

What is new at your school of nursing?

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NURSING EDUCATION PERSPECTIVES

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Clinical Doctorate in Nursing

The New York State Regents approved and registered Columbia University's Doctor of Nursing Practice (DrNP) degree, which was approved by the Columbia University Trustees in June 2004. The degree builds on advanced practice at the master's level and prepares graduates for fully accountable professional roles in several specialties. The program is comprised of 30 credits of science underpinning practice, a year of full-time residency, and the completion of a scholarly portfolio of

complex case studies, scholarly papers, and published articles.

The Drexel University College of Nursing and Health Professions, Philadelphia, has also announced a DrNP program. The Drexel doctorate, which is awaiting approval from the Pennsylvania Department of Education, will focus on nursing science. It is designed for all advanced nurses, including midwives, nurse anesthetists, clinical nurse specialists, and nurse practitioners, and prepares nurses to become educators, scientists, or fill executive roles. The current plan is to admit 15 students for fall 2005.

Health Care Ethics

St. Louis University in Missouri, through its Center for Health Care Ethics, has established a new graduate-level certificate in health care ethics. The program was established to foster

clinical ethics skills and knowledge needed by ethics committee members, including physicians, social workers, chaplains, and attorneys, as well as nurses. The program consists of nine credit hours completed over the course of one year and combines distance learning with two onsite seminars.

Environmental Health

A study conducted by the National Environmental Education and Training Foundation and published in the November 2004 issue of *Environmental Health Perspectives* points to a need for the inclusion of environmental health topics in nursing and medical education. The study reviewed evaluations of medical and nurse educational programs and identified places where environmental health could be incorporated, such as licensing exams and fieldwork. The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences funded the study. 