

# Department of Doctoral Studies

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The Department of Doctoral Studies offers two doctoral programs, the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Nursing and the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP). Scholarship is fundamental to both programs. The PhD is a research-based program that primarily prepares students to conduct independent research and disseminate their findings. The DNP program is clinically focused and provides graduates with the expertise to assess nursing research evidence, evaluate the impact of nursing research on nursing practice (evidence-based practice), and take a leadership role in making changes in the healthcare environment to enhance the quality of care. The department also offers a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) to DNP pathway that allows RNs with a BSN to enter directly into the DNP program without first earning an MSN degree.