Welcome from the Director of the Orvis School of Nursing

Welcome to the DNP program!!!

Providing quality nursing education to meet the needs of our state and beyond is a priority at UNR Orvis School of Nursing. Our post-master’s DNP program, in collaboration with the University of Nevada-Las Vegas School of Nursing, has been developed as a rigorous program that builds on the strengths and experiences of nursing faculty from both UNR and UNLV. Designed for Advanced Practice Nurses and Nurse Executives, our program uses an online format with periodic campus visits, allowing the flexibility needed for today’s graduate-level nursing students. We are excited about our collaborative program and that you have chosen UNR and UNLV for your DNP education.

Sincerely,

Patsy L. Ruchala, DNSc, RN
Director, Orvis School of Nursing, UNR

Welcome from the Coordinator of the UNDNP, Reno Campus

Welcome to the UNR Cohort of the UNDNP program, a collaborative program between Orvis School of Nursing, University of Nevada Reno and the School of Nursing, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. As you are aware, approximately half of your class is enrolled here at the Orvis School of Nursing and the other half in Las Vegas. Both faculties share in teaching the online courses. You will have the opportunity to meet doctoral faculty from both campuses during orientation and as you progress through the program. In addition, you will have opportunities to work with your classmates on both campuses in the course work and through web-based academic and social sites online. Throughout the next 2 or 3 years, we welcome your assessment of the program so that we can continue to improve it and make it the quality
program it is designed to be. We are very excited about the program, and working with and learning from you. Again, welcome and as you progress through the program, should you have any questions or issues, don’t hesitate to contact me: sarahk@unr.edu or by phone: 916-337-7033.

Sarah B. Keating, EdD, RN, FAAN, Endowed Professor
General Note

It is important for UNR graduate students to be aware of the UNR Graduate School’s policies and procedures for graduate programs and to understand the policies relevant to the UNDNP program contained in the General Catalog. For more information about UNR’s Graduate School, visit its website at: http://www.unr.edu/grad. The following are the key points from Graduate School materials, plus additional guidelines relevant to the UNDNP program. Most of this information is also included in the General Catalog. It is the student’s responsibility to be aware of and meet all requirements.

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Orvis School of Nursing (OSN) at the University of Nevada, Reno. We look forward to working with you to achieve your academic and professional goals. This handbook is designed as a resource for information pertinent to the UNDNP Program. If you find there is additional information you believe should be added to the handbook, please contact the OSN UNDNP, Coordinator. We welcome your input!

Additional publications students will need and find helpful are listed below:


These important documents and others can be accessed on the Graduate School web page at [http://www.unr.edu/academics/graduate-school](http://www.unr.edu/academics/graduate-school).

INFORMATION ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA RENO

Founded in 1874 as the Silver State's first university, Nevada is a top-caliber, land-grant research university committed to serving the common good of the state and the world. Nestled at the intersection of the Great Basin and Sierra Nevada, the 17,000-student campus offers competitive degree programs and paradigm-shifting research in a world-class setting. The University of Nevada, Reno is designated as a Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Education as a Comprehensive Doctoral Institution. It is regionally accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities. Both the BSN and MSN programs at the Orvis School of Nursing, UNR and the School of Nursing at UNLV are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

RESOURCES ON CAMPUS

**Library**: The Mathewson-IGT Knowledge center combines the best of traditional library resources and services with new digital and multimedia technologies and tools. UNDNP students may access its services by accessing its website: [http://knowledgecenter.unr.edu](http://knowledgecenter.unr.edu). After reaching the website, type in your UNDNP student ID and PIN number.

For access to the UNLV Library, students admitted to UNR as their ‘home’ school will need to log into the UNLV library and register for a barcode that will give them internet access to the library services. After the middle of August the year of admission, students should log into [http://www.library.unlv.edu/circ/distance_registration.html](http://www.library.unlv.edu/circ/distance_registration.html) A barcode will be emailed to the student that will allow access to the library journals and databases.
**Graduate Student Association (GSA):** The UNR GSA offers a variety of services to graduate students. All enrolled graduate students may take advantage of GSA services. For further information go to its website at: http://www.unr.edu/gsa.

**Student Union:** Completed and formally dedicated in November 2007, the Joe Crowley Student Union is one of the most transformational buildings ever built on campus. The 167,000-square-foot, "green" environmentally friendly facility signals a shift in campus expansion, offering the campus and community a new centrally located "front door" to the University from Virginia Street. Named in honor of University President Joe Crowley, whose 23-year tenure as the institution's chief executive is a record, the Joe Crowley Student Union features a two-story ASUN Bookstore, a variety of food and drink retailers, a 1,200-seat grand ballroom, a 220-seat, two-level movie theater, a 2,000-square-foot student organization center, and is home to the Associated Students of the University of Nevada, Graduate Student Association and the Center for Student Cultural Diversity.

**Graduate School Office:** Contact information:

Student Services Building, Room 225  
Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-5:00pm  
Phone: (775)784-6869  Fax: (775)784-6064  
Graduate School Mailstop 0326  
University of Nevada, Reno  
Reno, NV 89557  
Website: http://www.unr.edu/grad/

**Student Enrollment and Financial Services:** This office is responsible for the processes of registration, withdrawals, and recording graduation. The staff handles students' questions about their records, provides transcripts and enrollment certification documents, and provides information about financial aid. Additional information may be found at: http://www.unr.edu/academic-central.

**Veteran Services:** The Veteran Services Office at UNR is your liaison to the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs for certification of your veteran and veteran related education benefits. Our goal is to provide students who are veterans or are receiving veteran education benefits assistance with both applying for and receiving those benefits to further their education. We accomplish this goal by submitting forms and information directly to the Veteran Affairs Education Benefits Office on behalf of the student, certifying classes being taken by the student, education benefit advising, provide contact information to Department of Veterans Affairs offices, academic advisors contact information, and direction to other on-campus student support services. The University of Nevada, Reno Veteran Services office is located on the second floor of the Fitzgerald Student Services Building in the Admissions and Records office.

Mailing address:  
Veteran Services  University of Nevada  
Reno Mail Stop 0121  
Reno, NV 89557-0121
Disability Resources Center: For further information and to make arrangements for services, please contact the Disability Resource Center directly at (775) 784-6000. www.unr.edu.

Counseling: Counseling Services are available at UNR. For information about services go to its website at: http://www.unr.edu/counseling or call: 775-784-4648.

Student Health Services: The Student Health Center at the University of Nevada, Reno is an accredited outpatient facility. It provides a wide range of health care services to meet the needs of the student population. All students enrolled at UNR are eligible to receive services at the Student Health Center. Phone: 775-784-6598

All graduate nursing students are required to maintain and show proof of current health insurance, malpractice insurance, and current license as an RN and Advanced Practice nurse, as applicable.

THE ORVIS SCHOOL OF NURSING

The mission of the Orvis School of Nursing is to prepare individuals for both entry level and advanced nursing roles by providing excellent academic programs integrating recognized educational standards. The curriculum emphasizes nursing care of individuals, families and populations throughout the lifespan; among diverse cultures & beliefs; and across all socioeconomic groups in the context of their environments by providing a strong foundation for evidence-based practice, critical thinking, and leadership. As an essential part of its mission as a land grant institution, Orvis School of Nursing provides service to the state of Nevada and to the professional community at large.

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE PROGRAM

Overview and Mission

Orvis School of Nursing, UNR and the School of Nursing at UNLV offer a collaborative Doctor of Nursing Practice (UNDNP) post-master’s degree with two options: Advanced Practice or Nurse Executive. Students may enroll in the program at either UNR or UNLV. The program of study is online and identical on each campus with half of the courses taught by UNR and the other by UNLV faculty. Graduates of the program receive a Doctor of Nursing Practice issued by the home campus, i.e., the campus to which they apply. Students are required to attend two-to three-day on-campus meetings each year for orientation to the program, defense of the proposed DNP Project, and final defense of the DNP Project. The program is 39 credits and takes five semesters to complete including one summer for full time study and nine semesters for part time including two summers. Students are admitted as a cohort and expected to finish the program at the end of the 5th semester.

The post-master’s UNDNP program prepares nurses to assume leadership roles in clinical practice, administration, clinical teaching, and clinical research. The DNP differs from the PhD in Nursing or Doctor of Nursing Science degrees, emphasizing advanced clinical practice, implementation of best practices, and evaluation of practice and care delivery models rather than individually initiated research. The University of Nevada DNP program prepares graduates for advanced clinical practice and leadership roles to serve the health care needs of the people of Nevada, the nation, and the professional community. DNP graduates are equipped to assume a wide range of leadership roles in both direct and indirect health care settings. DNP graduates
may function as specialists in their advanced practice clinical roles, nursing faculty, or as healthcare executives, program and policy analysts.

The UNDNP program offers two areas of study: post-master’s advanced practice option or the nurse executive option. The goal and objectives of the UNDNP program are as follows:

The goal of the DNP degree is to prepare nurses to assume leadership roles in clinical practice, clinical teaching, and health care analysis.

**DNP Program Objectives:**

At the conclusion of the University of Nevada DNP program, graduates will:

1. Provide advanced nursing care to improve patient and population health care outcomes in various direct and indirect settings.

2. Take leadership roles in the analysis, delivery and management of nursing care and health care systems.

3. Provide evidence-based practice through the application of analytical methods, information systems technology, and clinical research.

4. Collaborate with interprofessional teams to meet the healthcare needs of culturally and ethnically diverse individuals and populations.

5. Act as change agent, leader, and advocate in the design, implementation, and evaluation of health care policy as it affects populations and the nursing profession.