

Key Differences between DNP and PhD/DNS Programs

	DNP	PhD / DNS
Program of Study	<p><i>Objectives:</i> Prepare nurse leaders at the highest level of nursing practice to improve patient outcomes and translate research into practice</p> <p><i>Competencies:</i> See AACN’s Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Nursing Practice (2006)</p>	<p><i>Objectives:</i> Prepare nurses at the highest level of nursing science to conduct research to advance the science of nursing</p> <p><i>Content:</i> See The Research-Focused Doctoral Program in Nursing: Pathways to Excellence (2010)</p>
Students	<p>Commitment to practice career</p> <p>Oriented toward improving outcomes of patient care and population health</p>	<p>Commitment to research career</p> <p>Oriented toward developing new nursing knowledge and scientific inquiry</p>
Program Faculty	<p>Practice or research doctorate in nursing, and expertise in area teaching</p> <p>Leadership experience in area of role and population practice</p> <p>High level of expertise in practice congruent with focus of academic program</p>	<p>Research doctorate in nursing or related field</p> <p>Leadership experience in area of sustained research funding</p> <p>High level of expertise in research congruent with focus of academic program</p>
Resources	<p>Mentors and/or preceptors in leadership positions across practice settings</p> <p>Access to diverse practice settings with appropriate resources for areas of practice</p> <p>Access to financial aid</p> <p>Access to information and patient-care technology resources congruent with areas of study</p>	<p>Mentors and/or preceptors in research settings</p> <p>Access to research settings with appropriate resources</p> <p>Access to dissertation support dollars and financial aid</p> <p>Access to information and research technology resources congruent with program of research</p>
Program Assessment & Evaluation	<p><i>Program Outcome:</i> Healthcare improvements and contributions via practice, policy change, and practice scholarship</p> <p>Receives accreditation by nursing accreditor</p>	<p><i>Program Outcome:</i> Contributes to healthcare improvements via the development of new knowledge and scholarly products that provide the foundation for the advancement of nursing science</p> <p>Oversight by the institution’s authorized bodies (i.e., graduate school) and regional accreditors</p>