DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

DNP: Health Care Quality (HCQ)

Are you compelled by health care quality, passionate about health policy, and keen to be a leader who makes meaningful change?

If so, GW’s DNP: Health Care Quality prepares you to lead and innovate to improve the safety and quality of patient care in community-based care delivery settings, health plans, policy agencies, hospitals, and other health care facilities.

Our scientific approach to the curriculum combined with our expertise in health care quality and policy distinguishes GW’s DNP: Health Care Quality from others. Our graduates are driving improvements throughout the nation’s health care system and helping elevate the issue of health care quality to the top of the agenda for health care organizations across the globe.

Nurse leaders who translate national quality expectations into daily operations, who cultivate and sustain a culture of quality and continuous improvement, and who address policy matters are in demand.

Develop, implement, and evaluate quality, patient, and provider safety improvements.
Craft and execute strategies to achieve meaningful system and organizational change.
Design and implement policies and systems for continuous quality improvement.
Conduct research and analyze data to drive clinical and operational decision-making.

WHY GW IS A SMART CHOICE

As you pursue an online DNP degree in health care quality 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
+ POLICY EXPERTISE - GW is evolving as the school of nursing for health policy
+ VALUE - top-ranked school with comparatively low tuition
+ SHARED MISSION - dedication to patient safety and quality care, innovation, and advancing policy
+ COMMUNITY - diverse colleagues nationwide and internationally with whom to share experiences, 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 dynamic health care environment

STRENGTHEN YOUR CONTRIBUTION CAPACITY AND WIDEN YOUR CAREER OPTIONS

Patient safety and health care quality are critical components of our nation’s health care environment. The DNP: Health Care Quality prepares you for career opportunities in:

• Policy analysis
• Systems analysis
• Performance measurement
• Project management
• Team and organizational leadership
• Operational efficiency expertise
• Clinical indicator development
• Continuing education
• Research
• Consultation
FORMAT
Designed for working nurses, coursework is online but similar to an on campus experience. 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 have two to three on campus experiences for face-to-face interactions with your classmates and faculty members, to hone your skills during course seminars, and for networking. Having an international network of colleagues offers you a perspective on a wide range of organizational quality improvement efforts.

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 the health care quality curriculum developed with leading national experts. The curriculum has a scientific approach. Scientific principles, methodologies, and tools are integrated into the curriculum. Courses include:

- Quality Improvement Science
- Quality Measurement, Data Management, and Analysis
- Patient Safety Systems
- Population Health
- Knowledge Management
- Health Services Research and Policy
- Translating Research into Practice
- And more…

A health care quality practicum puts your new knowledge into practice, and a clinical research project of your own design in your last year allows you to engage your health care quality expertise within your organization, or in another setting.

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.

STRONG EDUCATION SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS
You will have a strong support network:

- Positive support from the 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 international colleagues for idea exchange and support

ADMISSIONS INFORMATION
You enter the DNP: Health Care Quality in the fall as a part-time student. This option takes three 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
2015-2016

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.