

ADMISSION CRITERIA BSN-DNP NURSE PRACTITIONER PROGRAM

Subject: BSN-DNP Admission	Effective Date: 4/2018
Scope: All Faculty, Staff, and Students of the Graduate Department	Date Reviewed/Revised: 12/2025
Responsible Office: Department of Graduate Studies	Next Scheduled Review Date: 12/2027
	Responsible Executive: Dean, Cizik School of Nursing

I. POLICY AND GENERAL STATEMENT

Minimum admission requirements for the BSN–DNP Nurse Practitioner Program are established by the Graduate Council of the Cizik School of Nursing. All applicants are reviewed on an individual basis in accordance with the approved admissions criteria to ensure readiness for doctoral-level study and alignment with program standards.

II. DEFINITIONS

Course Substitution: The formal approval process by which an external or internal course is accepted in place of a required DNP course, as approved by course lead faculty and the Office of Student Affairs.

NursingCAS: The Nursing Centralized Application Service used for submission and processing of applications and official academic transcripts.

Credential Evaluation: A course-by-course assessment of international academic coursework completed by an approved credential evaluation service, such as Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE).

Population Focus: The nurse practitioner specialty track selected by the applicant (e.g., Family, Psychiatric/Mental Health, Adult/Gerontology Acute Care).

Grade Point Average (GPA): The cumulative academic average calculated on a 4.0 scale and used to determine eligibility for admission.

III. PROCEDURE

A. Application Requirements

1. Applicants must submit a completed online application through the Nursing Centralized Application Service (NursingCAS) to UTHealth Houston's Registrar's Office at the time of application submission.
2. Applicants must submit official transcripts from each institution attended through NursingCAS documenting:
 - a. A baccalaureate degree in nursing from an accredited program with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
3. Applicants with degrees or coursework completed outside the United States must submit a course-by-course credential evaluation from Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE).

B. Supplemental Materials and Eligibility

1. Applicants must submit a statement of approximately 300 words describing area of practice interest, career goals, and reasons for pursuing doctoral study.
2. Applicants must submit a professional curriculum vitae or résumé.
3. Applicants must provide documentation of minimum work experience for the selected population focus, as follows:
 - a. Family Nurse Practitioner: One (1) year of clinical experience as a registered nurse.
 - b. Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner: One (1) year of psychiatric nursing experience as a registered nurse.
 - c. Adult/Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner: One (1) year of critical care experience as a registered nurse.
 - d. Adult/Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner: One (1) year of clinical experience as a registered nurse.
4. Applicants must hold a current unencumbered Texas registered nurse (RN) licensure.

IV. CONTACTS

Contact	Telephone	Email/Web Address
DNP Program Director		https://nursing.uth.edu/about/administration