

# Expanding the View: A Contemporary and Future Perspective of DNP/PhD Collaborations

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## Conflict of Interest:

- There are no conflicts of interest related to this presentation.

## Description:

- Frank discussion on the current state of the DNP and PhD in contemporary nursing and nursing education and where they intersect
- What is the future of the nurse scientist role and DNP for the teacher/scholar model in the academic setting and practice opportunities?
- This session will explore ideas for the future and come to a common place moving forward

## Entry into Practice and Advanced Practice and Role

- Entry into practice
  - ADN
  - Diploma
  - BSN
  - MSN
- Entry into advanced practice and advanced role
  - MSN
  - DNP

## Terminal Degrees in Nursing

- DNP – Doctor of Nursing Practice
- DNAP – Doctor of Nursing Practice in Anesthesia
- EdD – Doctor of Education
- PhD – Doctor of Philosophy (Nursing and Non-nursing)

## History of Doctoral Degrees in Nursing

Phase	Year	Event
First phase	1940s	EdD available to nurses
Second phase	1940-1960	PhD in social sciences with no nursing content
Third Phase	1960-1970	PhD in Social Sciences with a minor in nursing
Fourth Phase	1970s	DNSc and PhD in Nursing
*Fifth Phase	2005	PhD and DNP

Carter, M., (2013). The evolution of doctoral education in nursing. In Susan M. DeNisco and Anne M. Barker, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Advanced Practice Nursing: Evolving Roles for the Transformation of the Profession, Jones & Bartlett

## Doctoral Degrees in Nursing

- DNSc – Doctor of Nursing Science
- DNS – Doctor of Nursing Science
- ND – Nursing Doctorate

## Present Day and Current Doctoral Degrees in Nursing

- DNP – Doctor of Nursing Practice
- DNAP – Doctor of Nursing Practice in Anesthesia
- PhD – Doctor of Philosophy

## Purpose

- The PhD prepares nurse scholars and researchers to generate evidence and to add to the body of knowledge in nursing and theory.
- The DNP prepares clinical experts and uses evidence for outcomes management, quality improvement and to translate evidence for practice.

## Intentions about Roles

- DNP focus on clinical leadership in the clinical setting
- PhD focus on a role in academia, health care on conducting research in those settings

## DNP Studies

The Experiences of Doctor of Nursing Practice Graduates in Their Current Professional Positions (2010, 2017)

- Nurse executives felt the most confident in their role and supported by their work peers
- Nurse educators felt unsure and less confident about their role but felt supported by their work peers
- Nurses in advanced practice felt confident about their advanced practice role but less confident and supported as a DNP by their work peers

## Reality

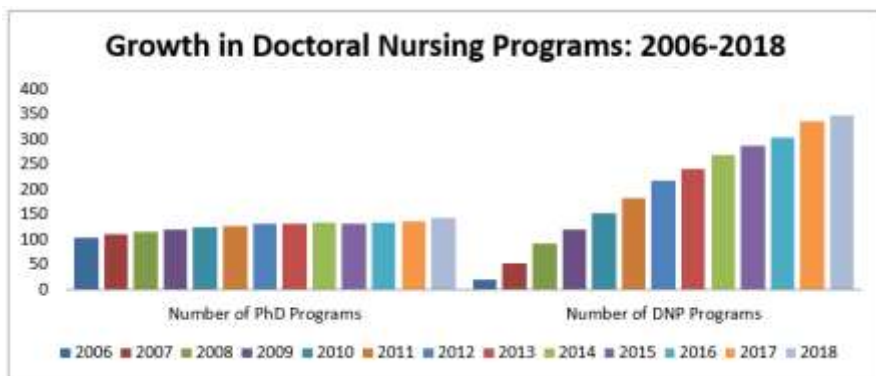
- There is a mixing of roles and expectations
- DNPs occupy positions in advanced practice, nursing education and as nurse executives
- Yet for DNPs, educational preparation is in clinical leadership
- PhDs occupy positions in academe and health care institutions as researchers (educator/scholar)

## Doctoral Degrees in Nursing

- Slightly less than 30,000 of more than 3.8 million nurses in the US have doctoral degrees in nursing
- 13% **of nurses** hold a graduate degree; fewer than **one percent have a doctoral** degree
- Many have DNPs, not PhDs
- A PhD prepare nurses to conduct research and teach
- PhD-prepared nurses tend to be older. The average age at which nurses get their PhDs in the U.S. is 46—13 years older than PhD earners in other fields
- 33.0% of students in research-focused doctoral programs, and 34.6% of DNP students are students of color

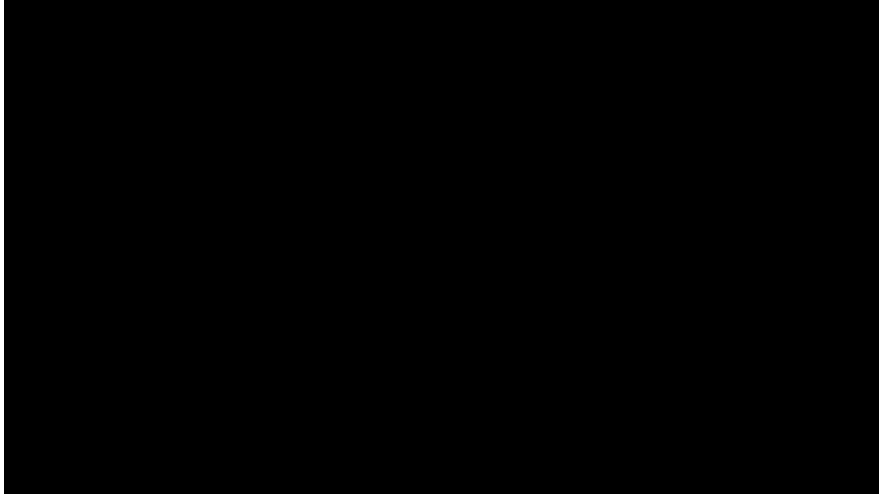
<https://nursejournal.org/articles/the-future-of-nursing-infographic>  
<https://www.rwif.org/en/library/articles-and-news/2013/06/a-new-generation-of-nurse-scientists-educators-and-transformat.html>

## Brief History and Current Status of PhD and DNP Programs in the US



<https://www.aacnursing.org/DNP/Fact-Sheet>

# DNP Land Grab



Number of people receiving nursing doctoral degrees annually

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
DNP	1,282	1,595	1,898	2,443	3,065	4,100	4,855	6,090	7,039	32,327
PhD	532	601	610	628	743	709	773	796	801	6,193
Total	1,814	2,196	2,468	3,071	3,808	4,809	5,628	6,886	7,840	38,520



## Doctoral Degrees in Nursing

- PhD prepared faculty – 8% of overall nursing faculty
- DNP prepared faculty – 20.3% of overall nursing faculty
- EdD prepared faculty – 7.1% of overall nursing faculty

## Being Proactive and Promoting Strategic Growth for Both Programs

- Consider controlled growth for both DNP and PhD programs
- Increase the number of PhDs

## Predictions of the Nurse Scientist Role and DNP in Academe

- In 2018 there was a faculty vacancy rate of 10.4%
- Of this percentage, 56.1% requires an earned doctorate
- 72% of nursing faculty are over the age of 50
- 80,000 nurses are predicted to leave the workforce in 2020

## Future Role of the Nurse Scientist Role and DNP in Academe

Regardless of academic setting:

- Educator/Scholar role for PhD
- Clinical Educator/Scholar for DNP
- Prepare DNP and PhD with content to become educators
- Expect DNPs to engage in scholarship related to using the evidence, quality improvement and translation for practice (including scholarly dissemination)
- Expect PhDs to engage in scholarship related to generating evidence (including scholarly dissemination)

## The Future without PhD Nurse Scientists

- Decrease or closure of peer-reviewed journals with a research focus
- Decrease in tenure track positions
- Decrease in recent and rigorous evidence to support use in practice ultimately affecting patients
- Little to no evidence for DNP to use and translate for practice
- Increase in teaching load
- Decrease in support for research (ultimately decrease in funding and indirect funding)

## Future without PhD Nurse Scientist

- Lack of equal footing with peers at academic institutions
- Decreased opportunity to serve on tenure and promotion committees
- Lack of voice and influence



## Where are the Future Nurse Scientists?

- Post BSN to PhD
- Post (ADN/DIP) with BS to PhD
- Post MSN to PhD
- Post BSN –Master’s in other field to PhD
- DNP to PhD

## DNP to PhD Intersections

- Celebrate, honor and respect the DNP as holding a terminal degree
- Clearly understand the differences between DNP and PhD – Not the same
- Respect the role as clinical leader
- Respect the clear understanding and knowledge of evidence
- Move from using the evidence to generating the evidence

## Dr. Sandy Cayo

New York University  
Rory Meyers College of Nursing  
Clinical Assistant Professor



## Dr. Pam Kallmerten

University of New Hampshire  
College of Health and Human Services  
Clinical Associate Professor



## Dr. Michael Neft

University of Pittsburgh  
School of Nursing  
Associate Professor  
Vice Chair for Administration  
Assistant Program Director  
Nurse Anesthesia



## DNP to PhD Program - 38 credits

- 18 Advanced credits
- State of Science and Discovery
- Philosophy of Science and Theory
- Method of Scientific Inquiry I
- Methods of Scientific Inquiry II
- Statistics II
- Measurement in nursing research
- Applied Qualitative and Quantitative Practicum
- Dissertation (Integrative Review & Grant Writing)

## Conclusions

- Critical concern and alarm about the current numbers of PhDs needed now and in the future
- Consider controlled growth
- Clarify differences between DNP and PhD to the nursing community
- Recruit and assist applicants in focusing on career plans to choose the appropriate program

## Conclusions

- Increase funding for PhD students
- Consider creative PhD program options and potentially decrease the length of programs
- Prepare DNPs and PhDs for the reality of their chosen career, needs of the profession

## References

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## Questions and Discussion





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