical companies, and other sellers of health care products, as well as insurers.

Part-Time Plan of Study – 30 credits

Year	Fall Course (Credits)	Spring Course (Credits)	Summer Course (Credits)
1	Conceptual Models, Quality and Safety (2)	Translating Research into Practice (3)	Health Care Policy, Advocacy and Ethics (3)
	Foundations of Research Analysis (2)	Informatics and Data Driven Health Care (3)	*Wake Forest Graduate Law Elective (3)
2	Doctoral Study (2)	Doctoral Study (2)	Doctoral Study (2)
	Biostatistics and Epidemiology (2)	Leadership and Interprofessional Collaboration (3)	Health Care Management, Finance, and Law (3)

*Flexible Offering: To determine when each law elective is offered, refer to the “Track Courses” on the WF MSL Health Law Policy website. <http://msl.law.wfu.edu/degree/healthlawpolicy/>