

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Is the DNP program completely online?**

The DNP program is completely online except for one clinical orientation for students in the BSN-DNP and MN-DNP who are adding a new specialty certification.

2. **How often do I have to come to campus?**

Students in the BSN-DNP and MN-DNP adding a new specialty certification are required to attend a 3-4 day Clinical Orientation the fall semester in which they begin clinical courses for their specialty.

3. **Do the DNP programs have an orientation?**

All DNP students are required to complete a two-part orientation once accepted into the program. The first part is a Virtual Orientation Site requiring the completion of several modules prior to the DNP Orientation Webinar, which is the second part of the orientation. The DNP Orientation Webinar is a one-day live event conducted online. Students are not required to come to campus.

4. **Where can I find a clinical affiliation?**

Once a student has been accepted to the University of South Alabama College of Nursing (USA CON), students will gain access to the Clinical Affairs Placement Site (CAPS). The Clinical Affiliation Posting will list all current clinical affiliations. If the clinical agency is not currently affiliated, students may complete clinicals at that rotation if an affiliation agreement is requested and completed. Please note that affiliated agencies are never required to accept a student for a rotation, and clinical facilities may terminate affiliations at any time. Prospective students may also contact conclinicalcontracts@southalabama.edu prior to acceptance if they have a specific question on current affiliations.

5. **Where can I complete my DNP Project?**

Students admitted to the DNP Program should identify a clinical site within a geographically-accessible area where the student may be able to address a need for quality improvement. As all DNP projects are specific to an individual clinical agency's needs, it is imperative that the student form a collaborative relationship with the clinical site who, in turn, will allow the student to address the identified need of the agency through a quality improvement project over four semesters (DNP Project Planning & Development and Residency I, II, and III). While the college is willing to assist students with locating an appropriate site, the student may not be able to complete the type of DNP project of their choosing. If placed by the college, students will be required to develop a project that meets an identified need of the agency.

6. **Will I be required to complete clinical hours with a preceptor in the MSN, DNP, and PGC programs?**

Yes, as indicated. Specialty tracks within the College of Nursing's graduate program require a practice component. Students are encouraged to secure a clinical site and preceptor by the deadlines noted on their conditional admission to the college for all clinical portions including MSN/PGC and DNP levels as well as subspecialties as indicated.

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7. Are the GRE or MAT required for admission to the DNP?

Neither the GRE or MAT are required for admission to this program.

8. Am I required to complete a drug screen and background check for this program?

Upon admission to the DNP program, the College of Nursing requires every student to complete a drug screen and background check through a certain agency. This should not be completed until admission into the program has been granted. All immunizations and medical records are also requested upon admission to the program.

9. How can I pay for this degree?

Students may apply for financial aid through the USA Office of Financial Aid at <http://www.southalabama.edu/departments/finaid/index.html> We do recommend completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/> to determine student loan eligibility. Please visit the USA Office of Financial Aid for important financial aid deadlines and for supplemental information required by the FAFSA.

10. Are there any scholarships available?

Scholarships for nursing students are located on our Scholarship Webpage at <http://www.southalabama.edu/colleges/con/students/scholarships.html>

11. How long do I have to complete the program?

All requirements for the BSN to DNP, the MN-DNP Adding a New Specialty Certification, and MSN-DNP for Advanced Practice Roles must be completed within seven calendar years of admission.