

THOMAS JEFFERSON UNIVERSITY  
JEFFERSON COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS  
JEFFERSON SCHOOL OF NURSING

**DNP CURRICULUM AND COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

**Scientific Underpinnings for Nursing Practice (3 credits)**

**Course Description:** This course explores the evolution and development of theories relevant to nursing practice, grand and middle-range theories, and the philosophical underpinnings and implications of theories will be analyzed.

**Applied Biostatistics (3 credits)**

**Course Description:** This course covers the basics of descriptive and inferential statistics. Students will learn about the role of sampling and probability in statistical decisions. Applications include confidence intervals and hypothesis testing about population means, proportions, and variances, as well as selected non-parametric tests. The students will learn the basics of a software package, SPSS, which can be used for analyses. This is an inter-professional course offering.

**Theoretical Foundations for Organizational Change in Health Care Systems (3 credits)**

**Course Description:** This course provides a comprehensive exploration of organizational change theories and systems thinking approaches. The goal of this course is to develop and refine the leadership/management change skills of students to transform practice and educational environments in order to enhance the quality of nursing and healthcare delivery systems. This is an inter-professional course offering.

**Philosophy, Foundations, and Methods for Evidence-Based Practice (3 credits)**

**Course Description:** This course introduces the concepts associated with evidence-based nursing practice models. The steps in implementing evidence-based practice are explored in depth. Issues related to information management technology will be introduced. Strategies for creating a culture of evidence-based practice both for individual and systems will be identified and barriers to evidence-based practice will also be identified.

**Advanced Topics in Health Informatics (3 credits)**

**Course Description:** This course provides the student with an opportunity to examine advance topics in health informatics including revolutionizing health care through information and computer technology. This is an inter-professional course offering.

**Quality and Patient Safety: Evaluation for Improvement of Outcomes (3 credits)**

**Course Description:** This course examines issues in defining and measuring quality of care in a variety of health care settings and provides the skills to measure and analyze quality data. This is an inter-professional course offering.

**Leadership and Inter-Professional Collaboration (3 credits)**

**Course Description:** This course focuses on the knowledge and skills necessary to provide exemplary leadership of groups and inter-professional teams with an emphasis on relationship building and team building. This is an inter-professional course offering.

**Clinical Prevention and Population Health for Improving the Nation's Health (3 credits)**

**Course Description:** This course examines concepts related to health care outcomes identification, promotion, disease prevention, disease management, and the design of innovative health care delivery models for vulnerable, underserved, and minority populations.

**Current Issues in Health and Social Policy: Planning, Participating, and Policy Making (3 credits)**

**Course Description:** This course focuses on understanding how health care is organized, financed, and delivered in the U.S. and examines key issues currently on the U.S. national policy agenda. This is an inter-professional course offering.

**Specialty-focused Practicum I (3 credits)****Specialty-focused Practicum II (3 credits)****Specialty-focused Practicum III (3 credits)**

**Course Description:** These three courses provide the opportunity for application of knowledge gained in all the courses over the final three semesters of doctoral study. Students will select a JSN faculty mentor and a clinical/organizational mentor for their specialty-focused practicum. The student will develop an individualized practicum plan, in conjunction with the two mentors, that will include competencies, content, and practicum experiences needed for clinical practice leadership or systems/organizational leadership. The student and JSN faculty mentor will meet each week during the specialty-focused practicum. In addition, the student will complete 16 hours of practicum per week (224 hours per semester or a total of 672 hours of practicum). At the end of the third and final specialty-focused practicum the student will have completed their doctoral project.

**Doctoral Project Options include:**

- 1) Evidence-based Practice Change Initiative represented by a pilot study, a program evaluation, a quality improvement project, an evaluation of a new practice model, or a consulting project;
- 2) Research Utilization Project; or
- 3) Substantive Involvement in a Large Scale Project.

All doctoral projects require an integrated critical literature review or systematic review to be submitted by the end of the second specialty-focused practicum; a manuscript submitted for publication by the end of the third specialty-focused practicum. All options must use evidence to improve either practice or patient outcomes.