The Impact of DNP Education in Shaping Health Care Systems for the Future

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Objectives

1. Review why we are designing DNP programs
2. Review growth of the DNP degree
3. Describe variations in programs
4. Discuss value and contributions of the DNP
How Did We Get Here?

Institute of Medicine – National Academies Press

These Reports Called For:

- System Redesign
- Emphasis of Safety and Quality Improvement
- Use of Evidence-Based Practice
  - Ability to Find and Evaluate
- Patient Centered Care
- Use of Technology and Informatics
- Ability to Develop Self-Management Skills
- Interdisciplinary Team Based Care and Education
“The need for doctorally prepared practitioners and clinical faculty would be met if nursing could develop a new non-research clinical doctorate…”

p. 74
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
2006
Voted to Endorse the
“Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Nursing Practice”
With a Goal of Moving the Master’s Level of Preparation for APRN’s to the Doctoral Level by 2015
The 2006 Essentials Included Preparation for:

- Nurse Practitioners
- Nurse Clinical Specialists
- Nurse Anesthetists
- Nurse Midwives
- Nurse Administrators
The AACN Position Called For The:

“DNP Curriculum (to) build on traditional master’s programs by providing an education in evidence-based practice, quality improvement, and systems leadership, among other key areas”
With a Strengthened Clinical Component

“Programs should provide a minimum of 1000 hours of practice post-baccalaureate as part of a supervised academic experience... designed to help students build and assimilate knowledge for advanced specialty practice at a high level of complexity”
Increased Hours are Consistent with Other Clinical Disciplines at the Doctoral Level Applying For Licensure
PhD or PsyD in Psychology

“An approved internship… 1200 hours”

“An applicant shall complete 1 year of post-doctoral acceptable supervised experience… at least 12 months consisting of at least 1,750 hours of experience”
Nurse Anesthesia
2011 Council on Accreditation

- Voted to Initiate a Major Revision to Standards for Accreditation
- Redefine Entry Into Practice to Require Doctoral Level Preparation by 2025
Doctor of Physical Therapy

“The applicant shall have a minimum of two full time clinical internships of at least 800 hours total, which are supervised by a physical therapist.”

(PA Code)
Where Have We Arrived in DNP Education?

2011: 184 programs (101 planning)
9,094 enrolled
1,581 graduates
Compared with PhD Education

2011: 125 programs
4,907 enrolled
601 graduates
Current DNP Program Statistics

- DNP programs are now available in 40 states plus the District of Columbia.

- States with the most programs (8 or more) include Florida, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, Texas, and Pennsylvania.
Current DNP Program Statistics

- 184 DNP programs are currently enrolling students at schools of nursing nationwide, and an additional 101 DNP programs are in the planning stages.
- 65 schools in USA offer BSN-DNP track.
- 164 schools in USA offer MSN-DNP track.
What Do DNP Programs Look Like?

Example of Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania DNP

- Pennsylvania is one of the US states with the most DNP programs with Florida, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, and Texas.

- 14 universities are currently enrolling students in the DNP at schools of nursing statewide.
PA Governor Corbett signs Higher Education Modernization Act, which permits state universities to offer applied, or professional, doctorates (07/10/12)

The number of DNP programs will grow
DNP Tracks

- BSN-DNP track (4)
- MSN-DNP track (14)
MSN-DNP Specialty Area

- NP
  - Adult-Gerontology Acute Care
  - Gerontology-Primary Care
  - Family
  - Neonatal
  - Pediatric Primary Care
  - Adult-Pediatric Psychiatric
- CNS
  - Adult Emergency/Critical Care
  - Adult-Gerontology/Acute Care
- Nurse Anesthesia
MSN-DNP Specialty Area

- Advanced Nursing Practice
- Healthcare Policy
- Informatics
- Clinical Leadership
- Nursing Administration
- Nurse Executive
- Population-Based Specialties
BSN-DNP Track Length

The length of BSN-DNP program varies and depends on the specialty area with the range of 58-93 credit hours
BSN-DNP Specialty Area

- NP
  - Adult-Gerontology Acute Care
  - Geriatric-Primary Care
  - Family
  - Neonatal
  - Pediatric Primary Care
  - Adult-Pediatric Psychiatric
BSN-DNP Specialty Area

- CNS
  - Adult Medical/Surgical
  - Adult-Gerontological
The length of MSN-DNP program varies across the state’s schools and specialties, with the range of 27-50 credit hours.
Pennsylvania - Specialties

- BSN-DNP
  - 2 NP
  - 2 CNS
  - 2 None Specified
Pennsylvania - Specialties

◆ MSN-DNP
  ■ 7 Leadership/Administration
  ■ 5 NP
  ■ 2 CNS
  ■ 2 CRNA
  ■ 1 Education
  ■ 1 Clinical Scholar
  ■ 4 None Specified
Distribution of DNP Graduates

- Administration/Leadership: 378
- Nurse Practitioner: 189
- Other: 22
Placement of DNP Graduates (N=163)

- 78 Acute Care
- 53 Academics
- 24 Primary Care
- 8 Other
Shaping a Health Care System

Early Impact – Acute Care Leadership
New Skills

- Quality Improvement
- Evidence Based Practices
- Collaborative Team Care
- Appreciation of Informatics
- System Redesign
Case Studies

- Director Medicare/Medicaid Program – Insurance Company
- Director Academic-Service Partnership – Academic Health Center
- CEO – Academic Hospital (ABC)
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Early Impact – Academic

"Can I get continuing education credit for stories that never cease to amaze me?"
New Contributions

- Clinical and System Depth
- Added Competencies for Students
  - Quality and Safety
  - Team Practices
  - Evidence Based Practice
Secondary Contributions

◆ Academic Department Equivalence
◆ Methodologic Expansion, e.g.
  ■ Program Evaluation
  ■ Improvement Science
  ■ Implementation (T3-translation) science
◆ Clinical-Faculty Collaborations
◆ Modeling Advanced Education for Students
◆ Enhanced Respect
Case Studies

- Pitt – moving to 100% doctoral prepared faculty
- Pitt – distinction between professional and research doctoral students
Shaping a Health Care System

Early Impact – Primary Care
Secondary Contributions

- Enhanced Precepted Education
- Expanded Educational Opportunities
- Other Discipline ‘Peer’ Perception
Case Studies

- Nurse Owned Practice
- Interdisciplinary Practice and Crosswalk
- Event Medical Booth
New Contributions

- Practice Innovations
- Clinical Depth
- Interdisciplinary Team Care
- Systems Management
- Evidence-Based Care
Long-Term Impact On Health Care Systems Will Depend On The Type And Quality Of Other Programs
Original Intent Of DNP was Advanced Practice
Early Program Emphasized Leadership/Administration

Where Do We Want To Have Impact?
Majority of Programs Add Content (27-54 credits) to MSN degree

Do We Want the DNP to Top Off the MSN or Do We Want a Single Integrated Program?
Case Example

- University of Pittsburgh DNP program
- BSN-DNP Foundational Curriculum
- MSN maps onto BSN-DNP curriculum
- Post-MSN students considered as transfer students
- Course program tailored to students
- Contrasts with standard course work for DNP
Each specialty has its curriculum (8) with a core across programs

Graduation diploma/transcript includes degree – program – area of concentration

1000 clinical hours in specialty
University Requirement For Minimum of 81 Credits (post-baccalaureate) for a Doctoral Degree
Post-MSN has Online Option

- Attractive to distance students

- Student advisory board indicates preference for onsite – online is convenience default
Educational Challenges

◆ Qualified Faculty Each Specialty

◆ Qualified Capstone advisors
  ■ Faculty Education
  ■ Academic-Service Partnerships

◆ Qualified Clinical Preceptors
2012 Closed Admission to MSN Advanced Practice Programs

MSN programs: Administration, Informatics, CNL
DNP Education Can Enrich

- Acute care and primary care settings
- Quality of the educational environment
- Academic-service partnerships
- Interprofessional relationships
Impact Will Depend
Upon the Quality and Focus
of the Programs

Administration – Advanced Practice
Master’s Top Off – Integrated Preparation
Depth of Content
Placement
Opportunities are Extensive

Can We Reach Them?
Can We Reach the DNP for APRN’s by 2015?
Thank You!
Time to Discuss