

# **DNP and PhD Collaboration: Building Collaboration in a College of Nursing**

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# Objectives

- Provide background for the purpose of the DNP degree.
- Identify barriers to acceptance of the DNP degree.
- Describe effective strategies for the collaboration between DNP and PhD programs.
- Explore the concept of shared governance as an umbrella strategy for collaboration.
- Elaborate on successful strategies utilized by the UC College of Nursing.
- Provide recommendations for successful collaboration.

# Background

(Apold, 2008)

## **Academic Credential: Road to the PhD**

### Doctor of Education

- 1924: Teachers College of Columbia University
- 1<sup>st</sup> doctoral program available to nurses

### Philosophical Doctorate

- 1934: New York University
- 1<sup>st</sup> PhD program in nursing

## **Professional Credential: Road to the DNP**

### Doctor of Nursing Science

- 1970s: Some maintain degree developed for practice rather than research

### Doctor of Nursing Practice

- 2004: AACN adopted doctoral preparation as entry level for APN roles
- 2005: CCNE adopted DNP as only practice doctorate considered for accreditation

# Barrier to DNP Acceptance

(Edwardson, 2010)

## Viewed as a competing interest

- Decrease in # of PhD prepared nurses thus reducing development of new nursing knowledge
- Increase nursing faculty shortage in colleges & universities
- Less rigor: easier path to achieve doctoral degree

## Reality

- Comparisons not genuine as each degree path has a completely different purpose

# PhD and DNP Degree Purposes

(Edwardson, 2010)

## PhD

- Prepare nurse scientists/scholars to generate and disseminate new knowledge for the nursing discipline
- Prepared to independently perform research & scholarship
- Research intensive

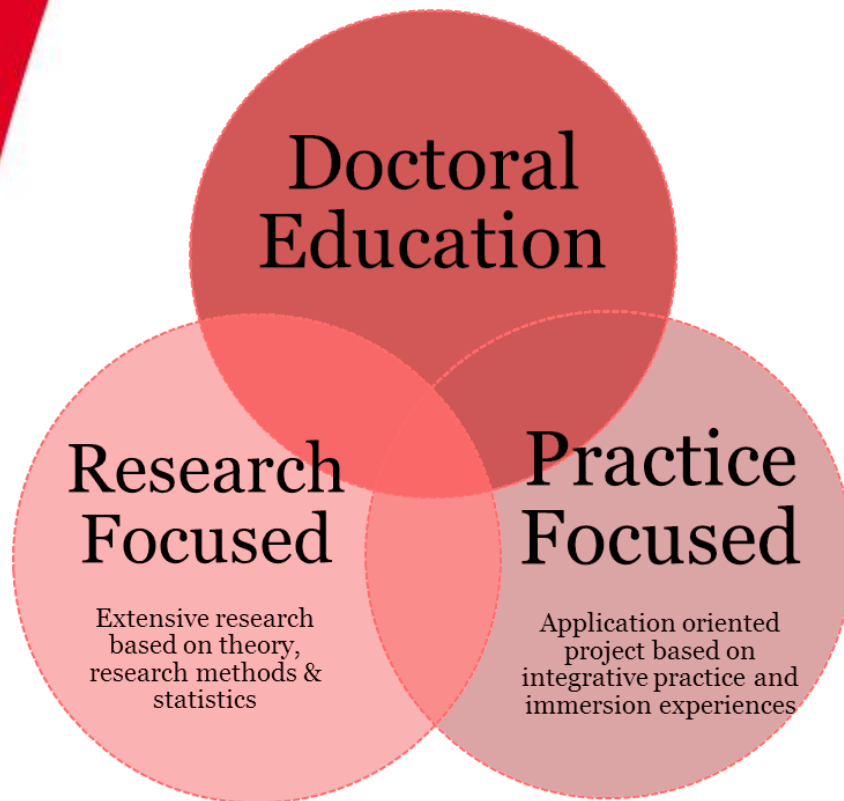
## DNP

- Prepare clinicians to utilize knowledge generated by research scholars in the delivery of high quality healthcare
- Prepared for using knowledge to deliver services and solve clinical problems
- Practice intensive

# Collaborative Strategies

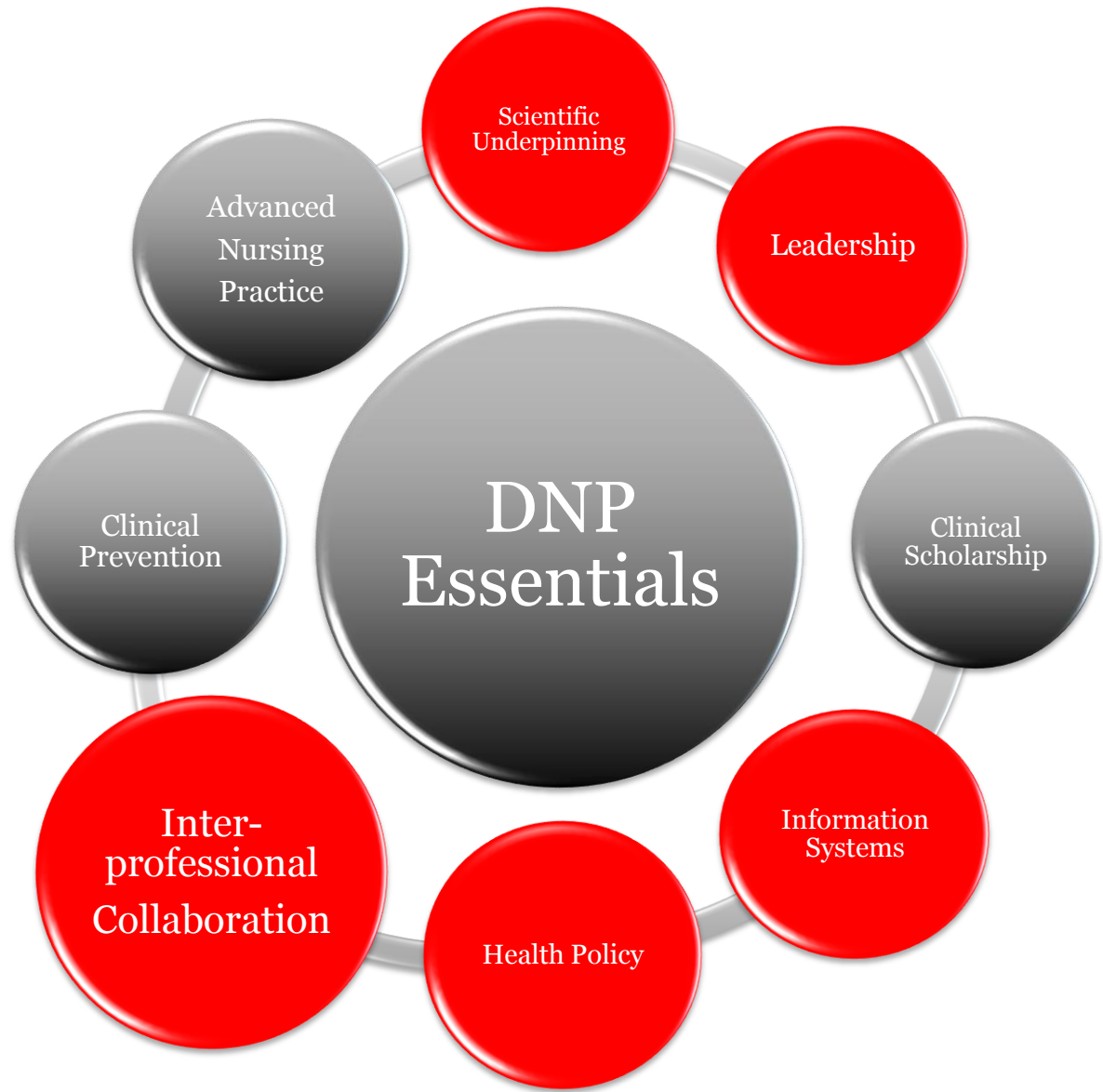
- Purpose of collaboration
- Shared Governance
- Collaboration amongst directors
- Joint meetings
- Faculty collaboration
- Student shared experiences

# Collaboration



Overlap represents the idea that both kinds of education share:

- Demanding expectations
- Scholarly approach to discipline
- Commitment to advance nursing





# University of Cincinnati

## College of Nursing

### Vision

Transforming health care through  
innovative education and research



# University of Cincinnati, College of Nursing

## Mission

Develop nurse leaders who are empowered to generate, explore, and apply nursing knowledge for evolving health care environments.



# Shared Governance Model

U.C. College of model involves a dynamic centered on operationalizing the four critical principles of fully empowered organizations:

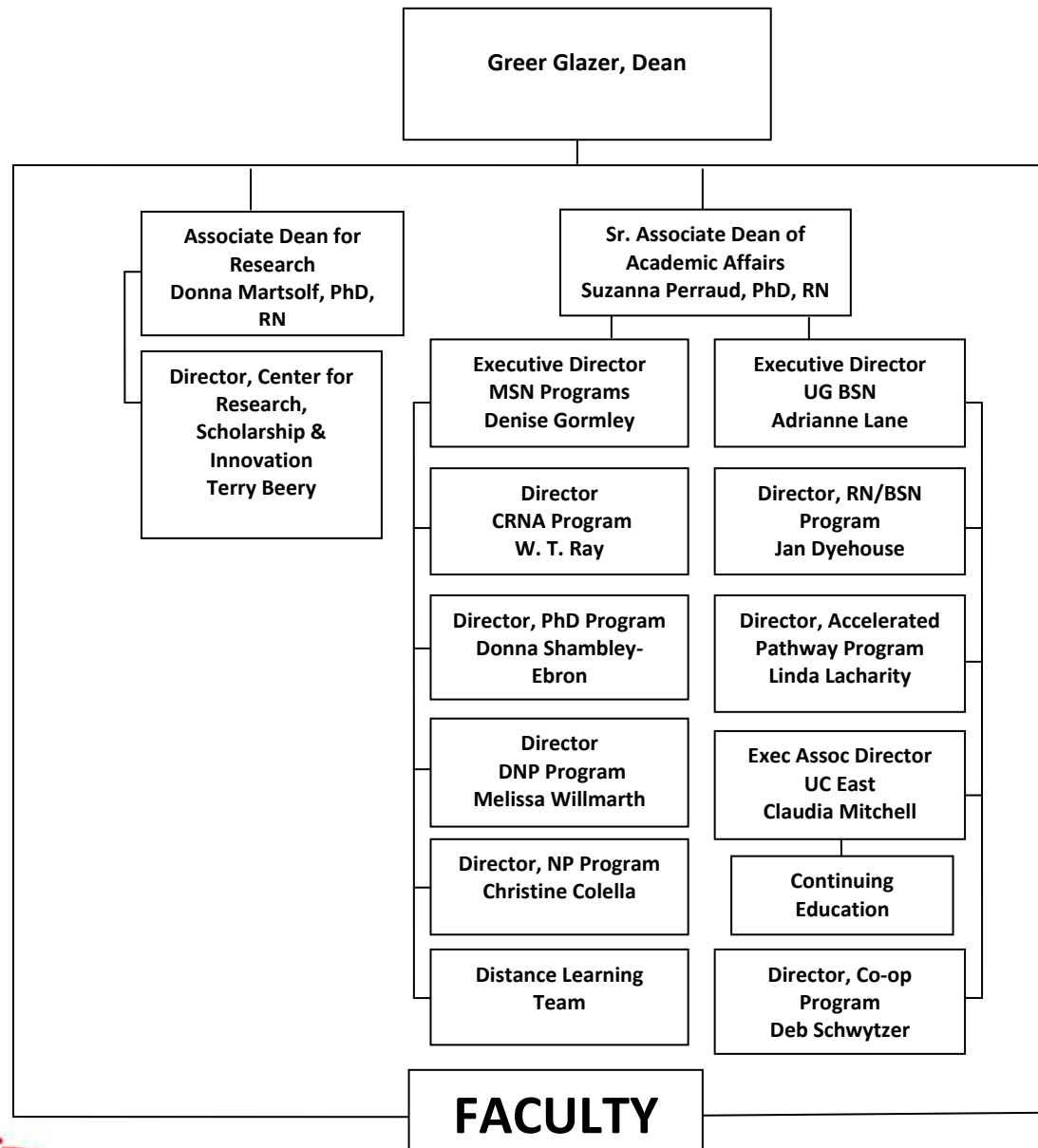
- Partnership
- Accountability
- Equity
- Ownership

# Shared Governance Model

- **Partnership** implies faculty, students, staff, administration and the Dean work effectively together to achieve the goals of the College.
- **Accountability** stems from commitment to a College of the whole and to the outcomes to be achieved through the proposed model of shared governance.

# Shared Governance Model

- **Equity** derives from the vital and important contributions that each member of the College community brings to the work of the College.
- **Ownership** arises from each member of the College community also having a stake in the development of nurse leaders.



# Program Directors

- Program directors and faculty from both the PhD and DNP programs work side by side to effectively utilize the resources that are available for optimal student outcomes





# Joint Meetings

- Regular DNP and PhD program meetings along with information sharing at total College Shared Governance Faculty Assembly Meetings
- Student representation



# Faculty Collaboration

- Teaching
- Curriculum and course development, evaluation, feedback, and refinement
- Committees and joint representation
- Scholarly activities
- Joint publication
- Networking and sharing of resources

# Student Experiences

- Combined student handbook
- Co-attending social events
- Co-enrollment in some of the Doctoral core curriculum courses
- Encourage joint collaborative learning experiences of PhD and DNP students in courses when possible

# MSN Strategies

**Joint DNP/PhD informational sessions with prospective doctoral students**

**Utilization of both PhD and DNP prepared faculty in program delivery and refinement**

- PhD: didactic courses related to research & theory
- DNP: didactic courses related to clinical application along with practicum experiences

## **Assignments**

- Discussion board activities
- Problem solving case studies that highlight the contribution of PhD and DNP students in clinical problem solving
- Short paper applying DNP & PhD concepts

# Future Considerations

## Joint projects of PhD & DNP students

- Generating and then applying research evidence into the practice setting.
- Research evaluation and synthesis and its application to clinical practice.
- Team-based scholarly paper development
- Scholarly writing and presentations

# Future Considerations

- Program Development BSN to DNP/PhD
- Expand Collaborative Research and Its Translation into Practice

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# Questions?