

What are the differences between the DNP and PhD programs?

The Saint Anthony College of Nursing DNP program builds upon the current master's program content to prepare nurse leaders for evidence-based practice in both direct patient care and executive roles. This requires competence in translating research in practice, evaluating evidence, applying research in decision-making, and implementing viable clinical and organizational innovations to change practice. A PhD program is designed to prepare nurses for careers as research scientists, often in academic or governmental positions.

Comparison	DNP	PhD
Objectives	Prepares nurses at the highest level of nursing practice who will lead in applying and translating research into practice	Prepares nurse scholars to conduct research that advances the theoretical foundations of nursing and health care globally
Competencies and Content	Knowledge and skills in applying and translating research into practice; leads dissemination and integration of new knowledge in healthcare organizations	Knowledge and skills in theoretical, methodological, and analytic approaches to the discovery and application of knowledge in nursing and healthcare
Program Outcome	Demonstrate advanced [specialist] levels of clinical judgment, systems thinking, and accountability in designing, delivering, and evaluating evidence-based care to improve patient outcomes.	Nurse scientist prepared for a career in research in academia or other research-intensive environments
Program Hallmarks	An intense practice immersion experience with expert clinical faculty	An intense mentored research experience with a faculty investigator with an established funded program of research
Final Project	A practice application-oriented DNP capstone project	Completion and defense of an original research project

References: AACN Comparison of DNP and PhD/DNSc/DNS Programs; <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/DNP/pdf/conf/Regionals/Grid8-05.pdf>