

**Title 5, California Code of Regulations**  
**Division 5 – Board of Trustees of the California State Universities**  
**Chapter 1 – California State University**  
**Subchapter 2 – Educational Programs**  
**Article 1 – General Function**

**§ 40050.2. Function: Instruction Leading to the Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree.**

Notwithstanding Section 40050, the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree may be awarded independently of any other institution of higher education, provided that the program leading to the degree is ~~one of the three pilot programs authorized by the Board of Trustees and~~ satisfies the criteria of Section 40513 and Section 40514.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 66040, 66040, 89030, 89035, 89280, and 89281, 89282, 89283 and 89284, Education Code. Reference: Sections 89280, and 89281, 89282, 89283, and 89284, Education Code.

**Title 5, California Code of Regulations**  
**Division 5 – Board of Trustees of the California State Universities**  
**Chapter 1 – California State University**  
**Subchapter 2 – Educational Programs**  
**Article 2 – Curricula**

**§ 40100.1. Cooperative Curricula.**

Curricula leading to the bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree may be established cooperatively by two or more campuses. The Chancellor is authorized to establish and from time to time revise such procedures as may be appropriate for the administration of this section.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 66600, 89030, and 89035, Education Code. Reference: Sections 66040, 66042, 66600, 89030, 89280, and 89281, 89282, 89283 and 89284, Education Code.

**Title 5, California Code of Regulations**  
**Division 5 – Board of Trustees of the California State Universities**  
**Chapter 1 – California State University**  
**Subchapter 2 – Educational Programs**  
**Article 7 – Graduate Degrees**

**§ 40513. The Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree.**

(a) California State University programs leading to a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree shall be ~~operated as pilot degree programs, with student enrollment permitted prior to July 1, 2018 and student course work allowed to be completed~~

~~on or after July 1, 2018 distinguished from a University of California Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing program.~~

~~(b) The programs shall not supplant nursing programs offered by the CSU at the master's level as of January 1, 2010.~~

~~(e)~~ California State University Doctor of Nursing Practice degree programs shall conform to the following criteria:

(1) The clinical degree programs in advanced nursing practice shall prepare graduates for leadership and clinical roles and to engage in evidence-based inquiry; and programs may also prepare graduates to serve as faculty in postsecondary nursing education programs.

~~(2) Programs shall enable professionals to earn the degree while working full time.~~

~~(3)~~ Programs shall be consistent with the requirements of a professional nursing accrediting body and the regional accrediting association.

~~(d)~~ Each campus offering a program leading to a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree shall establish requirements for admission to the program. The requirements for admission shall include, at a minimum, the requirements stated in Section 41021.

~~(e)~~ Programs leading to the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree shall conform to the following specifications:

(1) The curriculum may be organized as a cohort-based program and shall include learning experiences that balance research, theory, and practice. The core curriculum for each DNP program shall provide professional preparation in advanced nursing practice, including but not be limited to theory, application and evaluation of and research findings methods and evaluation, curriculum development and evaluation, professional practice, management and leadership, and essential curricular concepts for advanced nursing at the doctoral level.

(2) The pattern of study for the post-bachelor's degree in nursing to the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree program shall include at least 27 semester units in courses organized primarily for doctoral students, and the remaining units required for the degree shall be in courses organized for specialty advanced nursing coursework as identified by national nursing specialty certification agencies. No more than 12 semester doctoral project units shall be allowed toward the degree program requirements.

(3) The pattern of study for the post-master's Doctor of Nursing Practice degree program shall be composed of at least 36 semester units ~~(54 quarter units)~~ earned in graduate standing. At least 27 semester units ~~(40.5 quarter units)~~ required for the degree shall be in courses organized primarily for doctoral students, and the remaining units required for the degree shall be in courses organized primarily for doctoral students or courses organized primarily for master's and doctoral students.

(4) At least 2480 percent of required Doctor of Nursing Practice semester units ~~(36 quarter units)~~ shall be completed in residence at the campus awarding the degree or campuses jointly awarding the degree. The appropriate campus authority may authorize the substitution of credit earned by alternate means for part of this residence requirement. The campus may establish a policy allowing

the transfer of relevant coursework and credits completed as a matriculated student in another graduate program, on the condition that the other program is appropriately accredited.

(45) A doctoral qualifying examination or assessment shall be required.

(56) The pattern of study shall include completion of a doctoral project.

(A) The doctoral project shall be the written product of a systematic, rigorous, research-evidence-based endeavor focused on a significant ~~advanced~~ nursing practice issue. The doctoral project is expected to contribute to an improvement in professional practices, ~~or policy, or patient outcomes~~. It shall evidence originality, critical and independent thinking, appropriate form and organization, and adequate rationale.

(B) The doctoral project shall reflect a command of the ~~research~~scholarly literature and shall demonstrate the student's mastery of evidence-based practice at the doctoral level.

(C) The written component of the doctoral project shall be organized in an appropriate form and shall identify the ~~research~~problem statement and ~~question(s)~~purpose, state the major theoretical perspectives, explain the significance of the undertaking, relate it to the relevant scholarly and professional literature, identify the methods of gathering and analyzing the data, and offer a conclusion or recommendation.

(D) No more than 12 semester units (~~18 quarter units~~) shall be allowed for the doctoral project.

(E) An oral ~~defense~~presentation of the doctoral project shall be required.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 66600, 89030, 89035, 89280, and 89281, 89282, 89283 and 89284, Education Code. Reference: Sections: 66600, 89280, 89281, and 89282, 89283 and 89284, Education Code.

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**Chapter 1 – California State University**  
**Subchapter 2 – Educational Programs**  
**Article 7 – Graduate Degrees**

**§ 40514. The Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree: Requirements.**

(a) To be eligible for the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree, the candidate shall have completed a program of study that includes a qualifying assessment and a doctoral project and that is consistent with the specifications in subdivision (ed) of Section 40513 and that is approved by the appropriate campus authority. A grade point average of 3.0 (grade of B) or better shall have been earned in courses taken to satisfy the requirements for the degree, except that a course in which no letter grade is assigned shall not be used in computing the grade point average.

(b) Advancement to Candidacy. For advancement to candidacy for the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree, the student shall have achieved classified graduate standing and met such particular requirements as the Chancellor and the

appropriate campus authority may prescribe. The requirements shall include a qualifying assessment.

(c) The student shall have completed all requirements for the degree within five years of matriculation into the doctoral program. The appropriate campus authority may extend by up to two years the time for completion of the requirements under the following circumstances;

- (1) the student is in good standing,
- (2) the extension is warranted by compelling individual circumstances, and
- (3) the student demonstrates current knowledge of research and practice in advanced nursing practice, as required by the campus.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 66600, 89030, 89035, 89280, and 89281, ~~89283 and 89284~~, Education Code. Reference Sections: 66600, 89030, 89280; and 89281, ~~89283 and 89284~~, Education Code.

**Title 5, California Code of Regulations**  
**Division 5 – Board of Trustees of the California State Universities**  
**Chapter 1 – California State University**  
**Subchapter 3 – Admission Requirements**  
**Article 8 – Admission of Post-Baccalaureate and Graduate Students**

**§ 41021. Admission to Doctor of Nursing Practice Programs.**

An applicant may be admitted with classified graduate standing to a program leading to a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree established pursuant to Section 40513 if the applicant satisfies the requirements of each of the following numbered subdivisions:

- (1) The applicant holds an acceptable bachelor's degree in nursing or master's degree in nursing earned at an institution accredited by a regional accrediting association and a national professional accrediting association, as applicable; or the applicant has completed equivalent academic preparation as determined by the appropriate campus authority.
- (2) The applicant has attained a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 in an acceptable bachelor's degree in nursing or master's degree in nursing program as determined by the appropriate campus authority.
- (3) The applicant maintains active licensure to practice as a registered nurse in the state in which practicum experiences will be completed.
- (4) The applicant meets all requirements for credentialing or certification eligibility as appropriate to the nursing specialty area.
- (5) The applicant has demonstrated sufficient preparation and experience pertinent to ~~advanced~~ nursing practice to be successful in doctoral education.
- (6) The applicant has met any additional requirements established by the chancellor and any additional requirements prescribed by the appropriate campus authority.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 66600, 89030, 89035, 89280, and 89281, ~~89283, and 89284~~, Education Code. Reference: Sections 66600, 89030, 89280; and 89281, ~~89283, and 89284~~, Education Code.