

DOES THE DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE (DNP) CHANGE CLINICAL PRACTICE?

Margaret Migaud DNP, FNP-BC
Capstone Advisor: Judith Kaufmann
Dr. Ph CRNP-BC

Introduction/Background

- ❑ AANC has mandated 2015 for the DNP as the terminal practice degree in advanced nursing practice (AACN, 2004).
- ❑ AANC has painted a broad brush with respect to guidelines of educational programs and capstone or scholarly projects.
- ❑ Stakeholders have supported the DNP as the terminal degree but they are varied in their clinical and philosophical approaches.

Introduction/Background

- ❑ There are currently 153 DNP programs nationwide and another 106 additional nursing schools considering programs (AACN, 2010).
- ❑ DNP programs are offered for the clinical advanced practice nurse (APN), as well as for nurse educators and nurse executives (NEE).
- ❑ Little research has been done comparing group benefits (Graff, Russell & Stegbauer, 2007; Kaplan & Brown, 2009; Crowley et al., 2010).

Program Design and Credentialing

- ❑ The Drexel DrNP is a hybrid model that combines the practice and research doctorate (Donnelly & Naremore, 2006)
- ❑ Columbia University School of Nursing model includes a year long clinical residency with didactic instruction (Honig & Smolowitz, 2008)
- ❑ Mundinger, et al., (2009) collaborated with the Council of Achievement of Comprehensive Care for optional certification of DNP clinicians

APN Perception and Motivation

- ❑ Hudacek & Rinaldi (1986) explored DNP enrollment from three nursing groups.
 - All three groups viewed attainment of a doctorate as enriching
- ❑ Loomis & Cohen (2006) explored the DNP over a PhD.
 - Students who chose the DNP were interested in "clinical practice excellence."
- ❑ DeMarco, Pulcini, Haggerty & Tran (2009) surveyed nurses perception of doctorates
 - DNP was perceived as an option by 55%

Change in Role Development

- ❑ Graff, Russell & Stegbauer (2007) examined post-graduate DNP program evaluations.
 - Opportunities were reported in practice, consulting and teaching
- ❑ Kaplan & Brown (2009) using a prospective, longitudinal study to document the transition phenomenon of APN to DNP.
 - Results pending
- ❑ The DNP Outcomes Survey evaluated curricula and application of the of *DNP Essentials in DNP programs* (Crowley et al., 2010)

Design/Aims

- ▣ A descriptive, exploratory web based survey using a one time, cross sectional design
- ▣ Primary Aim : To explore how the DNP changes APN clinical practice in recent graduates of two post masters DNP programs
- ▣ Aim 2: To correlate DNP graduates perceptions of clinical practice with AACN DNP *Eight Essentials*

Methods

- ▣ *Participants* : A convenience sample of DNP graduates from two universities in Western Pennsylvania
- ▣ *Measures*: An electronic survey consisting of demographic questions and questions related to DNP *Essentials*
- ▣ *Data Collection*: Survey link sent via e-mail on December 14th, 2010 and available online until December 29th, 2010

•Methods

- ▣ *Data Collection*: Sixty five e-mails sent to DNP graduates with 34 participants
 - response rate = 53.2%.
- ▣ *Informed consent*: implied by participation in the survey
 - Participation voluntary
 - RMU IRB Human Subjects approval
- ▣ *Confidentiality* maintained by de-identifying and coding data
 - Data access limited to researcher and capstone advisor

Sample/Criteria

- A convenience sample thirty four DNP graduates
 - Male=2
 - Female = 32
 - Age range = 31-65 years of age
- Group one: n=22 APNs (NP, CMN, CRNA, CNS)
- Group two: n=12 nurse educators and nurse executives (NEE)

Practice Roles

Advanced Practice Role	Response Percent	Response Count
Adult/Geriatric	20.6%	7
Clinical Nurse Specialist	5.9%	2
Family Practice	20.6%	7
Nurse Anesthesia	11.8%	4
Nurse Educator	20.6%	7
Nurse Executive	14.7%	5
Nurse Midwife	0.0%	0
Pediatrics	5.9%	2
Psychiatry	0.0%	0
		n = 34

Setting

- Schools chosen based on similar size, initiation of program start dates and geographic proximity
- Schools differed in that one school accepts nurse educators and executives while the other school is limited to practicing certified APNs

Measures/Instrumentation

- ▣ An Internet Survey on *Survey Monkey* which consisted of 14 questions which were to be completed by each participant
- ▣ The purpose of this survey was to collect demographic information, perceived changes in clinical practice and integration of the *Essentials*
- ▣ Multiple choice and eight questions on a four point likert scale describing integration of the *Essentials*

Data Analysis

- ▣ Survey items were clustered into 3 domains:
 - personal/professional growth
 - clinical and practice scholarship
 - use of the *Essentials*
- ▣ Differences between the two groups were compared in each domain using a two-tailed Z test of proportions.
- ▣ The two tailed Z test was chosen due to a large difference between the groups.
 - Confidence level = 95%
 - $\alpha = 0.05$
 - Critical Z = 1.96

Domain 1

- ▣ Personal and Professional Growth: There was a statistically significant difference between groups in the area of Increase in respect

Personal and Professional Growth	APN	NEE	z score	p value
Increase in salary	18%	8.0%	0.28	.6103
Increase in autonomy	23%	16%	.039	.6517
Increase in responsibility	36%	25%	.272	.6064
Increase in respect	68%	8%	2.99	.001
Increase in collegiality	59%	25%	1.539	.06
Note $\alpha .05$, critical z at 1.96				

Domain 2

☐ In the area of Clinical and Practice Scholarship there was statistical significance in two areas

Clinical and Practice Scholarship	APN	NEE	z score	p value
Increased ability to understand EBM	86%	83%	-.271	.401
Increased ability to improve patient care	81%	42%	1.939	.025
Increased ability to understand/conduct research	77%	50%	1.225	.10
Increased ability/confidence to publish	86%	42%	2.297	.01

Note α .05, critical z at 1.96

Domain 3

Comparing APN and NEE groups and acquisition of the Essentials demonstrated no statistically significant difference between groups

Essentials	APN	NEE	z score	p value
Scientific Underpinnings:	86.4%	58.3%	1.416	.9207
Organizational and Systems Leadership	81.8%	100%	1.086	.8599
Clinical Scholarship for Evidence Based Practice	90.9%	66.7%	1.357	.9115
Info Systems and Technology	63.6%	58.3%	.083	.1977
Health Care Policy for Advocacy	36.4%	66.7%	1.371	.9115
Inter-professional Collaboration	77.3%	58.3%	.768	.7764
Clinical Prevention and Population Health	63.6%	54.5%	.147	.5557
Advanced Nursing Practice	90.9%	75.0%	.752	.7734

Perceived Benefit of DNP

APN

- ☐ Increased respect/collegiality
- ☐ Improving patient care
- ☐ Increased ability and confidence to publish
- ☐ Use of advanced clinical judgment
- ☐ Use of advanced based medicine

NEE

- ☐ Health Care Policy advocates
- ☐ Able to advocate and participate in health policy changes

Should this be a Clinical DNP?

- ❑ Recommendations:
- ❑ Repeat the study with a larger population to evaluate Effect size and increase power
- ❑ Program Evaluation to see how curriculum influenced the study outcome (uncontaminated groups)

Acknowledgements

- ❑ Thanks to Lynette Jack PhD, RN Director of Accelerated Health Programs of Waynesburg University for her support and assistance in this project.
- ❑ Thanks to Dr. Carolyn Graff, PhD, Dr Cindy Russell PhD and Dr. Cynthia Stegbauer PhD for permission to adapt table 2 of Formative and Summative Evaluation of a Practice Doctorate Program (2007).
- ❑ *Nurse Educator* 32(4)173-177

References

- ❑ American Association of Colleges of Nursing(2004). AACN Position Statement on the Practice of Doctorate Nursing retrieved from
- ❑ <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/DNP/DNPPositionStatement.htm>
- ❑ American Associations of Colleges of Nursing (2006). The Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Nursing Practice retrieved from www.aacn.nche.edu
- ❑ American Association of Colleges of Nursing (2009). The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Fact Sheet retrieved from <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/MediaFactSheetsdnp.htm>

References

- American Association of Colleges of Nursing (2009a). Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Programs retrieved from <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/dnp/dnpprogramlist.html>
- American Association of Colleges of Nursing (2010). Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Retrieved from <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/Media/NewsReleases/2011/enrollsurge.html>
- Crowley, K., Grimes, D., Ahmed, S., Hoffman-Star, E., Odell, D. & Young, M. (2010). DNP outcome survey. Presented at the Third National DNP Conference, San Diego, California.

References

- DeMarco, R., Pulcini, J. & Haggerty, J. (2009). Doctorate in Nursing Practice: A survey of Massachusetts Nurses, *Journal of Professional Nursing*, 25, 75-80. doi:10.1016/j.profnurse.2008.10.004
- Dreher, H.M., Donnelly, G.F., & Naramore, R.C. (2006). Reflections on the DNP and The Alternate Doctorate Model: The Drexel DrNP. *The Online Journal of Issues in Nursing* 1(1) 1-15. retrieved: http://www.nursingworld.org/MainMenuCategories/ANAMarketplace/ANAPeriodicals/OJIN/TableofContents/Volume112006/No1Jan06/ArticlePreviousTopic/tpc28_716031.aspx

References

- Graff, J., Russell, C. & Stegbauer, C. (2007). Formative and Summative Evaluation of a Practice Doctorate Program. *Nurse Educator* 32(4), 173-177. doi: 10.1097/01.NNE.0000281088.81205.24
- Honig, J., & Smolowitz, J., DNP Residency: A Model for the Clinical Doctorate. (2008). *Clinical Scholars Review*, 1(2), 81-85. doi: 10.1891/1939-2095.1.2.81
- Hudacek, S., & Carpenter, D., (1998). Student Perceptions of Nurse Doctorates: Similarities and Differences. *Journal of Professional Nursing*, 14(1), 14-21.

References

- ▣ Kaplan, L., & Brown, M.A. (2009). Doctor of Nursing Practice Program Evaluation and Beyond: Capturing the Profession's Transition to the DNP. *Nursing Education Perspectives*, 30(6), 362-366.
- ▣ Loomis, J. Willard, B., & Cohen, J., (2006). Difficult Professional Choices: Deciding Between the PhD and DNP in Nursing. *The Online Journal of Nursing*, 12(1), 1-15.
[WWW.nursingworld/
MainMenuCategories/ANAMarketplace/
ANAPeriodicals/OJIN/TableofContents/
Volume122007/No1Jan07/ArticlePreviousTopics /
tpc28816033.aspx](http://www.nursingworld.org/MainMenuCategories/ANAMarketplace/ANAPeriodicals/OJIN/TableofContents/Volume122007/No1Jan07/ArticlePreviousTopics/tpc28816033.aspx)

References

- ▣ Mundinger, M. (2009). Clinical Scholarship: DNPs Add Clarity. *Clinical Scholars Review*, 2(1), 3-4. doi:10.1891/1939-2095.2.1.3
- ▣ National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (2006) Domains and Core Competencies of Nurse Practitioner Practice obtained from: [http://www.nonpf.com /
associations/10789/files/DNP%20NP
%20competencies April2006.pdf](http://www.nonpf.com/associations/10789/files/DNP%20NP%20competencies%20April2006.pdf)
