

Building Partnerships: Integrating Nurse Practitioner Fellowships within Doctor of Nursing Practice Education



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Objectives

At the completion of this session, the participant will be able to:

- Describe development of a nurse practitioner specialty-focused fellowship integrated with DNP education.
- Identify strategies to develop a partnership between a school of nursing and the health care system.

Advanced Nursing Practice

- ▶ Must meet needs of ever changing health care landscape
- ▶ Need advanced competencies for practice and leadership roles
- ▶ Doctor of Nursing Practice degree is an advanced educational credential to improve patient outcomes (AACN, 2006)

Health Care Must Be

- ▶ Safe
- ▶ Effective
- ▶ Client-centered
- ▶ Timely
- ▶ Efficient
- ▶ Equitable

Institute of Medicine, 2001)

What is the Benefit of Nurse Practitioner Fellowships

- ▶ Advanced competencies needed for practice and leadership
- ▶ Nurse practitioners often need additional training and education
 - Novice providers
 - Need experience in care of complex patients in context of a specialty practice setting
- ▶ DNP degree prepares graduates for innovative and evidence-based practice
 - Foremost educational strategy to address needs of patient populations

DNP Fellowships at Vanderbilt University

- ▶ DNP AG-ACNP Intensivist Fellowship
 - Inception 2012
 - 3 DNP graduates
 - 1 current DNP Intensivist Fellow
- ▶ DNP Genetics Fellowship for Family Nurse Practitioner or Pediatric Nurse Practitioner
 - Inception 2015
 - 2 current Genetics Fellows

Development of NP Specialty Practice Fellowship

- ▶ Collaborative effort between school of nursing and tertiary care medical center
- ▶ Strategically train NPs to enter a specialty with sound foundation of experience and education (*Carmola, 2014*)
- ▶ Simultaneous enrollment in DNP program and employed full time in specialty focused practice at medical center
 - Full time employee benefits
 - Salary commensurate with experience

DNP Curriculum Design

- ▶ Course of study = 35 credits
- ▶ Elective credits = 4 credits
 - Didactic and practical experiences in clinical area related to specialty practice
 - Curriculum may be formal or informal
 - Academic credit completed as independent study
- ▶ Academic assignments and practice immersion experience center on practice setting and patient population
 - Facilitates attainment of DNP competencies (*DNP Essentials, 2006*)

Clinical Immersion

- Emphasizes independent advanced nursing practice
- Expected to participate within a multidisciplinary team
- Orientation and mentoring
 - Direct care NP role
 - Simulation activities
 - Case study presentations

DNP Projects

- ▶ Develop from question or problem student identifies from practice
- ▶ Completed in collaboration with DNP faculty and nurse practitioner and/or physician mentors
- ▶ Completed projects
 - *ACNP-Intensivists: Evaluating a Model of Care*
 - *Job Satisfaction Among Advanced Practice Providers in an Academic Medical Center*
 - *Development and Implementation of a Critical Care Ultrasonography Workshop for Advanced Practice Providers.*

DNP Projects In Progress

- ▶ *Intensivist DNP Fellow*

- *Evaluating outcomes of previous Intensivist Fellow's project implementing ultrasonography performed by advanced practice providers in critical care*

- ▶ *Genetics Fellow*

- *Management of pediatric patients with lysosomal disorders admitted to inpatient setting for acute illness*

Strategies for Initiation and Development

- Identify stakeholders
- Cultivate shared goals between school of nursing and medical center
- Create admission and selection procedures for academic admission and employment
- Develop processes to integrate academic requirements with expected clinical performance outcomes
- Dedicated faculty to facilitate achievement of DNP competencies in the clinical setting

ntended Outcomes

- ▶ Specialty practice immersion
- ▶ Enhanced level of scholarship and leadership
- ▶ Added value to care of specific patient populations
- ▶ Improved patient outcomes
- ▶ Advancement of role of specialty-focused nurse practitioner

Challenges

- Availability of nurse practitioner positions
- Funding for employment
- Paid relief time for Fellow's clinical training
- Interested and qualified applicants
- Coordination of admission and hiring
- Faculty expertise to mentor Fellow and guide project
- Medical center experts for mentoring clinical practice

References

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