

## Dual Degrees (DNP, PhD) Overview

### Procedure for Changing to Dual Degrees (DNP, PhD) Option

Currently enrolled PhD or DNP students who request admission to the dual degrees (DNP, PhD) option must be in good academic standing in the currently enrolled doctoral program and must satisfy both the DNP and PhD admission and enrollment requirements. Students should first meet with their faculty advisor to discuss their interest in seeking dual degrees. They also should consult with the PhD and DNP program directors.

Students requesting admission to the dual degree should submit the materials listed below to OSSCE ([Advanced@nursing.arizona.edu](mailto:Advanced@nursing.arizona.edu)). The materials will be forwarded to the appropriate committee for approval. For example, DNP students requesting admission to the dual degree option will be reviewed by the PhD committee. PhD students requesting admission to the dual degree will be reviewed by the DNP committee.

### Application Procedure

1. The student writes a letter that contains the following:
  - a. Request to complete the dual degrees
  - b. Rationale for requesting the dual degrees option, documenting:
  - c. Career plans
  - d. How the two degrees will help attain career goals
  - e. Planned area of research or project
  - f. Potential research advisor or DNP project chair
2. The student's advisor writes a letter of support.
3. The identified potential research advisor or DNP project chair also writes a letter of support, indicating his/her willingness to work with the student. Note: if the student's current advisor and identified research advisor or project chair will be the same person, only one letter is needed.
4. The request is submitted to the Chairperson of the appropriate committee no earlier than the first four weeks of student's second semester in the program.
5. The designated committee reviews all relevant materials at the next scheduled meeting and notifies the student, advisor, OSSCE and the other doctoral committee of the decision to recommend admission to the Graduate College to the dual degrees option.

### Post-Approval Procedure

OSSCE will facilitate the enrollment of the student into the second degree program. To accomplish this:

1. After receiving approval to join the dual degree program, the student will contact OSSCE ([advanced@nursing.arizona.edu](mailto:advanced@nursing.arizona.edu)) to receive instructions for submitting the Graduate College Application for Fall term admission to the doctoral program to which he/she is not officially admitted (e.g., if currently enrolled in DNP, application is for PhD or viceversa).
2. Once the student submits the GradApp (new transcripts not needed), OSSCE will follow up with the Graduate College to ensure the second degree is added to the student's record.
3. When the process is complete, OSSCE will send a follow-up email to the student and request that the student be added to the new program's student email list and be granted portfolio access.
4. Upon receiving this notification, the student must schedule a meeting with the new advisory committee to revise the current Plan of Study to incorporate the added doctoral coursework.

### Dual-Degree Program Requirements

Students pursuing the dual degree (DNP/PhD) option must adhere to additional requirements to complete the program. Effective Spring 2012, the University will be charging students in multiple majors with program fees/differentials all applicable program fees/differentials.

## Committees

Dual Degree students will have the same committee membership and structure as PhD students. Committee membership is outlined in detail in the [PhD Student Handbook](#).

## Plans of Study

Dual Degree students must review the information regarding the Plan of Study for each program, available from the PhD or DNP program director. Dual Degree students must work with the program directors and specialty coordinator (if applicable) to plan their courses and confirm their plans of study.

Because the Dual Degree student is completing both the PhD and DNP, a Plan of Study for each degree is required. If the student is seeking specialty as a Nurse Practitioner, a third document (Masters) will be required. The following requirements must be met for the Doctoral Plans of Study:

- 79 units of coursework, which includes the minor & dissertation units (BSN-PhD Plan of Study) or 64 units of coursework, which includes the minor and dissertation units (MS-PhD Plan of Study)
- Students seeking NP specialty: 66-71 units of coursework; includes 4 units of DNP Project (DNP Plan of Study)
- Students not seeking NP specialty: 35 units of coursework; includes 4 units of DNP Project (DNP Plan of Study)

Dual Degree students may use up to 17 units in common between both the DNP and PhD Plans of Study.

The student should complete no less than 86 units total. The student should file all three Plans of Study during the summer in which they complete the second clinical management course. Students who are not seeking a clinical specialty do not need to add or file a Masters Plan of Study. Students not seeking a clinical specialty should file the documents in Summer 2 of their program. OSSCE is available to assist with completing these documents.

## Portfolio Completion

The Dual Degree student must complete both the PhD and DNP Portfolios. Specific requirements for each program's portfolios are available in the [DNP and PhD Student Handbooks](#).

## Comprehensive Examinations

The Dual Degree student will take a single set of comprehensive examinations to include both a written and oral portion.

The written examination will consist of two portions:

1. An evaluation of the portfolio (practice components) to document meeting the DNP competencies for practice.
2. The second portion examines theoretical, substantive, and methodological content of both major and minor content of the PhD.

After successfully completing the written portion of the examination, the student will schedule an oral examination to be examined using the same procedure as outlined by the Graduate College & in the PhD Program Handbook. The committee structure will be the same as any PhD examination committee, to include faculty that represent the major and the minor. One committee member will be a doctorally-prepared Advanced Practice Registered Nurse because of the combined nature of the examination.

Please see the PhD Handbook for descriptions of the written and oral portions of the examination in more detail.

## Dissertation (Final Project)

Dual Degree students complete the PhD Dissertation. Dual Degree students are expected to integrate clinical relevance into the dissertation and include both DNP and PhD perspectives. See [PhD Handbook](#) for more details about the dissertation requirements.