


Abstract 2

"There exists a fleeting and deliriously exciting moment in the life of an idea when it teeters between what one person suspects and what everyone accepts. In that moment, months or years before it exerts any practical influence, the idea holds the greatest potential to inspire and incite. Opportunities, implications, and related discoveries open up from it in all directions like a hall of mirrors."

Buchanan et al., 2002, p. 17

Doctorate of Nursing Practice

What's All The Fuss About?




2007 Revised Conference

Patricia Lamont, Ph.D., APRN, DNP-BC

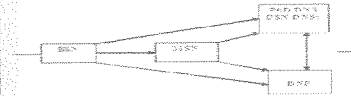
Presentation Outline

- Historical Perspective
- Discussion of the Degree
- My Experience
- Here at Home
- Frequently Asked Questions
- DNP Essential Competencies



History & Evolution of the Practice Doctorate in Nursing in the USA

- 1960—Boston University opens 1st clinical doctorate (Ph.D.)
- 1974—Case Western Reserve opens 1st ND program
- 1999—UTHSC opens DNSc practice doctorate
- 2001—University of Kentucky opens First DNP Program
- 2002—AACN forms Task Force on the Practice Doctorate
- 2003—Columbia University admits students
- 2004—AACN approves DNP Position Statement & 2015 target implementation date



There are 47 DNP programs currently enrolling students nationwide, more than 140 additional DNP programs are under development at U.S. nursing schools.

DNP

The DNP is designed for nurses seeking a terminal degree in nursing practice and offers an alternative to research-focused doctoral programs. DNP-prepared nurses will be well-equipped to fully implement the science developed by nurse researchers prepared in PhD, DNSc and other research-focused nursing doctorates.


The DNP, like practice doctorates in other disciplines, builds on science generated by research, translates it into practice, and provides feedback, thereby putting the theory-research-practice feedback loop that has been advocated for years into action¹

Hodaway et al., 2009

Individuals with practice doctorates are the most highly educated and qualified practitioners in their fields. Instead of focusing primarily on research and teaching, like those with Ph.D.'s within their fields, those with practice doctorates use their education and expertise in leadership roles on the front lines of their profession.

Curriculum

DNP curricula *builds on* current master's programs by providing education in evidence-based practice, quality improvement, and systems thinking among other key areas.



Practice Doctorate

The term *practice*, specifically nursing practice refers to any form of nursing intervention that influences health care outcomes for individuals or populations. Preparation at the practice doctorate level includes advanced preparation in nursing, based on nursing science, and is at the highest level of nursing practice.

AACN. (2014) Position Statement on the Practice Doctorate in Nursing. <http://www.aacn.edu/ncne.edu/DNP-DPP/PositionStatement.htm>

The DNP is similar in concept to practice doctorates in other professions such as medicine (M.D.), law (J.D.) and dentistry (D.D.M.). DNP-prepared nurses are equipped for leadership roles in nursing practice, business, administration, clinical research, and academia.

The DNP & APNs

The practice doctorate will be the graduate degree for advanced nursing practice preparation, including but not limited to the four current APN roles: clinical nurse specialist, nurse anesthetist, nurse midwife and nurse practitioner.

AACN. (2014) Position Statement on the Practice Doctorate in Nursing. <http://www.aacn.edu/ncne.edu/DNP-DPP/PositionStatement.htm>

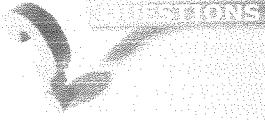
Educational Leadership Track

The Educational Leadership concentration prepares doctoral-level nursing educators for clinical and academic settings.

Clinical Leadership Track

The Clinical Leadership concentration prepares doctoral-level clinicians or practitioners and includes core courses in research and health policy focused in organizational behavior, information management, and management in advanced practice.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Professional Versus Academic Degrees

"The distinction between the professional and academic degrees in nursing is not one of rigor, but rather one that relates to the focus of study and subsequent scientific enterprise. The nursing discipline of nursing, like other health science disciplines, needs both research-scientists and practitioner-scientists."

How Does the DNP Differ from other Practice Doctorates?

The DNP is not an entry-level degree. Typically, licensure would occur prior to entering the DNP program.
Terminal degree in nursing
Represents the highest level of practice in the discipline

Will the creation of DNP programs detract from nursing research?

DNPs will serve as the natural allies of researchers for the full implementation of evidence for practice

Discipline needs both researchers and high level clinicians to advance the profession and provide high quality care

National Academy of Sciences Report, December 2011

Why DNP? Perceived Benefits



Development of needed advanced competencies for increasingly complex clinical and leadership roles- global health care, genomics, biomedical advances
Better match of program requirements and credits/time with credential earned
Terminal degree and advanced educational credential for those who do not need/want a research-focused degree.

Perceived Benefits

- Parity with other health professions
- Improved image of nursing
- Enhanced knowledge to improve practice
- Enhanced leadership skills to strengthen practice and health care delivery
- Increased number of faculty for clinical instruction
- Improved Patient Care Outcomes!

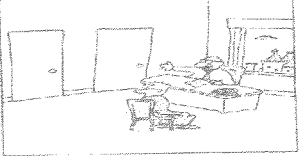
Will the DNP disenfranchise APNs?

There is no intention to disenfranchise any practicing APNs

Similar situation when transitioned from certificate to master's NP education

US Target is that after 2015 all APN education should be offered through DNP programs

Will faculty with DNP be eligible for tenure?



"Behind the door is tenure - behind the other is flipping burgers at McDonald's."

Copyright © 2005 Shared Partnership for the DNP Initiative

Tenure is an institutional prerogative with two major considerations


If the institution tenures holders of other professional degrees (EdD, MD, PsyD, PharmD, JD, PTD, AuD, etc.) then DNP graduates should also be tenurable.

If the institution defines scholarly productivity broadly to include external funding and publications other than that associated with only scholarly grants, then the DNP graduate should be tenurable.

Frequently Expressed Fears

PhD Program enrollments will decline.

There is no evidence for this. Those who select the DNP appear to be from a population that is not interested in a PhD and probably would not engage in doctoral study without the emergence of the practice doctorate.



The Mission Becomes Apparent

"Nurses prepared at the doctoral level with a blend of clinical, organizational, economic and leadership skills are most likely to be able to critique nursing and other clinical scientific findings and design programs of care delivery that are locally acceptable, economically feasible, and which significantly impact health care outcomes."


AACN Position Paper on the Practice Doctorate

Online resource and toolkit including:
 NP Practice Doctorate Competencies
 Recommendations for Faculty Qualifications, Faculty Development, and Student Admissions Criteria
 Subcommittee Work
 Various resources

<http://www.ncnpf.org/NONPF2005/PracticeDoctorateResourceCenter/IPDresource.htm>

Despite the increase in professional nursing doctorates in other countries, Canada does not currently have a DNP program.

The position of the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN) is that CASN does not, at this time, support the concept of the professional or practice doctorates (CASN, 2006).



American Association of Colleges of Nursing

AACN Position Statement on the Practice Doctorate in Nursing

October 2004

<http://www.aacn.nche.edu/DNP/DNPPositionStatement.htm>