

UA College of Nursing Dual degree (PhD/DNP) Track FAQs

- 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 program of entry. Once accepted into the other 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 in either the DNP or PhD program. In your second semester of your first year, you apply to the other program if you are eligible (application instructions are in the PhD or DNP Handbook).
- 9. What do my courses look like the first year?** Even before formally applying to the program, you may take some courses from each program in your first year that can be shared between the programs and offer you a beginning foundation for both degrees.
- 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. Do I do a DNP project or a PhD dissertation?** You complete a PhD dissertation only, which emphasizes advanced practice focus as part of the research.
- 14. What kind of mentorship will I receive during the dual degree program?** You are assigned a faculty advisor from the program you are admitted into who will advise you on academic courses. In the PhD program there are several resources for mentorship in addition to faculty mentorship.