1. **What is the dual degree?** The dual degree allows you to receive a DNP and a PhD during one matriculation as a graduate student. You graduate with both degrees simultaneously.

2. **What questions should you consider before applying to the dual degree track?** Have a clear idea of your advanced practice focus and your research area of interest. Be able to state how these degrees will support your career goals.

3. **What are the advantages of a dual degree?** You will gain the knowledge required to become a nurse scientist and an advanced practice nurse. You will be better prepared to conduct practice-focused research.

4. **How long will it take me to finish?** The time to degree for the dual degree typically ranges from 5-7 years.

5. **Do I have to pay for both degrees?** The first year you pay for the DNP. Once accepted into the PhD program, you pay tuition and fees for that program.

6. **Can I qualify for financial assistance when in the dual degree program?** Opportunities are available for DNP or PhD students. You may receive or compete for these opportunities if you meet their specific eligibility criteria.

7. **I am interested in the dual degree. What do I do first?** Schedule a meeting with the PhD or DNP program director as soon as you think you might be interested. This can happen while you are applying for either program.

8. **How do I get started?** You typically begin the dual degree track as a DNP student. In your second semester of your DNP 1 year, you apply for the PhD program if you are eligible (application instructions are in the PhD Handbook).

9. **What do my courses look like the first year?** Even before formally applying to the program, you may take some PhD courses in your DNP 1 year that can be shared between the programs and offer you a beginning foundation for the PhD.

10. **Do I have to take all the units for each degree?** You may share 17 units between the two degrees.

11. **How many units will I end up taking?** This depends on factors such as whether you are a BSN-PhD/DNP or an MS-PhD/DNP, your DNP specialty, your PhD minor, and the length of time it takes you complete the dissertation.

12. **Can I receive a masters degree?** You receive a master’s degree in passing when you complete your NP coursework.

13. **What kind of mentorship will I receive during the dual degree program?** You are assigned an advisor from the first day of your program who will mentor you on academic courses. You will have a PhD mentor as well. You will also have monthly meetings with your dual degree cohort.