

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

Program Description

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program at Point Loma Nazarene University offers various pathways for students to provide competent advanced-level care as healthcare leaders for individuals of all ages across healthcare settings. The DNP program offers three degree tracks: Healthcare Leadership, Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS), and Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP), with multiple pathways:

- MSN-DNP: Healthcare Leadership Track
- BSN-DNP: CNS Track
- MSN-DNP: CNS Track
- BSN-DNP: FNP Track
- MSN-DNP: FNP Track

After completing the program, graduates are eligible to take national board certification examinations, including Executive Nursing Practice, Nurse Executive Advanced, Clinical Nurse Specialist-Adult Gerontology, Clinical Nurse Specialist-Pediatrics, or Family Nurse Practitioner.

Program Learning Outcomes

Students who complete the Doctor of Nursing Practice program will be able to achieve the following outcomes:

1. **Inquiring Faithfully:** The graduate will demonstrate knowledge, skill, and behavior of the evidence-based practice of nursing which integrates growth in reasoning, analysis, decision-making, and the application of theory with the goal of advocating for others and/or self. This includes holistic nursing skills and the nursing process.
2. **Caring Faithfully:** The graduate will embrace a calling to the ministry of compassionate care for all people in response to God's grace, which aims to foster optimal health and bring comfort in suffering and death.
3. **Communicating Faithfully:** The graduate will actively engage in the dynamic interactive process that is intrapersonal and interpersonal with the goal of advocating for others and/or self. This includes effective, culturally appropriate communication conveys information, thoughts, actions and feelings through the use of verbal and nonverbal skills.
4. **Following Faithfully:** Defined as claiming the challenge from Florence Nightingale that nursing is a "divine imposed duty of ordinary work". The graduate will integrate the ordinary work by complying with and adhering to regulatory and professional standards (e.g. ANA Code of Ethics, the California Board of Registered Nursing Scope of Nursing Practice, SON Handbook). This includes taking responsibility, being accountable for all actions and treating others with dignity.
5. **Leading Faithfully:** The graduate will incorporate a foundational relationship with Christ and others and embrace a willingness to serve others in the midst of life circumstances (e.g. illness, injustice, poverty). The graduate will role-model the need for "Sabbath Rest" as a means of personal renewal, and true care of self, so that service to others is optimally achieved. The graduate will incorporate the characteristics of a servant leader including: humility, courage, forgiveness, discernment.

Academic Performance

Satisfactory Academic Performance

Satisfactory academic performance is defined as meeting all of the following:

- letter grade of "B-" (81%) or higher in all required theory and elective courses.
- grade of "Credit" in all clinical residency courses.
- minimum GPA of 3.000 on a 4.000 scale in all required courses.

Repeatability and Academic Status Progression

Satisfactory completion of all courses is required in the DNP program of study.

Students must repeat any course in which they fail to receive a minimum grade of "B-" or "Credit." If a course must be repeated, the following requirements will apply:

- A required theory DNP course may be repeated only once.
- No more than two total required theory DNP courses may be repeated.
- **Student may not continue with any academic or clinical coursework until notified by the Program Director of their status in the School of Nursing.**

Students should refer to the Graduate and Professional Studies Student Handbook (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2023-2024/handbooks/grad-handbook/>) for academic status progression policy (e.g., probation and dismissal).

Academic Honesty

In matters related to integrity, such as those listed below, students may be placed on **probation** by the SON graduate faculty or be recommended to the Vice Provost for Academic Administration for **dismissal** from the program:

- inappropriate clinical judgment (e.g. SON policy violation, HIPAA violations);
- violation of Academic Honesty (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2023-2024/grad-catalog/academic-general-policies/>);
- other situations that compromise the PLNU University Student Conduct policy (refer to the Graduate and Professional Studies Student Handbook) or the School of Nursing Values and policies (refer to the School of Nursing Graduate Student Handbook), such as the ANA Code of Ethics CA Nurse Practice Act (<https://www.rn.ca.gov/practice/npa.shtml/>).

Program Eligibility for Doctor of Nursing Practice

Admission to the program is based on an overall appraisal of the applicant's ability to undertake doctoral study and their contributions to the discipline of nursing as evidenced by the following:

- Documentation of active RN license;
- Official transcripts;
- Minimum grade point average of 3.200 (candidates with a grade-point average of 2.000 to 3.199 may be considered under the Admissions Exceptions Policy (<https://pointloma->

public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2023-2024/grad-catalog/admissions/#admissionunderexception));

- Curriculum Vitae or Resume;
- Current employment in nursing or at least 1 year of full time nursing practice in the last 5 years;
- A personal essay of 250 words demonstrating graduate-level writing skills;
- Two (2) professional references;
- A completed application form and fee; and
- Interview with the graduate nursing selection committee.

English Language Requirements

A satisfactory command of the English language is required for admission to the Graduate School of Nursing. All applicants whose native language is not English, must meet this requirement-including international applicants, permanent residents, immigrants, and transfer students who are not citizens of the United States on the date of admission. A Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) is the measure of competency. The test must have been taken within the past two years with minimum scores of:

- 550 for the paper-based test, and
- 80 for the internet-based test with a minimum section requirement score of 20 in reading, listening, speaking, and writing. Only the following countries are exempt from proof of English proficiency: Australia, Canada, Ireland, United Kingdom, and New Zealand.

Other Provisions

To satisfy the requirement of the university’s clinical agencies, upon acceptance into the program students are required to provide copies of the following documentation:

- Current California licensure as a registered nurse or in state of residence if attending clinical outside of California;
- Current Healthcare Provider CPR certificate from the American Heart Association;
- Completed School of Nursing Health Form Packet with officially documented proof of immunizations;
- Current TB screening upon admission into the program (2 step process);
- Current HIPAA certificate;
- Infection Control Module; and
- Background check and drug screening (failure to pass this may result in an inability to complete the program).

Per agreement with the San Diego Nursing Service Education consortium and affiliated hospitals, a background check and drug screening is required prior to the student’s first clinical experience. If a red flag occurs from either the background check or drug screening, this may result in immediate dismissal from the program.

Exceptions Policy

Applicants who do not meet the above eligibility standards, but who can demonstrate an exceptionally rich experiential background and/or demonstrate dramatic change in academic performance, may petition the School of Nursing to review their status (see Admissions Exception Policy (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2023-2024/grad-catalog/admissions/#admissionunderexception>)).

Program Pathways

- MSN-DNP. Healthcare Leadership Track (p. 2)
- BSN-DNP. CNS Track (p. 2)
- MSN-DNP. CNS Track (p. 3)
- BSN-DNP. FNP Track (p. 4)
- MSN-DNP. FNP Track (p. 4)

MSN-DNP: Healthcare Leadership Track

The MSN-DNP. Healthcare Leadership track consists of 34 units over 6 semesters, including: 5 Graduate core courses (12 units), 3 Healthcare Leadership specialty courses (9 units), 5 DNP project courses (10 units/500 clinical hours), and 1 Graduate Elective (3 units).

Code	Title	Units
Graduate Core Courses		
GNSG 7002	Applied Statistics in Health Science	2
GNSG 7006	Informatics in Healthcare Systems	3
GNSG 7010	Fundamentals of Epidemiology	3
GNSG 7023	Quality and Safety	2
GNSG 7080	Context of Practice, Populations, and Outcomes Management	2
Healthcare Leadership Specialty Courses		
GNSG 7081	Economics and Finance in Healthcare	3
GNSG 7082	Foundations of Genetics and Genomics in Clinical Practice	3
GNSG 7083	A Culture of Belonging and Inclusion	3
DNP Project Courses		
GNSG 7050A	DNP Project Planning and Integrative Application	2
GNSG 7050B	DNP Project Proposal and Integrative Application	2
GNSG 7050C	DNP Project Implementation and Integrative Application	2
GNSG 7050D	DNP Project Evaluation and Integrative Application	2
GNSG 7050E	DNP Project Dissemination and Integrative Application	2
Graduate Elective		3
Total Units		34

BSN-DNP: CNS Track

The BSN-DNP. Adult-Gerontology CNS and BSN-DNP. Pediatric CNS tracks consist of 11 Graduate core courses (27 units), 4 APRN core courses (9 units), 3 Healthcare Leadership specialty courses (9 units), 5 DNP project courses (10 units/500 clinical hours), 8 CNS-specialty courses (21 units, which includes 12 units/500 clinical practicum hours).

The BSN-DNP. Adult-Gerontology CNS with Women’s Health Specialty track consists of 11 Graduate core courses (27 units, 4 APRN core courses (9 units), 3 Healthcare Leadership specialty courses (9 units), 5 DNP project courses (10 units/500 clinical hours), and 11 CNS-specialty courses (24 units, which includes 12 units/580 clinical practicum hours).

Code	Title	Units
Graduate Core Courses		
GNSG 6003	Following Faithfully: Healthcare Policy and Ethics	3
GNSG 6009	Health Promotion Across the Lifespan	2
GNSG 6021	Foundations for Evidence-Based Nursing Practice	2

GNSG 6023	Planning and Management of Evidence-Based Initiatives	2
GNSG 6030	Educating Nurses for Radical Transformation	3
GNSG 6088	Healthcare Leadership and Innovation	3
GNSG 7002	Applied Statistics in Health Science	2
GNSG 7006	Informatics in Healthcare Systems	3
GNSG 7010	Fundamentals of Epidemiology	3
GNSG 7023	Quality and Safety	2
GNSG 7080	Context of Practice, Populations, and Outcomes Management	2
APRN Core Courses		
GNSG 6006	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
GNSG 6007	Advanced Pharmacology	3
GNSG 6008 and GNSG 6008L	Advanced Health Assessment Across the Lifespan and Advanced Health Assessment Across the Lifespan Practicum	3
Healthcare Leadership Core Courses		
GNSG 7081	Economics and Finance in Healthcare	3
GNSG 7082	Foundations of Genetics and Genomics in Clinical Practice	3
GNSG 7083	A Culture of Belonging and Inclusion	3
DNP Project Courses		
GNSG 7050A	DNP Project Planning and Integrative Application	2
GNSG 7050B	DNP Project Proposal and Integrative Application	2
GNSG 7050C	DNP Project Implementation and Integrative Application	2
GNSG 7050D	DNP Project Evaluation and Integrative Application	2
GNSG 7050E	DNP Project Dissemination and Integrative Application	2
CNS-Specialty Didactic and Practicum Courses		21-24
<i>BSN-DNP: Adult Gerontology CNS</i>		
GNSG 6014	Advanced Health Assessment: Adult Gerontology	
GNSG 6034	Adult Gerontology CNS Role Acquisition I	
GNSG 6044	Adult Gerontology CNS Role Acquisition II	
GNSG 6054	Adult Gerontology CNS Role Acquisition III	
GNSG 6064 (A,B,C,D,E)	Adult Gerontology CNS Role Practicum	
<i>BSN-DNP: Pediatric CNS</i>		
GNSG 6015	Advanced Health Assessment: Pediatrics	
GNSG 6035	Pediatric CNS Role Acquisition I	
GNSG 6045	Pediatric CNS Role Acquisition II	
GNSG 6055	Pediatric CNS Role Acquisition III	
GNSG 6065 (A,B,C,D,E)	Pediatric CNS Role Practicum	
<i>BSN-DNP: Adult Gerontology CNS with Women's Health Specialty</i>		
GNSG 6014	Advanced Health Assessment: Adult Gerontology	
GNSG 6016	Advanced Health Assessment: Women's Health	
GNSG 6034	Adult Gerontology CNS Role Acquisition I	
GNSG 6036	Women's Health CNS Role Acquisition I	
GNSG 6044	Adult Gerontology CNS Role Acquisition II	
GNSG 6054	Adult Gerontology CNS Role Acquisition III	
GNSG 6064 (A,B,C,D,E)	Adult Gerontology CNS Role Practicum	
GNSG 6066 (A,B,C,D,E)	Adult Gerontology CNS Role Practicum	
Total Units		76-79

MSN-DNP: CNS Track

Students who have already completed an MSN degree may apply for the MSN-DNP: CNS track.

An individualized gap analysis of previous academic credit will be conducted for each applicant to determine courses needed to fulfill the requirements at PLNU.

- Any CNS applicant may submit prior course syllabi to be reviewed for course equivalency.
- Any applicant who has taken 3 Ps (Advanced Health Assessment, Advanced Pathophysiology, and Advanced Pharmacology) in the last 5 years (5 years or less at the time of matriculation) must provide the syllabi to be reviewed for equivalency. If the course is determined to be an equivalent course taken within the last 5 years and the grade earned was a B- or higher, the course may be waived. (Note: Determination of equivalency does not necessarily mean that PLNU transfer credit has been awarded. Equivalent courses may not appear on the PLNU transcript.)
- At a minimum, a total of 500 direct patient care clinical hours are to be included in the past APN graduate education program and post-graduate certificate program, specifically to meet the end-of-program hours for the new CNS role and/or new population.

Code	Title	Units
APRN Core Prerequisite Courses		
GNSG 6006	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
GNSG 6007	Advanced Pharmacology	3
GNSG 6008 and GNSG 6008L	Advanced Health Assessment Across the Lifespan and Advanced Health Assessment Across the Lifespan Practicum	3
Total Units		9

The MSN-DNP: CNS track consists of 5 Graduate core courses (12 units), 3 Healthcare Leadership specialty courses (9 units), 5 DNP project courses (10 units/500 clinical hours), 8 CNS-specialty courses (21 units, which includes 12 units/500 clinical practicum hours).

The MSN-DNP: Adult-Gerontology CNS with Women's Health Specialty track consists of 5 Graduate core courses (12 units), 3 Healthcare Leadership specialty courses (9 units), 5 DNP project courses (10 units/500 clinical hours), and 11 CNS-specialty courses (24 units, which includes 12 units/580 clinical practicum hours).

Code	Title	Units
Graduate Core Courses		
GNSG 7002	Applied Statistics in Health Science	2
GNSG 7006	Informatics in Healthcare Systems	3
GNSG 7010	Fundamentals of Epidemiology	3
GNSG 7023	Quality and Safety	2
GNSG 7080	Context of Practice, Populations, and Outcomes Management	2
Healthcare Leadership Core Courses		
GNSG 7081	Economics and Finance in Healthcare	3
GNSG 7082	Foundations of Genetics and Genomics in Clinical Practice	3
GNSG 7083	A Culture of Belonging and Inclusion	3
DNP Project Courses		
GNSG 7050A	DNP Project Planning and Integrative Application	2

GNSG 7050B	DNP Project Proposal and Integrative Application	2
GNSG 7050C	DNP Project Implementation and Integrative Application	2
GNSG 7050D	DNP Project Evaluation and Integrative Application	2
GNSG 7050E	DNP Project Dissemination and Integrative Application	2
CNS-Specialty Didactic and Practicum Courses		21-24
<i>MSN-DNP: Adult Gerontology CNS</i>		
GNSG 6014	Advanced Health Assessment: Adult Gerontology	
GNSG 6034	Adult Gerontology CNS Role Acquisition I	
GNSG 6044	Adult Gerontology CNS Role Acquisition II	
GNSG 6054	Adult Gerontology CNS Role Acquisition III	
GNSG 6064 (A,B,C,D,E)	Adult Gerontology CNS Role Practicum	
<i>MSN-DNP: Pediatric CNS</i>		
GNSG 6015	Advanced Health Assessment: Pediatrics	
GNSG 6035	Pediatric CNS Role Acquisition I	
GNSG 6045	Pediatric CNS Role Acquisition II	
GNSG 6055	Pediatric CNS Role Acquisition III	
GNSG 6065 (A,B,C,D,E)	Pediatric CNS Role Practicum	
<i>MSN-DNP: Adult Gerontology CNS with Women's Health Specialty</i>		
GNSG 6014	Advanced Health Assessment: Adult Gerontology	
GNSG 6016	Advanced Health Assessment: Women's Health	
GNSG 6034	Adult Gerontology CNS Role Acquisition I	
GNSG 6036	Women's Health CNS Role Acquisition I	
GNSG 6044	Adult Gerontology CNS Role Acquisition II	
GNSG 6054	Adult Gerontology CNS Role Acquisition III	
GNSG 6064 (A,B,C,D,E)	Adult Gerontology CNS Role Practicum	
GNSG 6066 (A,I)	(12 units required)	
Total Units		52-55

BSN-DNP: FNP Track

The BSN-DNP: FNP track consists of 10 Graduate core courses (24 units), 4 APRN core courses (9 units), 5 DNP project courses (10 units/500 clinical hours), 12 FNP-specialty courses (33 units, which includes 16 units/750 clinical practicum hours).

Code	Title	Units
Graduate Core Courses		
GNSG 6003	Following Faithfully: Healthcare Policy and Ethics	3
GNSG 6009	Health Promotion Across the Lifespan	2
GNSG 6021	Foundations for Evidence-Based Nursing Practice	2
GNSG 6023	Planning and Management of Evidence-Based Initiatives	2
GNSG 6088	Healthcare Leadership and Innovation	3
GNSG 7002	Applied Statistics in Health Science	2
GNSG 7006	Informatics in Healthcare Systems	3
GNSG 7010	Fundamentals of Epidemiology	3
GNSG 7023	Quality and Safety	2
GNSG 7080	Context of Practice, Populations, and Outcomes Management	2
APRN Core Courses		
GNSG 6006	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
GNSG 6007	Advanced Pharmacology	3

GNSG 6008	Advanced Health Assessment Across the Lifespan	3
and GNSG 6008L	and Advanced Health Assessment Across the Lifespan Practicum	

DNP Project Courses		
GNSG 7050A	DNP Project Planning and Integrative Application	2
GNSG 7050B	DNP Project Proposal and Integrative Application	2
GNSG 7050C	DNP Project Implementation and Integrative Application	2
GNSG 7050D	DNP Project Evaluation and Integrative Application	2
GNSG 7050E	DNP Project Dissemination and Integrative Application	2

FNP-Specialty Courses		
GNSG 7030	Introduction to Advanced Practice Nursing and Diagnostic Reasoning	4
and GNSG 7030L	and Diagnostic Reasoning and Procedures Practicum	
GNSG 7031	Health Management I: Adults with Acute and Episodic Conditions and Primary Care	6
and GNSG 7031L	and Health Management I Practicum: Adults with Acute and Episodic Conditions and Primary Care	
GNSG 7032	Health Management II: Pediatric and Adolescent in Primary Care	6
and GNSG 7032L	and Health Management II Practicum: Pediatric and Adolescent in Primary Care	
GNSG 7033	Health Management III: Behavioral and Mental Health Conditions in Primary Care	6
and GNSG 7033L	and Health Management III Practicum: Behavioral and Mental Health Conditions in Primary Care	
GNSG 7034	Health Management IV: Adults with Chronic and Complex Conditions in Primary Care	6
and GNSG 7034L	and Health Management IV Practicum: Adults with Chronic and Complex Conditions in Primary Care	
GNSG 7035	Health Management V: Clinical Immersion Seminar	4
and GNSG 7035L	and Health Management V Practicum: Clinical Immersion	
GNSG 7036	Entry to the Advanced Practice Role	1
Total Units		76

MSN-DNP: FNP Track

Students who have already completed their MSN degree may apply for the MSN-DNP: FNP Track.

An individualized gap analysis of previous academic credit will be conducted for each applicant to determine courses needed to fulfill the requirements at PLNU.

- Any FNP applicant who is not a nationally-certified Advanced Practice Nurse (APN) currently in clinical practice, may submit prior course syllabi to be reviewed for course equivalency.
- A non-APN applicant who has taken Advanced Health Assessment, Advanced Pathophysiology, and Advanced Pharmacology in the last 5 years (5 years or less at the time of matriculation) must provide the syllabi to be reviewed for equivalency. If the course is determined to be an equivalent course taken within the last 5 years and the grade earned was a B- or higher, the course may be waived. (Note: Determination of equivalency does not necessarily mean that PLNU transfer credit has been awarded. Equivalent courses may not appear on the PLNU transcript.)

- At a minimum, a total of 750 direct patient care clinical hours are to be included in the past APN graduate education program and post-graduate certificate program, specifically to meet the end-of-program hours for the new NP role and/or new population (National Task Force on Quality Nurse Practitioner Education, 2022, Criterion III.N).

Code	Title	Units
APRN Core Prerequisite Courses		
GNSG 6006	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
GNSG 6007	Advanced Pharmacology	3
GNSG 6008 and GNSG 6008L	Advanced Health Assessment Across the Lifespan and Advanced Health Assessment Across the Lifespan Practicum	3
Total Units		9

The MSN-DNP: FNP track consists of 5 Graduate core courses (12 units), 5 DNP project courses (10 units/500 clinical hours), 12 FNP-specialty courses (33 units, which includes 16 units/750 clinical practicum hours).

Code	Title	Units
Graduate Core Courses		
GNSG 7002	Applied Statistics in Health Science	2
GNSG 7006	Informatics in Healthcare Systems	3
GNSG 7010	Fundamentals of Epidemiology	3
GNSG 7023	Quality and Safety	2
GNSG 7080	Context of Practice, Populations, and Outcomes Management	2

DNP Project Courses

GNSG 7050A	DNP Project Planning and Integrative Application	2
GNSG 7050B	DNP Project Proposal and Integrative Application	2
GNSG 7050C	DNP Project Implementation and Integrative Application	2
GNSG 7050D	DNP Project Evaluation and Integrative Application	2
GNSG 7050E	DNP Project Dissemination and Integrative Application	2

FNP Specialty and Practicum Courses

GNSG 7030 and GNSG 7030L	Introduction to Advanced Practice Nursing and Diagnostic Reasoning and Diagnostic Reasoning and Procedures Practicum	4
GNSG 7031 and GNSG 7031L	Health Management I: Adults with Acute and Episodic Conditions and Primary Care and Health Management I Practicum: Adults with Acute and Episodic Conditions and Primary Care	6
GNSG 7032 and GNSG 7032L	Health Management II: Pediatric and Adolescent in Primary Care and Health Management II Practicum: Pediatric and Adolescent in Primary Care	6
GNSG 7033 and GNSG 7033L	Health Management III: Behavioral and Mental Health Conditions in Primary Care and Health Management III Practicum: Behavioral and Mental Health Conditions in Primary Care	6
GNSG 7034 and GNSG 7034L	Health Management IV: Adults with Chronic and Complex Conditions in Primary Care and Health Management IV Practicum: Adults with Chronic and Complex Conditions in Primary Care	6

GNSG 7035 and GNSG 7035L	Health Management V: Clinical Immersion Seminar and Health Management V Practicum: Clinical Immersion	4
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GNSG 7036	Entry to the Advanced Practice Role	1
Total Units		55

Early Entry into Graduate Studies - See Undergraduate Catalog (<https://pointloma-public.courseleaf.com/prior-catalogs/2023-2024/tug-catalog/colleges-schools-departments/son/tug-nursing/nursing-bsn/>)

This track will allow eligible PLNU traditional BSN students to take a graduate course in each semester following completion of junior-level courses. Students will simultaneously start graduate-level courses while completing their BSN degree. After a minimum of 1-year clinical experience as a licensed, registered nurse, individualized advising will facilitate the graduate student's decision regarding specialty track. The following courses are included in this early entry track.

Code	Title	Units
NSG 5002	Applied Statistics in Health Science	2
NSG 5003	Following Faithfully: Healthcare Policy and Ethics	3
NSG 5009	Health Promotion Across the Lifespan	2

Total DNP (MSN-DNP: Healthcare Leadership) Units: 34

Total DNP (BSN-DNP: CNS) Units: 76-79

Total DNP (MSN-DNP: CNS) Units: 52-64

Total DNP (BSN-DNP: FNP) Units: 76

Total DNP (MSN-DNP: FNP) Units: 55-64

Minimum Required Clinical Hours for All DNP Tracks: 1,000

Graduation Requirements

In order to earn and receive the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree, in addition to successful completion of all didactic course work, the student must satisfy all of the following:

- Complete a total of 1,000 hours of clinical residency (documented clinical hours achieved in an DNP advanced practice role will be included).
- Implement and defend a DNP Project-examples of this include: Quality Improvement project at the unit or organization level.
- A minimum grade point average of 3.000.
- A minimum grade of B- in all courses. (Students needing to repeat more than one course may not progress and may be dismissed from the program.)
- All requirements for graduate degrees must be completed within an eight-year period from the time of initial enrollment in the program.