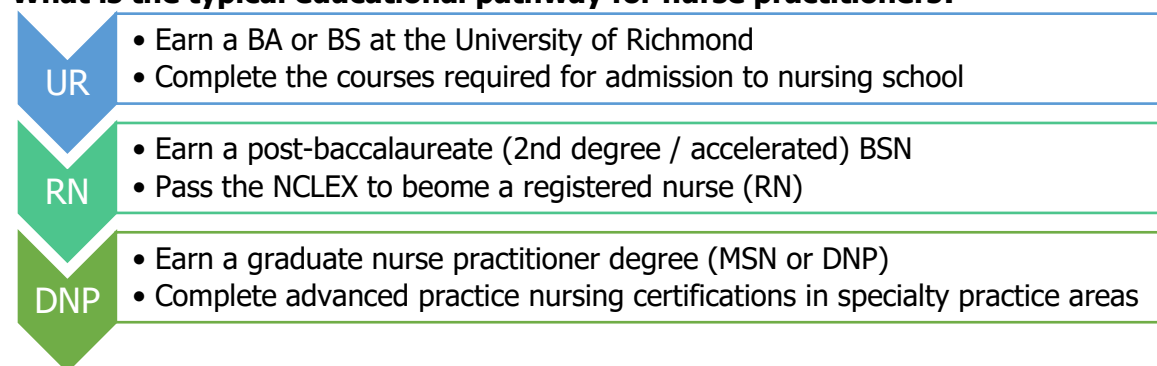


## Pre-DNP (Doctor of Nursing Practice) Advising Recommendations for Health Studies Majors

### What does a nurse practitioner do?

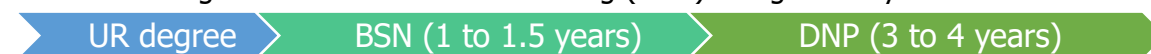
Nurse practitioners (NPs) are advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) who have earned graduate degrees in nursing and are licensed to provide specialty care in one of many advanced clinical practice areas, such as family practice (FNP), women's health (WHNP), pediatrics (PNP), adult gerontology (AGNP), neonatology (NNP), psychiatry and mental health (PMHNP), anesthesiology (CRNA), or midwifery (CNM). In addition to providing clinical care, NPs often serve in leadership roles in areas such as nursing administration, education, or informatics. While physician assistants (PAs) typically must work under the supervision of a physician or surgeon, many states allow NPs to prescribe medication and independently perform other clinical functions.

### What is the typical educational pathway for nurse practitioners?



### What is the typical timeline for nurse practitioner studies?

Most nurse practitioners in training today do a "direct entry" program in which they go directly from a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) to a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program without earning a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) along the way:



Some nurse practitioners earn an MSN or an MSN and DNP:



Some MSN and DNP programs expect applicants to have worked as RNs for 1+ years before they begin graduate studies, which would add a year or more to this timeline. Some schools now offer "direct entry" MSN or DNP programs that allow applicants who have earned bachelor's degrees in fields other than nursing to become RNs through graduate study without earning a BSN first. These programs typically require about the same duration of full-time study as is required to earn both a BSN plus a graduate degree. (As a comparison, Master of Science (MS) in Physician Assistant (PA) Studies degrees typically require 3 years of study, sometimes followed by a 1-year residency in a specialty area of medical or surgical practice.)

### What courses are required for nursing school?

Applicants for post-baccalaureate nursing programs are required to complete several courses as part of their undergraduate degrees, typically including anatomy (BIOL 219), physiology (BIOL 220), microbiology (BIOL 229), developmental psychology (PSYC 311 + PSYC 315), statistics (DSST 189 or others), and nutrition (HS 305). At UR, the prerequisites for these courses include BIOL 192 or BIOL 199; BIOL 200; BIOL 202; CHEM 141 or CHEM 192; PSYC 100; and PSYC 200.

The table below summarizes the requirements at a few schools, but pre-DNP students should look up the requirements of their preferred BSN programs and create a plan of study at UR that will ensure that the specific requirements are completed.

University		Drexel University	George Mason University	Rutgers University	Virginia Commonwealth University	Johns Hopkins University	Boston College
Location		Philadelphia, PA	Fairfax, VA	Newark, NJ	Richmond, VA	Baltimore, MD	Boston, MA
Direct entry program		Accelerated Career Entry BSN	Accelerated Second Degree BSN	Second Degree BSN	Accelerated BSN	MSN Entry into Nursing	Direct Entry DNP
Approximate program duration		11-month BSN → 3-year MSN/DNP	12-month BSN → 3-year DNP	14-month BSN → 4-year DNP	1.5-year BSN → 3-year DNP	2-year MSN → 3-year DNP	1.5-year MSN → 3-year DNP
Required prerequisite courses	Human anatomy + lab	BIOL 219	X	X	X	X	X
	Human physiology + lab	BIOL 220	X	X	X	X	X
	Microbiology + lab	BIOL 229	X	X	X	X	
	Statistics	DSST 189	X	X	X	X	X
	Developmental psych (whole lifespan)	PSYC 311 PSYC 315	X	X	X	X	X
	Nutrition	HS 305	X	X	X	X	
	Other courses	CHEM 141, ENGL 103		HS 203	CHEM 205, PSYC 100, SOC 101,		

## Checklist of Pre-DNP Courses

### **Required Courses**

- BIOL 199 (Introduction to Biological Thinking with lab) or BIO 192 (SMART I)
- BIOL 200 (Integrated Biological Principles I with lab)
- BIOL 202 (Integrated Biological Principles II with lab)
- BIOL 219** (Human Anatomy with lab)
- BIOL 220** (Human Physiology with lab)
- BIOL 229** (Microbiology with lab)
- CHEM 141 (Chemistry: Structure, Thermodynamics, and Kinetics) or CHEM 192 (SMART II)
- Statistics:** DSST 189 (Introduction to Statistical Modeling) or BIOL 320 (Experimental Design and Biostatistics)

*Biology minor: The Biology minor consists of BIOL 199, BIOL 200, BIOL 202, CHEM 141, and two additional BIOL courses (excluding BIOL 219). If you take BIOL 320 to fulfill your statistics requirement or complete one additional biology course beyond this list of courses, you will have earned a biology minor.*

- PSYC 100 (Introduction to Psychological Science)
- PSCY 200 (Methods and Analyses)
- Developmental psychology** = PSYC 311 (Child Development) + PSYC 315 (Adult Development) *or take 1 course at another university that covers the whole lifespan*
  
- HS 305** (Human Nutrition)
  
- Other courses required for your BSN programs of interest: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Recommended Pre-DNP Health Studies Major Curriculum**

- HS 100 (Health Policy)
- HS 101 (Global Health)
- HS 250 (Epidemiology & Health Research Methods)
- Health humanities: HS 203 (Health Ethics) or other
- Social health: HS 202 (Patients and Providers) or other
- Health science: fulfilled by HS 305 (Human Nutrition)*
- Statistics: fulfilled by DSST 189 or another approved statistics course*
- Health-related elective 1: fulfilled by BIOL 220 (Human Physiology)*
- Health-related elective 2: PSYC 323 (Health Psychology) or other
- HS 400 (Senior Capstone)

*\*The requirements for the HS major are updated for each catalog year. Please check your catalog year to confirm that you are on track to meet degree requirements.*