

American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Comparison*: DNP vs. PhD

	Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)	Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
Faculty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doctoral degree with expertise in a specific teaching area • Senior leadership experience • Network of leadership influence • High level of expertise in the area of practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research doctorate in nursing or related field • Senior level research funding • Program of research consistent with area(s) of focus of program • Research methods expertise (e.g., qualitative/quantitative)
Program of Study	<p><i>Objective</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare nurses at the highest level of practice <p><i>Competencies & Content</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See AACN Essentials of the DNP** 	<p><i>Objective</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare nurse researchers <p><i>Content</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theory research methodology • Role with emphasis on research & faculty roles
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentors in leadership positions across various healthcare settings (not limited to nursing) • State of the science information technology resources • Access to diverse practice settings • Access to evaluation data and databases in practice setting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentors in research and other role preparation • Active programs of research in fundable areas • Access to dissertation support dollars • Technical and support services for state of the science information acquisition, communication, and management
Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to career in practice and/or service leadership • Oriented toward improving outcomes of care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to research career • Oriented toward developing new knowledge and establishing a pattern of productive scholarship in the discipline
Program Outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributes to healthcare improvement via direct service and policy change • Receives accreditation by specialized nursing accreditor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research contributions, development of new knowledge, and other scholarly products that provide the foundation for the advancement of nursing science

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**American Association of Colleges of Nursing. (1999). *Essential clinical resources for nursing's academic mission*. Washington, DC: Author. <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/DNP/pdf/Essentials.pdf>

American Association of Colleges of Nursing. (2005). *DRAFT Essentials of the DNP*. http://www.aacn.nche.edu/DNP/pdf/DNPEssentialsDraft_8-18-05.pdf, Accessed September 1, 2005.

American Association of Colleges of Nursing. (2001). *Indicators of quality in research-focused doctoral programs in nursing*. Washington, DC: Author

Rush University Medical Center. *Comparison of the DNP vs. PhD/DNSc/DSN*. Unpublished document. Chicago, IL/Author.