

Page 1 of 2	DNP CLINICAL/PRACTICE HOURS	Policy Number:	D603
		Approved Date:	05/09/2024
		Effective Date:	09/11/2020
		Review Date:	2027

## POLICY TITLE: DNP CLINICAL/PRACTICE HOURS

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### Policy

DNP students must meet a minimum of 1000 post-baccalaureate clinical hours as delineated in *The Essentials: Core Competencies of Professional Nursing Education* (AACN, 2021) to satisfy the clinical practice hour requirement for successful completion of the University of Houston Andy and Barbara Gessner College of Nursing Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program. The required 1000 clinical/practice hours may include a combination of hours completed at the master's level and those completed during the post-master's DNP program. Clinical hours may be composed of direct point of care clinical practice, systems/indirect nursing practice or related experiences. The maximum clinical hours accepted from an MSN program for all students is 500 hours. The DNP Director will conduct the clinical/practice hour review and gap analysis. An individual review and plan to meet the clinical requirement will be developed for each student.

### FNP DNP Applicants

Qualified family nurse practitioner (FNP) applicants, according to the state of Texas, are required to have completed a minimum of 500 clinical hours in their Master of Nursing Science (MSN) program prior to certification and licensure as an APRN. The post-master's DNP program requires an additional 585 clinical hours to meet the requirements for completion of the program resulting in a minimum of over 1000 clinical hours for graduation with the DNP degree. Any currently licensed, certified FNP applicant will be awarded 500 post-baccalaureate clinical hours by the Andy and Barbara Gessner College of Nursing. Written verification of MSN clinical hours completion will not be required (*The Doctor of Nursing practice: Current Issues and Clarification Recommendations*, AACN, 2015). In completion of direct patient care hours required by the college, APRN's are expected to practice within their scope of practice as defined by their education, licensure, and certification.

### Administration DNP Applicants

Applicants who hold an MSN in administration are expected to have completed practice hours in their MSN program. Completed practice hours will be verified in writing from the applicant's MSN program director or Dean. The number of verified MSN practice hours completed will be deducted from the 1000 total practice hours required for completion of the DNP program. The DNP program provides 810 clinical practice hours for students in the administration track. If additional hours are required as determined by the MSN/DNP Director, the student may take an independent study to complete any hour deficit indicated during the practice hour review and gap analysis.

### Clinical Objectives

Each student will develop clinical objectives in alignment with course and program outcomes with approval of the MSN/DNP Director based on their learning needs. The student will provide a copy of the objectives to the preceptor and include the objectives in the student's electronic portfolio. The preceptor will complete an evaluation of the student based on identified objectives following each

Page 2 of 2	<b>DNP CLINICAL/PRACTICE HOURS</b>	<b>Policy Number:</b>	<b>D603</b>
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clinical-related activity. The clinical evaluation of the DNP student rests with the faculty. A copy of the preceptor’s appraisal of student performance will be evaluated and approved by the course faculty, MSN/DNP Director, and placed in the student’s portfolio.

Students will maintain a log of clinical hours and patient encounters on Nurse Practitioner Tracking System (NPST) in compliance with DNP program requirements. Documentation and storage of clinical patient encounter information will conform to HIPAA guidelines for the protection of privacy and security of health records.

Approved by Gessner College of Nursing Faculty: 04/05/2024

Approved by Dean Kathryn Tart: 05/09/2024