

Breaking New Ground? The Dual PhD/DNP Degrees in Nursing

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Emerging Solutions
Breaking New Ground? The Dual PhD/DNP Degrees in Nursing
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Objectives



PROVIDE A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE DUAL DEGREE



DESCRIBE AN EXEMPLAR OF A DUAL DEGREE PROGRAM AT ONE UNIVERSITY



DISCUSS STRATEGIES FOR MOVING DUAL DEGREE PROGRAMS FORWARD NATIONALLY

Overview of the Dual Degree

Historical Perspective



MD-PhD degree originated in 1956 at Case Western University



NIH Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP) in

Currently 48 MSTP programs supporting 900 students



2014 Physician Science Working Group

Nursing Slow to Adopt Dual Degree



Philosophical debate



Divergent and sometimes inaccurate comparisons of the PhD and DNP paths



Stagnant ways of thinking about research- and practice-focused curricula



NIH funding nonexistent—develop own funding streams



Role of PhD-DNP Nurse

- Uniquely functions on borders between research and practice, where clinical observations beget clinical questions, are transformed into clinically relevant studies
- Actively translate research knowledge into practice
- Accelerate the knowledge cycle from clinical problem, to research questions and results, to clinical practice change, and ultimately, to policy

Dual Degree Programs offered Nationally

Program (Year Initiated)	Tracks	Format	Part-Time Option Available?	Estimated Time to Degree	Graduates to Date	Website
Case Western Reserve University (2010)	MSN-Dual	In-person for all yrs	Yes	4 yrs	2	https://case.edu/nursing/programs/dual-doctorate-phddnp/dual-doctorate-sample-program-plan
Johns Hopkins University (2017)	BSN- or MSN-Dual	In-person for all yrs	No	5 yrs	0	https://nursing.jhu.edu/academics/programs/doctoral/dnp-phd.html
The University of Arizona (2009)	BSN- or MSN-Dual	Majority online (1 week required on campus each yr)	Yes	BSN-Dual = 5 yrs MS-Dual = 4.5 yrs	8	https://www.nursing.arizona.edu/phd-curriculum
The University of Tennessee (2006)	BSN- or MSN-Dual	In-Person (24%) Hybrid (40%) Online (36%)	Yes	BSN-Dual = 6 yrs MSN-Dual= 4 yrs	6	https://www.uthsc.edu/nursing/dnp-phd-dual.php

Exemplar of Dual Degree Program from One College of Nursing

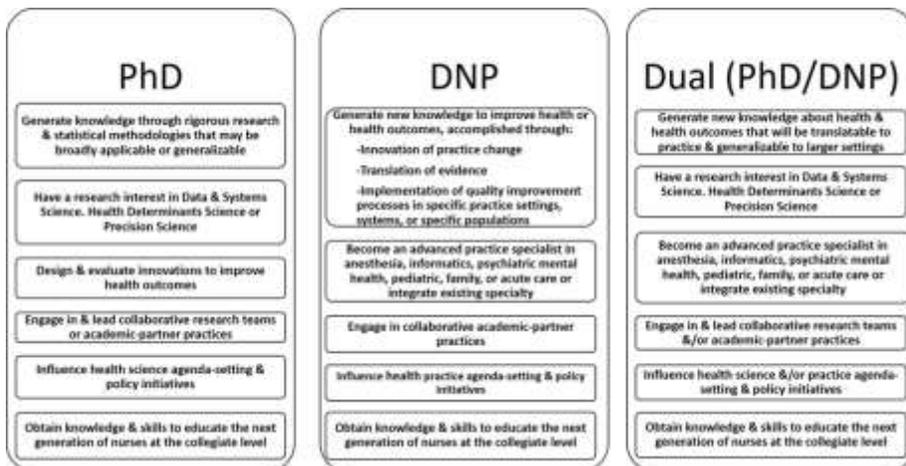


The UArizona College of Nursing

- History
 - Roots in student inquiries
 - Discussions with Grad College
 - Presentation to Curriculum Committee
 - Faculty input and voting
- Framework
 - COI
 - DNP essentials
- Co led by DNP and PhD Program Directors

Current Program

- Information about program on CON Website
- Interested individuals must contact program directors



Challenges and Solutions

Challenge	Solution
Mentorship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faculty training or preparation Plans of study and advising complex Suboptimal follow up 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dual mentors (PhD & DNP) work together to ensure research and practice congruency Mentorship resources (e.g., workshop, videos) Streamlined plans of study and individual development plans, both of which facilitate better advising and mentorship One-on-one check-ins by dual degree students and their advisors with the program directors.
Progression to Degree <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interruption of coursework Lack of full funding Self-imposed delay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program directors further streamlining dual curriculum Pay fees and tuition for one program Securing internal and external funding streams Tightened admissions criteria; students must clearly explicate research goals.

Challenges and Solutions

Challenge	Solution
Socialization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students felt isolated and without a cohort (“in-betweenness”) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dual degree sessions at RISE, regular peer-to-peer interactions
Productivity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~1/3 of students have applied for and received research funding ~1/3 of students published while matriculating (n = 19 pubs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposal writing course now required Students who submit for funding must meet with ADR Work with writing coach and mentor on manuscript development Manuscript draft required in PhD portfolio Three-manuscript dissertation option

Dual Degree Student Characteristics (n = 19)

Characteristic	Number (%)
Demographics	
Age at enrollment: mean 35.2 years (range 22-52 years)	
Female	19 (100)
Not Hispanic or Latino	17 (89.5)
White	17 (89.5)
Academic	
BSN to dual degree	12 (63.2)
MS to dual degree	7 (36.8)
Foundational program	
DNP to dual degree	17 (89.5)
PhD to dual degree	2 (10.5)
Dropped from dual degree and program	2 (10.5)
Scholarly Activities During Matriculation	
External funding	6 (31.5)
Internal funding	5 (26.3)
Publications in refereed journals (19 publications)	6 (31.5)

Characteristics of Graduated Dual Degree Students (n = 9)

Characteristic	Number (%)
Workforce Information	
• Working in academia	4 (44.4)
• Research/practice role in institutional healthcare setting	4 (44.4)
• Administrative/research role in institutional healthcare setting	1 (11.1)
Scholarly Publications Post-Graduation	4 (44.4)
Principal or Co-Investigator on Grants Post-Graduation	2 (22.2)
Postdoctoral Fellow	1 (11.1)

Time to Degree for Dual Degree Students¹ (n= 9)

	Mean (years)	Median (years)	Range (years)
BSN to dual degree (n = 5)	7.2	8.5	4.5 to 9
MS to dual degree (n = 4)	5.69	5.63	5 to 6.5
Overall time to degree	6.52	6	4.5 to 9

¹Time to degree accounts for leaves of absence



Discussion

Strategies for Moving Dual Degree Programs Forward Nationally

Data Collection

- Overall need is to determine whether dual degree graduates are meeting goals for research and practice
- No data previously have been published from any dual degree program
 - Matriculating students
 - Graduates
- Data needed to support dual degree on national level
- Consider cross-collaborations among existing dual degree programs

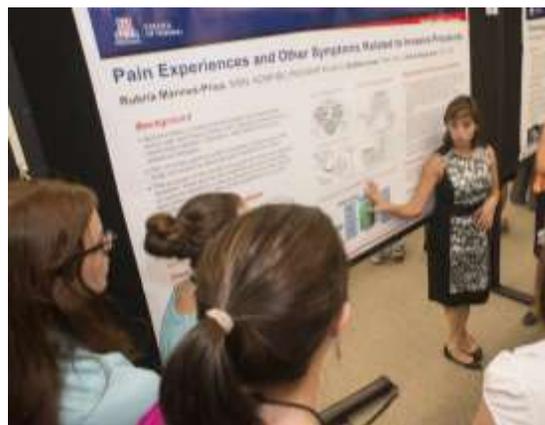


Trailblazing

- Directors of dual degree programs can highlight dual degree opportunities and workforce at national nursing meetings; holding workshops and seminars on the dual degree.

Establish External Funding Streams

- Parallel MD-PhD funding
- F30?
- F31
- NFLP
- NLRP
- Graduate Partnerships Programs



Small Groups

- What are your thoughts about the dual PhD-DNP degree?
- How to best prepare faculty to mentor dual degree students?
- How to guide students after graduation with this degree?
- How do you envision dual-degree nurses fitting into academia?



Conclusion

- The dual PhD-DNP degree has existed for 10 years but has not yet gained a foothold nationally.
- There is demand for the program by nursing doctoral students; however, few programs exist to train these students, and little data are available from those programs on the successes or challenges of training.
- It is incumbent on national nursing leaders (including dual degree program directors) to develop metrics and collect data that will lend support to future funding initiatives for the dual degree.