



Educating Advanced Practice Nurses to Serve Rural VA

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"Blending Knowledge With Caring"

Objectives

- Outline Educational Requirements for FNPs at RU
- Describe rewards and challenges of rural graduate students
- Discuss additional rewards and challenges APNs will face with requirement for DNP by 2015

Graduate History at RUSON

- 1988 Master of Science (MSN) in Home Health Nursing started
- 1991 MSN in Adult Clinical Nurse Specialist started
- 1996 Gerontology Certificate started
- 1996 MSN in Family Nurse Practitioner started
- 2004 MSN in Midwifery—Collaborative with Shenandoah University

Core Educational Requirements-- FNP

- 620 Theoretical Foundations—3 credits
- 628 Pathophysiology—3 credits
- 629 Health Assessment—3 credits
- 631 Pharmacotherapeutics—3 credits
- 633 Practice in Rural Communities—3 credits
- 650 Nursing Research—3 credits
- 651 Role Preparation—3 credits

Total Core Credits—21

FNP Concentration

- 634 Women's Health—5 cr./90 clinical
- 635 Children's Health—5 cr./90 clinical
- 636 Acute Illness—5 cr./90 clinical
- 637 Chronic Illness—5 cr./90 clinical
- 638 Preceptorship—7 cr./270 clinical
- 696 Capstone—2 credits

Total 29 credits/630 clinical hours

Rewards

- Multiple classes offered on 1-2 days per week
- Clinical practica can be completed near home
- Job opportunities for graduates—primary care, specialty clinics and hospitals
- Teaching opportunities for graduates

Rewards

- Increased income for graduates
 - ❖ Staff Nurse Salary \$51,485-\$60,274
 - ❖ Nurse Practitioner \$68,037-\$80,167
 - ❖ Specialty Nurse Practitioner \$71,153-\$88,109
- Autonomy of Practice—collegial relationship with physicians

Challenges

- Time-management—studying for courses while completing 630 clinical hours with full or part-time work plus family responsibilities
- Locating clinical preceptor sites
- Time to complete the MSN—2-3 years
- Cost—50 credits @ \$300/credit=\$15000

Rural Challenges

- Distance to attend classes—Many rural students drive 1-2 hours
- Accessing on-campus services from distance—library services accessible online
- Computer access—rural technology for accessing online courses varies
- Preceptors—availability varies esp. in MUAs—may result in commuting long distance

FNP Certification/Licensure

- Pass Certification Examination—ANCC
- With Certification—Apply for NP License
- Collaborative Agreement with Physician
- Apply for Prescriptive Authority
- Apply for DEA Number to Prescribe Controlled Medications
- Maintain Malpractice Insurance

Challenges of MSN

- Six content areas current MSNs cannot adequately address:
 - Practice Management
 - Health Policy
 - Use of Information Technology
 - Risk Management
 - Evaluation of Evidence
 - Advanced Diagnosis & Management

Source: S. Apold (2008) "The Doctor of Nursing Practice: Moving Back, Moving Forward". *JNP*

Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) Requirement

- 2004 AACN Position Statement—By 2015 DNP become graduate degree for advanced practice nurses including:
 - Clinical Nurse Specialists
 - Nurse Anesthetists
 - Nurse Midwives
 - Nurse Practitioners
- 2005 CCNE—only DNP programs will be accredited after 2015

DNP Curriculum-7 Essential Areas

- Scientific underpinnings for practice
- Advanced nursing practice
- Organization & systems leadership/quality improvement & systems thinking
- Analytic methodologies—evaluation of practice & application of evidence practice

Source: AACN Position Statement on the Practice Doctorate in Nursing-2004

DNP Curriculum-7 Essential Areas (continued)

- Utilization of technology and information for improvement & transformation of healthcare
- Health policy development, improvement, & evaluation
- Interdisciplinary collaboration for improving patient and population healthcare outcomes

Source: AACN Position Statement on the Practice Doctorate in Nursing-2004

DNP Rewards

- Additional preparation for dealing with complex health care system
- Terminal degree for practice
- Preparation of future nurse educators
- Clinical doctorate—Capstone rather than dissertation—faster completion of degree
- Enhanced image for nursing—Clinical doctorate similar to other professions

Challenges

- Increased time to become advanced practice nurse/NP—1-2 additional years
- Time and preceptors to complete clinical hours—500 additional post masters
- Faculty with clinical expertise/education to teach in DNP Programs

Challenges (Cont.)

- Cost—RU Proposal 39 additional credits for post masters=\$11,700 or BSN-DNP=84 credits @ cost of \$25,200 @ \$300/credit
- Salaries may not increase to off-set additional cost of DNP
- Research focused universities may not hire &/or grant tenure for clinical doctorate

Rural Challenges

- Distance to attend classes—DNP courses being developed for online/distance technology
- Computer access—rural technology for accessing online courses varies
- Preceptors—Lack of doctorally prepared preceptors for DNP students



Questions?

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