



MSN & DNP Program Frequently Asked Questions:

1. What's the difference between an Accelerated Plan of Study and Standard Plan of Study?

The University of Virginia defines full-time enrollment as 12 credits per semester. The plans of study for the graduate APRN programs do not always include 12 credits each semester. Therefore the Accelerated plan is what the School considers a full-time plan of study.

The Standard plan of study follows a part-time track.

2. How do I find out whether I am on the accelerated or standard track?

All students admitted to the MSN program are on the accelerated track.

Students admitted to the DNP program received information regarding their enrollment status (accelerated/full-time versus standard/part-time) in their offer letter.

3. Can I switch my enrollment status – move from part-time to full-time?

Movement from a part-time to full-time or full-time to part-time is dependent on space. We plan course progression based upon part-time and full-time admission numbers. It is unlikely that transitions will be made once matriculation is finalized. Special circumstances can be reviewed with the Program Lead for Graduate Nursing.

4. I would like to know what the credits per semester or courses for each semester looks like for the program.

The plans of study can be found on the following site: [Curriculum \(Plans of Study\) • UVA School of Nursing](#)

5. Can I change my specialty track? For example, I was admitted to the FNP track but would like to change to PMHNP.

Movement from one specialty track to another is dependent on space within the cohort. It is also a function of timing within the program. Individuals considering a change in the specialty track should meet with the Program Lead for Graduate Nursing within year-one of the program.

6. Where can I find information about tuition and fees?

Information about Tuition and Fees is available on the following sites:

[Tuition, Financial Aid, and Scholarships • UVA School of Nursing](#)

[Welcome | Student Financial Services](#)

7. Are there opportunities to be a Graduate Teaching Assistant?

GTA positions are required for the PhD program, and PhD students typically fill all of the needs. If opportunities arise, DNP students may be considered.

If a DNP student is interested in learning more about teaching, the SON does provide a series of electives to increase teaching knowledge and skills. DNP students are encouraged to consider these electives.

8. Where can I find information about the student health insurance offered through the University?

All students must either enroll in the UVA Student Health Plan OR submit proof of health insurance coverage that is comparable to the UVA Student Health Plan. Information about this process and the UVA Student Health Plan is available on the UVA Student Health and Wellness website: [Insurance | Student Health and Wellness](#).

9. When will I enroll in classes?

All new students will enroll in fall classes during the Virtual Registration Workshop on Wednesday, July 9 from 1:00-2:30pm. You will receive an email with the link to this workshop around July 1.

10. When does the semester begin and end?

Classes begin on Tuesday, August 26, 2025 and end on December 9, 2025.

The in-person class/lab dates are available on the New Student Steps: [New Student Steps • UVA School of Nursing](#)

The Academic Calendar is available on the University Registrar's website: [Calendars | University Registrar](#)

11. Is there a new student orientation?

Yes! We look forward to orienting you to the School of Nursing and the graduate programs on **August 19 & 20**. Please plan to attend both dates.

12. What dates do I need to be in Charlottesville for the fall semester?

August 19-20 for New Student Orientation

September 2-3 for in-person class

September 15-16 for in-person class

October 28-29 for in-person class

November 24-25 for in-person class

December 8-9 for in-person class

13. Are classes asynchronous on the other dates of the semester?

August 26 is a synchronous class date. The in-person dates are posted above. The rest of the coursework is completed asynchronously.

14. When will I start practicum?

Practicum start dates vary from specialty to specialty. We encourage you to visit this site for more information about the sequencing of coursework: [Curriculum \(Plans of Study\) • UVA School of Nursing](#)

All students will receive a Practicum Orientation the semester prior to starting practicum.

15. Is there an option to take the NP certification exam before I complete the program?

No. Students must complete the degree program prior to taking the NP certification exam.

16. How do I change or update my personal information in the system? (i.e. address, name, etc.)

Please visit the following site for helpful information and forms: [Forms | University Registrar](#)