

Comparison of DNP and PhD

Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)	MU Sinclair School of Nursing	Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
Prepares expert clinical scholars to perform direct clinical practice, translate, disseminate and integrate evidence-based research into clinical practice and improve quality of health outcomes for individuals, populations and systems.	Purpose	Prepares nurse scientists to conduct research, develop the scholarship needed to advance the body of nursing knowledge, guide the practice of nursing, assume leadership in nursing and health care organizations, and participate in the development of social and health policy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced clinical practice • Clinical scholarship skills • Technology used in practice • Analysis of clinical outcomes • Evidence-based practice • Leadership role development • Rural and underserved populations 	Curricular Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methods and theories used to guide research • Grant writing skills • Technology used in research • Statistical & other analytical methods • Research traditions & methodologies • Faculty role development • Cognate areas of interest to guide research
Faculty supervised clinical practica hours in an advanced practice nursing role with a specific population	Clinical Requirements	None
None	Research Requirements	Faculty guided research residency hours working on an established research project(s) to hone selected research skills
Intense advanced nursing practice immersion experience with expert clinical faculty who have a focus on clinical practice, scholarship, leadership, teaching excellence, and service to the nursing profession	MU Hallmarks	Intense research immersion experience with seasoned nurse scientists and faculty scholars with established programs of research, and a history of external funding, professional publications and student mentorship
Practice change project impacting a rural or other underserved population, or critical healthcare system need	Final Product	Original research project that makes a significant contribution to the science of nursing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APRN in a variety of healthcare settings • Academic faculty position which includes practice, education, and service roles • Leadership positions in health care organizations, industry, government agencies • Evidence-based Practice Coordinator • Outcomes Manager • Magnet Coordinator • Quality Improvement Director 	Types of Jobs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic faculty position which includes research, education, and service roles • Research Scientist for healthcare organizations, industry or government agencies • Principal Investigator on extramural research grants • Leadership positions in health organizations, industry and government agencies • Government advisor on health policy