Innovation in NP Education: A DNP Rural Health Track

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Learner Objectives:
- examine the essential elements of a unique rural health track option for Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) advanced practice registered nurses.

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Purpose of the OHSU RURAL HEALTH TRACK (RHT)
- Focuses on improving rural health care delivery statewide
- Designed to prepare expert rural advanced practice nurse leaders to improve health and health care outcomes in rural communities
- Develop clinicians to address the unique health needs of Oregon’s rural and frontier populations
RURAL HEALTH TRACK: BACKGROUND

- Available for 2 APRN-DNP Programs:
  - Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)
  - Psychiatric Mental Health (PMHNP)
- Consists of rural-focused coursework and clinical experiences
- Interprofessional Collaborative Learning Experiences
  - Attendance at annual Oregon Rural Health Conference
  - Courses with Interprofessional Educators

WHY THE NEED FOR A RURAL HEALTH TRACK?

- Rural populations:
  - ~30% of population in Oregon is rural
  - increased incidence of chronic disease
  - higher percentage of elderly
  - increased need for primary care providers
- Unique area of APRN practice
  - Requires broader, comprehensive skill set
  - Requires a high level of independence and autonomy

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW: Courses in Rural Health Track

- NURS 740: Urgent and Emergent Rural Primary Care Management for Nurse Practitioners
- NURS 741: Rural Health Care Delivery for Advanced Practice Nurses
- NURS 742: Rural Mental Health Care for the PMHNP
- NURS 703: DNP Clinical Inquiry Project & NURS 790: DNP Clinical Residency

COURSEWORK: NURS 740: Urgent and Emergent Rural Primary Care Management for Nurse Practitioners

- **Format**
  - Didactic lecture
  - Skills Training
  - Live model practical “exam” & group debriefing

- **Content**
  - Assessment & management of urgent and emergent patients. Conditions commonly seen by APRNs in rural primary care settings
  - Skills: Suturing, x-ray reading, splinting, FB removal, ECG evaluation
  - Implications of primary care in rural health systems

COURSEWORK: NURS 741: Rural Health Care Delivery for Advanced Practice Nurses

- **Format**
  - Readings & Discussion
  - FTF and/or online seminars

- **Content**
  - Delivering comprehensive care in rural areas with limited resources
  - Analysis of policies that shape/influence rural practice (e.g., reimbursement issues)
  - Living and practicing in rural cultures
COURSEWORK: NURS 742: Rural Mental Health Care for the PMHNP

- **Format**
  - Readings & Discussion
  - FTF or online seminars
- **Content**
  - Explores issues & epidemiology related to providing mental health care in rural areas
  - Adaptation of PMHNP role in rural areas
  - Treating urgent and emergent MH conditions
  - Analysis of leadership opportunities
    - interdisciplinary collaboration
    - working in rural health care systems

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW: NURS 790: Clinical Immersion in Rural Practice

- 9-month rural clinical residency
  - Post-Masters- 360 total hours
  - Post-baccalaureate- 720 total hours
- Mentoring with:
  - Rural MDs & APRNs
  - Rural hospital administrators
  - Rural EMS systems
- Supervised by DNP Chair

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW: NURS 703: Rural-focused Clinical Inquiry Project (CIP)

- **Purpose**: synthesis of coursework and provides a foundation for future clinical scholarship.
  - Multiple formats
  - Supervised by DNP Chair
- **Project Examples**:
  - Health Care Feasibility Assessment in Columbia County (OR)
  - Assessing Community Readiness for Telepsychiatry in Rural Oregon
  - Barriers to Inpatient Nurse Practitioner Credentialing in Rural Oregon
  - Survey Analysis of Pre-hospital Acute Myocardial Infarction Communication