The DNP—is it for you?

We have no conflict of interest to disclose.
Objectives

1. Define essentials of doctoral education for Advanced Nursing Practice
2. Identify schools with DNP programs and how to interpret requirements and program details for selection
3. Identify benefits and possibilities of a DNP education
4. Discuss essentials and application to personal circumstances

The DNP—a mini history

- 1999-The IOM published “To Err is Human” addressing the gap between the healthcare we were receiving and the healthcare we believe we deserve. More people die from medical errors annually than from motor vehicle accidents, breast cancer or AIDS. Provided recommendations to healthcare providers to prevent mistakes.
- 2001-The IOM published “Crossing the Quality Chasm” on patient safety. Recommended changes to improve patient safety.
- Healthcare industry struggled with making improvements in part due to a lack of qualified people to effectively implement strategies.

A mini-history of the DNP

- 2004-The AACN endorsed the position statement on the Practice Doctorate in Nursing—moving the preparation for advanced practice nursing roles from the master’s degree to the doctorate level by 2015
- The changing demands of the nation’s complex healthcare environment require that nurses serving in specialty positions have the highest level of scientific knowledge and practice expertise possible.
- Research has established a clear link between higher levels of nursing education and better patient outcomes.
Other factors that prompted a change in nursing education:

- Rapid expansion of knowledge underlying practice
- Increased complexity of patient care
- National concerns about quality of care and safety
- Shortages of nursing personnel which demands a higher level of preparation for leaders who can design and assess care
- Shortages of doctoral prepared nursing faculty
- Increasing educational expectations for the preparation of other professionals

The DNP Essentials

- Scientific Underpinnings for Practice
- Organizational & Systems Leadership for Quality Improvement & Systems Thinking
- Clinical Scholarship & Analytical Methods for Evidence-Based Practice
- Information Systems/Technology & Patient Care Technology for the Improvement & Transformation of Health Care
- Health Care Policy for Advocacy in Health Care
- Interprofessional Collaboration for Improving Patient & Population Health Outcomes
- Clinical Prevention & Population Health for Improving the Nation's Health
- Advanced Nursing Practice

How and why we decided to return to school
Identify schools with DNP programs

How to interpret requirements and program details

Comparison of DNP programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Total Credits Required</th>
<th>Cost per Credit Hour</th>
<th>Total Cost Program</th>
<th>Program Delivery</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calif. State University</td>
<td>36-39</td>
<td>$10,939.33 per semester</td>
<td>$54,696.65 (out of state)</td>
<td>Hybrid</td>
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<tr>
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<td>$600</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DNP Resource

American Association of Colleges of Nursing

http://www.aacn.nche.edu/dnp/program-directory
### Benefits and Possibilities

- **ADVANCE for Nurse Practitioners (2011)**, reported that DNP prepared NPs earned $8,576 more than master’s prepared NPs.
- Employers are realizing the unique experiences that DNP graduates have to offer and demand to hire DNP prepared nurses is growing.
- US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics reports growth in jobs for nurses is expected to increase 19% between 2012 and 2022.
- Increased demand for primary care providers due to the ACA coupled with the well-known shortage of primary care physicians.

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### What the DNP has done for us

- **How the DNP has affected our approach to healthcare**
- **Where we are going…..**
- **How about you? What are your questions?**

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### References


