



UNIVERSITY *of* MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF NURSING

Ensuring Quality during a Pandemic: Curricular Adjustments do not have to be a Crisis

[NSP II 17-121](#)

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Pre- Pandemic Operations

- FNP DNP classes offered face to face at Baltimore and expanded to Shady Grove Campus funded through NSP II in 2016
- All content, exams and clinical are coordinated to be equivalent
- Faculty collaborate between campuses and plan 6 months ahead
- 2019-2020 academic year Universities at Shady Grove (USG) has 2 clinical cohorts plus additional students in core classes
 - 11 Second clinical year (Expected graduation May 2021)
 - 14 First clinical year (Expected graduation May 2022)
 - 30 + in core classes (Expected graduation May 2023 and beyond)
- Baltimore campus has 17 Third Year (May 2020); 21 Second year (May 2021), and 16 First year (May 2022) plus 40+ in core classes (May 2023 and beyond)



Delivery of Didactic Content and Exams During Pandemic

- Lectures were provided by faculty and content experts live via Blackboard Collaborate and also recorded for students
- Students and faculty learned challenges with online delivery for 4 hours of lecture weekly (bandwidth, tech access, interruptions, interactions)
- Multiple competing variables for students and faculty: graduate school, home schooling young children, increased need for nurses at hospitals
- Scheduling was simplified due to online delivery: repeating lectures face to face at 2 locations was no longer possible
- Exams conducted remotely via Exam Soft instead of on campus
- Town Hall information sessions with faculty after class kept students informed and provided reassurance



Clinical Experiences and Simulation

- Face to face clinical ceased on March 18, 2020 for all students
- Telemedicine and simulation experiences were added as clinical activities following endorsement by CCNE, below:

“while CCNE expects that all students will meet program outcomes, flexibility in clinical hours and types of experiences, even if not previously used by the program, are acceptable.”

(<https://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/42/CCNE/News/CCNE-Statement-on-Coronavirus-Bacc-and-Grad.pdf>)

- Syllabi were edited and vetted through DNP Curriculum Committee to reflect changes due to COVID -19
- Multiple virtual simulation sites were analyzed and approved for use
- Faculty and simulation experts developed multiple scenarios totaling to 24 hours of faculty facilitated simulation encounters



Lessons Learned from Spring 2020 Semester

- Didactic lecture is just not the same online: faculty and students express struggle with engagement and feeling connected; prefer face to face
- Scheduling didactic coursework online is simplified for 2 campuses
- Increased workload for faculty to develop simulation scenarios
- 1 hour of a simulation scenario requires at least 3 hours of faculty and simulation staff time to develop
- Virtual cases on approved websites need to be evaluated by faculty for level and complexity to be appropriately assigned to students
- Plans for Summer and Fall 2020 have been underway since early April
- Success is possible with full team engagement and communication

