

## Facilitation of Collaborative DNP and PhD Research

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### University of Missouri-Kansas City

- Graduate MSN program-graduate studies
- BSN completion
- SON with expanded MSN tracks
  - CNS, PNP, WHNP, ANP, FNP, NE, NNP
- Nursing PhD
  - BSN to PhD
- BSN
- Post-Master's DNP
- BSN to DNP
- Health Science BS



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## Objectives

- Devise a curriculum to enhance the research and scholarship development and outcomes for both nursing doctorate education degrees
  - PhD in Nursing—Research focus
  - DNP—Outcomes evaluation focus



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## UMKC Program Goals

### Program Goals

- Develop the collaborative potentials for DNP and PhD nurses to ask clinically-relevant questions and conduct rigorous, scholarly research to enhance patient care outcomes
- Close the research to practice gap

### Research collaboration



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## PhD Program Goals

- Prepares scholars to generate knowledge, transform those understandings via writing, teaching, and dissemination to practice (AACN, 2010).
- New knowledge to enhance nursing practice, education and/or research



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### DNP Program Goals

- Prepares clinicians to utilize the knowledge generated by researchers in the application of knowledge to practice in the delivery of services and advancing policies that support high quality health care (AACN, 2010)
- Writing, teaching and dissemination to practice



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### Challenges

- Financial constraints of the university
- Grant funding limited
- Heavy faculty workload
- Increased student enrollment
- Different research focus for PhD and DNP
- Varied entry levels for doctoral degrees
  - Post Master's DNP & PhD
  - BSN to DNP & PhD



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### Strengths

- DNP & PhD research more alike than not
  - Goal is to improve health outcomes
  - Theoretical underpinnings
  - Utilize the basic science
  - Similar research designs and approaches
- All practice settings can be research sites
- Interdisciplinary & translational research



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### Methods

- A graduate-level interdisciplinary epidemiology and biostatistics course
- Principles, concepts, and application of epidemiological and statistical methods in research collaboratively taught
- Interdisciplinary—Nursing DNP & PhD, Pharm D. and Business School graduate students in same course



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### Methods

- A doctorate-level nursing theory course was developed
- Address the theoretical components necessary for DNP and PhD students
- Theoretical underpinnings to guide the research endeavors of both PhD and DNP scholars



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### Theory

- Differences between DNP and PhD
  - Research focus
    - DNP—Evidence-based practice
      - Application of research findings to care of patients
    - PhD—Scientific inquiry
      - Develop and test hypotheses or gain new knowledge
  - Research Methods
    - DNP— Program evaluation, quality improvement
    - PhD—Qualitative and quantitative scientific discovery



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### Theory

- Similarities between DNP and PhD
  - Improve nursing practice
  - Ways of knowing
  - Philosophy of science
  - Theoretical frameworks
  - Knowledge development
    - DNP improve quality of care & practice
    - PhD generate new knowledge by using scientific methods



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### Theory Outcomes

- Doctoral-level nursing theory course can promote scholarly research conducted by DNP and PhD scholars
  - Emphasizes inter-professional collaboration
  - Translation of research to reduce research to practice gap
  - Generation of new knowledge in and for the clinical setting



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### Next Step

- Research partnerships with all Health Science Schools Task Force
- DNP students take epidemiology and statistics course
- Develop opportunities for collaboration with DNP & PhD students and faculty



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### Conclusion

- Collaboration in doctoral-level nursing courses can be an effective approach to enhance the research preparation necessary to promote scholarly research conducted by DNP and PhD scholars.



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### Conclusion

- Interdisciplinary collaboration provides an avenue to redesign health care with enhanced patient outcomes.



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### Conclusion

- Design creative approaches for collaborative research efforts between DNP & PhD nurses, PharmD and Health Care MBA students
- Research collaboration underway with Medicine & Dentistry



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### Questions?



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