

Preparing Clinician-Scientists in Nursing through the Johns Hopkins DNP/PhD Program: Enrollment and Preliminary Program Outcomes



JOHNS HOPKINS
SCHOOL of NURSING

J.E. Farley; K. Lowensen; A. Patil; R. D'Aoust

Background

- The shortage of qualified, doctorally prepared nursing faculty remains an obstacle for expanding student enrollment in nursing.
- The AACN Task Force on Research-Focused Doctorate Education has recommended that strategies be developed to engage students in Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) study earlier in nurses' education and careers.
- The dual degree DNP (Doctor of Nursing Practice) / PhD program was developed as a nurse clinician-scientist program combining the clinical knowledge and experiences of the DNP program with the scientific training of the PhD program.
- The program is a 5-year course of study with two years of PhD coursework, followed by an integration of DNP/PhD coursework in years 3-5. Students meet programmatic outcomes for both degrees upon completion.

Aim

- This abstract reviews the preliminary program outcomes for the dual degree program and offers lessons learned for future enrollments.

Methods

- This is a prospective evaluation of DNP/PhD students enrolled across six cohorts between 2017 and 2022.
- Descriptive statistics, including frequencies and proportions are provided.

Results

Figure 1: Applications and Admissions to the DNP/PhD

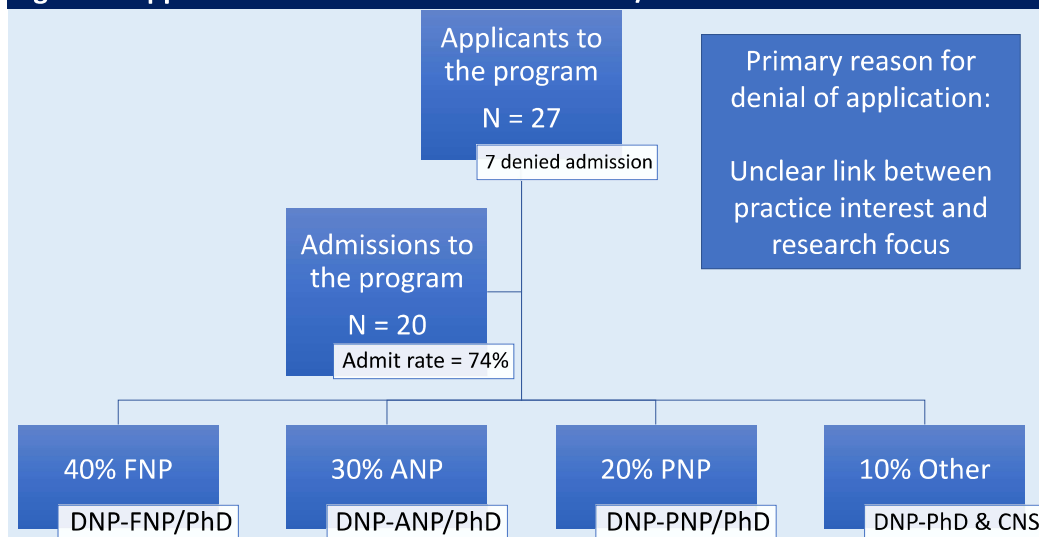


Table 1. Demographics of Admitted Students (N=20)

Patient Characteristics	N (%)
Sex	
Female	18 (90.0)
Male	2 (10.0)
Age, mean (range)	30.0 (21 – 43)
Years of Nursing Experience, mean (range)	2.0 (0 - 13)
Race	
Caucasian	10 (50.0%)
Asian	6 (30.0%)
African American	4 (20.0%)

Table 2. Review of program metrics, entire cohort (N=20)

Metric	N (%)
Publications, mean (range)	5 (0 – 29)
Abstract Presentations, mean (range)	3 (0 - 8)
NIH/NRSA Submissions to date	11 (55%)
NIH/NRSA Funded to date	5/11 (45.5%)
NIH/NRSA Scored with resubmission pending	2/6 (33.3%)
Program Completion	1/18 (5.6%)
DNP Program Withdrawal, continued PhD	2/20 (10%)

Lessons Learned

- The recruitment, application and admission process was improved to ensure applicants understood the connection between their proposed research and clinical training.
- Reasons for withdrawal from the DNP portion of the program, related to a lack of desire to be in clinical practice after graduation.
- DNP/PhD F30 NRSA applications are highly competitive against other dual degree candidates.

Conclusions

- Despite being a relatively new clinician-scientist program, our students demonstrate an excellent track record in metrics used by nursing schools to identify faculty candidates capable of teaching across the DNP and PhD Programs.
- The NRSA success rate is likely to be higher than reported, as the scored applications have a high probability of success during resubmission.
- The pilot cohort is preparing to graduate in August 2022.
- The DNP/PhD is producing well rounded students very capable of teaching across DNP and PhD programs.

Acknowledgements

This work is supported by Maryland Higher Education Commission's Nurse Faculty Support Program II (Grant # 18-111)