DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

DNP: Palliative Care Specialty for Nurse Practitioners

Are you a nurse practitioner who wants to provide compassionate person-centered care, and support the best possible quality of life for patients and families needing chronic illness or end-of-life care?

Are you compelled to engage in health policy and advocate for patients and families needing palliative care?

If so, GW’s DNP: Palliative Care Specialty for Nurse Practitioners prepares you to lead in this vital and expanding area of need and to innovate health care to be more responsive to the needs of individuals with chronic and complex illnesses and at the end of life.

Understand the philosophy, theory, evidence base, standards, and interprofessional aspects of a comprehensive system to provide the highest quality of life possible.

Focus on symptom, pain, and stress management; provide support for daily living; and assist patients and families in making ethical and compassionate decisions based on their goals of care.

Craft and implement strategies and policies to achieve meaningful system, organizational, and community change.

Demand for NPs with a palliative care specialty is increasing as more people live longer, live sicker, and manage multiple chronic conditions.

WHY GW IS A SMART CHOICE

As you pursue the DNP: Palliative Care Specialty for Nurse Practitioners online at GW, you will find that as a nationally recognized leader in online nursing education, GW offers you:

+ **FLEXIBILITY** - access courses anytime and work around a busy or unpredictable schedule

+ **CONVENIENCE** - use any internet-connected computer, and complete clinical practicums in your community

+ **VALUE** - top-ranked school with comparatively low tuition

+ **SHARED MISSION** - relieving suffering and providing the highest quality of life possible for individuals, families, and communities

+ **COMMUNITY** - diverse colleagues nationwide with whom to share experiences and exchange ideas, and a lifelong connection to GW’s alumni network

+ **ACADEMIC RIGOR** - challenging curriculum designed to prepare you for a future in today’s complex health care environment

+ **POLICY EXPERTISE** - GW is evolving as the school of nursing for health policy

STRENGTHEN YOUR CONTRIBUTION CAPACITY AND WIDEN YOUR CAREER OPTIONS

As more people in the US are living longer, living sicker, and managing multiple chronic conditions, the demand for NPs with a palliative care specialty is increasing. This DNP prepares you to:

- Be a specialist in care, pain, stress, and symptom management

- Educate colleagues who have not studied care for the dying and their loved ones

- Facilitate advanced care planning, palliative care teams, family meetings, and patient support groups

- Design and execute strategies for system and organizational change

- Develop and implement policies and programs

- Coordinate interprofessional teams, manage programs, and lead organizations

- Work in a variety of settings, such as acute and critical care units, community-based care delivery settings, long-term care facilities, home health care, health plans, policy agencies, and more
FORMAT

Designed for working nurses, coursework is online and as challenging as an on campus pathway. Like on campus options, there is a regular semester schedule and students have textbooks, work on group projects, and complete final exams or projects.

Classes are asynchronous to offer flexibility. Interactive formats give you easy access to course materials, faculty, and classmates. Some courses have synchronous seminars to provide live time with faculty members and other students.

You will complete two clinical palliative care practicums, which can be in your own community.

You will have three to four on campus experiences for face-to-face interactions with your classmates and faculty members, to hone your skills during course seminars, and for networking.

A clinical research project in the final year caps your studies.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

The rigorous curriculum incorporates the values within the SON vision and mission, and consistent with the ANCC Magnet goals, educates you to be a nurse leader prepared to:

• Provide high quality patient care
• Further evidence-based practice
• Ensure collaboration among health care providers
• Develop quality improvement initiatives
• Engage in policy discussions and decision-making
• Collect and analyze clinical data
• Translate research into practice
• Strategically manage resources
• Utilize technology to improve efficiency and effectiveness
• Foster lifelong learning

Layered on this is curriculum focused on illnesses for which patients rely on palliative care, health care quality and policy, research, and providing the highest quality of life possible to patients. Specific courses include:

• Chronic Illness Care
• Pain and Suffering
• Population Health
• Health Care Quality
• Organizational & Interdisciplinary Concepts
• Health Care Enterprise
• Health Services Research and Policy
• Translating Research into Practice
• Knowledge Management in Healthcare
• And more…

FACULTY

Drawn from diverse health care professions, the faculty gives you access to many worldviews and health care perspectives.

Our faculty believes optimal learning occurs when education is student-centered and adult learners are recognized for their professional knowledge, life experience, and self-reflection.

The George Washington University does not unlawfully discriminate against any person on any basis prohibited by federal law, the District of Columbia Human Rights Act, or other applicable law, including without limitation, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression. This policy covers all programs, services, policies, and procedures of the university, including admission to education programs and employment.

STRONG EDUCATION SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

You will have a strong support network:

• Positive support from faculty through academic advising and other direct interactions
• On campus orientation to develop relationships and facilitate communication
• Access to all campus services, with staff and faculty assistance in navigating university systems
• A student writing resource website
• Network of colleagues across the country for idea exchange and support

ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

You enter the DNP: Palliative Care Specialty for Nurse Practitioners in the fall semester as a part-time student. This option takes four years to complete at approximately two courses per semester.

For more information about the admissions requirements and process, please visit nursing.gwu.edu/how-apply or contact us at sonadmit@gwu.edu or 571-553-0138.

The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is not required.

This is a post-MSN degree opportunity.

TUITION, FINANCIAL AID AND VALUE

TUITION

$1,030/Credit*

Total Credits Needed for Graduation .............................. 42

*This graduate tuition rate is fixed for students admitted in Fall 2015 or Spring 2016, and guaranteed for one year past the standard degree completion.

OTHER COSTS

Students are responsible for other costs, including but not limited to: CPR certification, books, certified background check, health insurance, immunizations, and lab fees. For the current listing of all associated costs, visit our website at nursing.gwu.edu/tuition-and-fees.

FINANCIAL AID

GW Colonial Central provides a “one-stop shop” for tuition, student loans, and financing your education.

Some employers provide tuition support and some scholarship opportunities are available. Visit colonialcentral.gwu.edu.

Students are eligible to apply for financial aid through GW’s Financial Aid Office (financialaid.gwu.edu).

Questions? Contact finaid@gwu.edu or call 202-994-6620.

Also, nursing specific scholarships and other funding sources are identified in the Admissions & Aid section of the school’s website at nursing.gwu.edu.

VALUE

George Washington University is a nonprofit private university. Receive a valuable education from a school of nursing ranked in the top 11% of nursing schools by US News & World Report and whose MSN program is ranked #9.