POLICY: Potential students wishing to apply to the DNP program must meet the following criteria:

A. BSN – DNP Prerequisite Requirements:

Nurse Practitioner/Advanced Practice or Nurse Executive Tracks

1. Hold a baccalaureate degree in nursing from a nationally accredited nursing program (CCNE, ACEN, NLN CNEA).
2. Generally, a minimal grade point average of 3.2 (on a 4.0 = A scale) earned in a baccalaureate nursing degree is required. Students who graduated from accredited competency-based schools are advised to contact the Program Director for additional information.
3. Hold an unrestricted and unencumbered license as a registered nurse.
4. Have practiced as a baccalaureate prepared registered nurse for a minimum of one calendar year (2000 hours) prior to beginning coursework in the BSN to DNP program.
5. Interviews may be required.

B. MSN – DNP Prerequisite Requirements:

1. Nurse Practitioner/Advanced Practice Track
   a. Hold a baccalaureate degree in nursing from an accredited nursing program (CCNE, ACEN, NLN CNEA).
   b. Students must hold a master’s degree in nursing (MSN or MN) from an accredited program. Exceptions to a master’s degree in nursing will be made on a case-by-case basis and only for those students who hold a baccalaureate degree in nursing with a master’s degree in another health-related field (i.e. MHA, MPH, MBA, etc.). Coursework from non-nursing master’s degrees must have significant content from nursing or a nursing focus. At a minimum, graduate level coursework must demonstrate a substantial study of nursing theory, research, and health policy.
   c. Generally, a minimal grade point average of 3.5 (on a 4.0 = A scale) earned in a nursing or health-related master’s program of study is required. Students who graduated from accredited competency-based schools are advised to contact the Program Director for additional information.
   d. Have completed graduate level coursework with a grade of B or better (not B-) in advanced pathophysiology, advanced pharmacology, and advanced physical assessment, nursing theory, research, and healthcare policy.
e. Hold an unrestricted and unencumbered license as a registered nurse and as an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) commensurate with state licensure.

f. Hold national certification in an advanced practice role from a nationally recognized certification/credentialing organization.

g. Interviews may be required.

2. Nurse Executive Track

a. Hold a baccalaureate degree in nursing from an accredited nursing program (CCNE, ACEN, NLN CNEA).

b. Students must hold a master’s degree in nursing (MSN or MN) from an accredited program. Exceptions to a master’s degree in nursing will be made on a case-by-case basis and only for those students who hold a baccalaureate degree in nursing with a master’s degree in another health-related field (i.e. MHA, MPH, MBA, etc.). Coursework from non-nursing master’s degrees must have significant content from nursing or a nursing focus. At a minimum, graduate level coursework must demonstrate a substantial study of nursing theory, research, and health policy. Students who have not completed a graduate level course in health policy must complete NURS 719R within the first year of study in the DNP program.

c. Generally, a minimal grade point average of 3.5 (on a 4.0 = A scale) earned in a nursing or health-related master’s program of study is required. Students who graduated from accredited competency-based schools are advised to contact the Program Director for additional information.

d. Hold an unrestricted and unencumbered license as a registered nurse.

e. Provide documentation for one of the following:

i. National certification (or eligibility for certification) as a Nurse Executive through either the American Nurses Credentialing Center or the American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE), or as a Certified Nurse Manager and Leader through AONE. Students with any other advanced practice national certification are advised to contact the Program Director for information.

ii. Minimum of 500 hours of academically supervised clinical practicum in master’s degree program on leadership or management (verification form attached)

f. Interviews may be required.

C. Three letters of professional recommendation from individuals who can evaluate the applicant’s motivation, academic capability, advanced practice and/or leadership potential, and personal goals for study in a DNP program.

D. Letter of interest and self-presentation:

1. Professional goal statement (500 word maximum) describing career objectives and areas of interest in advanced practice or leadership roles. Include reasons for pursuing a doctor of nursing practice degree, specific interest in the University of Nevada, Las Vegas program, and past experiences and achievements in nursing practice, leadership, and scholarship.
2. Current resume or curriculum vita (CV).

F. Potential students meeting the criteria for admission must submit a complete application packet by February 1 for priority review for acceptance; however, applications are accepted until the fall class cohort is filled.

RATIONALE: To establish minimum qualifications and a student process for admission into the DNP program.

PROCEDURE:

1. Students will complete the following by February 1 (for priority review for acceptance):
   a. Complete the graduate application form which can be found at the UNLV Graduate College.
   b. Each of the following should be submitted electronically with the application:
      i. Unofficial copy of a transcript from each college/university attended;
      ii. Three letters of professional recommendation;
      iii. Written statement of personal career, education, and advanced practice and/or leadership goals;
      iv. Current resume or CV;
      v. Copy of an unrestricted and unencumbered RN license from the state where practicing;
      vi. For those applying for the MSN – DNP Advanced Practice track, a copy of the applicant’s National Certification;
      vii. For those applying for the MSN – DNP Nurse Executive tracks, evidence of at least 500 hours of practice in a leadership role as described above.

2. Send one copy of all official transcripts, from each college/university attended, to the Graduate College.
3. The Program Director will identify the Admission Committee members and serve as the chair of the committee.
4. The Admission Committee will identify the best qualified applicants and recommend their admission into the DNP program. The number of potential students may vary from year to year depending on faculty resources, the quality of the applicant pool, and other factors.
5. The Program Director, or designee, will complete and send all applicant evaluation forms to the Graduate College.
6. All potential students admitted into the program must notify the School of Nursing of their intent to enroll into the program within two weeks of official acceptance.
7. All potential students must submit the following prior to fall registration:
   a. A current unrestricted and unencumbered RN license and APRN license (if MSN to DNP: Advanced Practice Track) for the state in which he/she practices or for his/her country of residence;
   b. A copy of a current basic life support (BLS) certificate;
   c. Evidence of health insurance;
d. Evidence of malpractice insurance;
e. Drug screen;
f. Background check; and
g. Immunizations as required by the School of Nursing.
h. Certificate of Completion, UNLV Bloodborne Pathogens online training (annually)
i. Certificate of Completion, UNLV HIPPA online training (annually)
j. Health History & Physical Examination form (attached)
HEALTH HISTORY & PHYSICAL EXAMINATION
TO BE COMPLETED BY A LICENSED HEALTH CARE PROVIDER

Is there any significant medical history or condition that could affect functioning as a nursing student as described in the attached “Essential Functions for Clinical Course Work in the School of Nursing?”

Yes ______ No ______ Please Describe:  _________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Is this individual currently taking any medication that could affect participation in a nursing education program, including interaction with patients and staff in clinical settings?

Yes ______ No ______ Please Describe:  _________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Please check the correct response box and initial:

_____ The student IS in good physical and mental health and appears able to undertake all aspects of the nursing education program, including interaction with patients and staff in clinical settings. (Please see “essential functions for clinical course work in the School of Nursing” on reverse side) Initial: ______.

_____ The student IS NOT in good physical and mental health and appears unable to undertake all aspects of the nursing education program, including interaction with patients and staff in clinical settings. (Please see “essential functions for clinical course work in the School of Nursing” on reverse side) Initial:______.

Practitioner’s name (print): ______________________________________________

Practitioner’s signature: __________________________ Date: ______________

Licensed as (circle one): ARNP Physician Assistant Physician

License number: ____________________________ State/Country Licensed: ______________

DOCUMENTATION OF HEALTH HISTORY AND PHYSICAL EXAMINATION
TO BE SUBMITTED BY __________________________ TO BHS 419.