average Purdue Global military student awarded 54 credits needed associate 's 45 credits needed bachelor 's Commonly Searched Commonly Searched nurses making move earn Doctor Nursing Practice DNP degree American Association Colleges Nursing indicates growth DNP programs continued 40,834 students enrolling 2021 39,530 2020 number graduates period increased 10,086 9,158 online DNP program helps nurses practice highest level nursing helping Angela Owens department chair DNP program Purdue Global discussed DNP expect DNP degree DNP benefit nurse ’ career DNP degree lays groundwork nurse leaders improve patient outcomes latest new techniques Nurses DNP sought leadership clinical applications considered key players future health care However Owens says DNP degree holders nurse practitioners “ Nurse educators also hold DNPs well nurses leadership positions nurse informaticists nurses health care policy 's wide range areas nurse DNP apply skills ” says “ DNP prepares nurses lead change systems level ultimate goal improve patient outcomes patient may individual may community ” Owens says “ degree helps nurse leaders take closer look 's going environment see encourage change partner make happen. ” DNP intended broaden career opportunities nurses degree nurses possess knowledge influence health care outcomes levels organizational leadership health policy implementation direct patient care “ personally feel like sky 's limit ” Owens says Read Doctor Nursing Practice Degree importance DNP growing 2018 National Organization Nurse Practitioner Faculties said DNP new entry-level preparation nurse practitioners 2025 DNP attractive terminal degree nurses apex practice-based training nursing “ nurses doctorate practice ” Owens says “ DNP-prepared nurse take happened research pull application 's translational research 're taking studied found work putting practice. ” Owens says DNP nurses look best solutions issues within health care says ’ chose get DNP