Minimum admission requirements for the DNP program are established by the DNP Council of the School of Nursing. The number of DNP students admitted each year is determined by availability of appropriately qualified faculty and/or clinical resources. Each applicant is reviewed on an individual basis according to admissions criteria.

**Criteria for Admission:**

One official copy of transcripts from each institution attended. If attended any school within The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston it is not necessary to request a transcript. Electronic submission is preferred. Transcript(s) should include:

- A baccalaureate degree in nursing earned from a nationally accredited program

- A master’s degree or post-masters certificate as an advanced practice nurse (clinical nurse specialist, nurse practitioner, or nurse anesthetist) nurse executive, or nurse informatics or equivalent from a nationally accredited program with a GPA of 3.0 or above

- A completed graduate level statistics course with a grade of B or higher

- A completed graduate level nursing research course or equivalent with a grade of B or higher

- Evidence of epidemiology content integrated into a course, as a separate course, or a certificate of completion of the CDC principles of epidemiology self-study course SS1978

Three (3) letters of reference attesting to the applicant’s academic ability and potential for doctoral study (include one reference from a professional colleague and one from a faculty member).

If international applicant, one official copy of TOEFL score. TOEFL scores cannot be more than two (2) years old; a minimum score of 550 is required on the paper exam, a minimum score of 213 on the computer-based exam; or a minimum score of 86 on the internet-based exam.
If the applicant is an international student, a course-by-course evaluation of international credentials by Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE) of individuals with degrees from outside the United States.

Eligibility or evidence of an unencumbered current Texas Licensure without stipulation to practice as a Registered Nurse in Texas.

Eligibility or approval to practice as an advanced practice nurse by the Texas Board of Nursing for those candidates who are advanced practice nurses.

Current certification by a nationally recognized credentialing organization in the advanced practice role for those candidates who are advanced practice nurses.

Documentation of a minimum of one (1) year work experience in the advanced practice role or (2) years’ experience in advanced nursing leadership/administration for the nurse executive option.

A 500-word typed statement of area of practice interest, career goals, and reasons for desiring doctoral study.

A curriculum vitae that documents practice experience, professional activities, and presentations/publications.

Qualified applicants will be interviewed by faculty members to provide an opportunity to assess whether the program interfaces with the applicant’s educational needs and career goals.

Acceptance is contingent upon successful completion of a course in epidemiology, a graduate level statistics course and a graduate level research course, immunization screening, immigration status clearance, Health Care Provider Basic Life Support (CPR) certification, and clearance of the mandatory criminal background check and drug screen. All new students must successfully clear a criminal background check and drug screen prior to enrollment.

**Non-Degree Admission Status:**
The non-degree admission category is for the following categories of students:

Master’s degree or post-masters graduates who wish to take courses before seeking formal enrollment in the DNP program (e.g. missed the once a year admissions cycle and wishes to start taking courses). Currently enrolled UT-Houston SON masters or post-masters students who are planning to enroll in the DNP program upon completion of the master’s degree or post-masters certificate program and wish to enroll in selected DNP courses while completing the master’s curriculum.

The master’s degree graduate or post – MSN graduate must apply for non - degree status in the DNP program and meet minimum criteria. If permission is granted, the student may enroll in selected courses with the approval of the DNP Council. The student may apply for full admission for the next entering class at any point during enrollment as a non-degree seeking student. Having met the criteria for full admission, a student may petition the DNP Council for a maximum of 9 semester hours of course work with a grade of B or better to be applied to course requirements of the DNP program.
For a student currently enrolled in the masters or post-master’s program at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Nursing, who has completed at least one clinical preceptorship satisfactorily and who has earned a B or higher in all master level course work, many request to take selected DNP courses concurrently with master level courses by completing an abbreviated admission application to the DNP program. If approved by the DNP Council, the student may enroll in selected DNP courses. Upon completion of the master’s program, the student may apply for full acceptance into the DNP program. Having met the criteria for full admission, a student may petition the DNP Council for a maximum of 9 semester hours of course work with a grade of B or better to be applied to course requirements of the DNP program.

**Students Holding a MSN Degree as an Advanced Practice Nurse and Seeking Post-MSN Certification in a New Advanced Practice Role**

The masters/post masters programs are separate and distinct from the DNP program. For students who currently have a master’s degree as an advanced practice nurse and who are seeking a post master’s certificate in another advanced practice role (e.g. FNP seeking ACNP post-masters certificate) preceptorship hours may be applicable to the preceptorship in the DNP program with the approval of the DNP Council. For a student who is planning to enroll into the DNP program upon completion of the post masters certificate, she or he may petition the DNP Council to apply clinical precepted hours in the post MSN program to the DNP preceptorship. If approved, a maximum of 240 hours could be used to meet the requirements for the DNP preceptorship hours.

**Student Who Begins the DNP Program and Interrupts It to Do a Post-MSN Certification Program**

For a student in good academic standing (e.g. 3.0 cumulative GPA and B or above in all completed course work in the DNP Program), the student may transfer from the DNP program to the UT-Houston SON post-masters program to pursue the post masters completion certificate for a period of no more than 12 months or less and then will be allowed to continue in the DNP program without reapplying. If the interval of absence is greater than 12 months, the student will need to reapply to the DNP program.