Abstract Category: DNP in Academic Leadership

Title: DNP and PhD: Either is Possible. Both are Valuable

Purpose: This presentation will describe the process for the development of options for completing both the DNP and PhD in nursing, either simultaneously or sequentially, and the rationale for integrating the two doctorates within future leadership roles.

Objective 1: To articulate advantages of combining clinical and research doctorates to prepare leaders in clinically-focused research and advanced practice as well as other career paths.

Objective 2: To describe alternative programs of study leading to achieving both the DNP and PhD in nursing degrees.

Objective 3: To determine ways in which courses offered in the two doctoral education programs are enriched by students with both clinical and research interests and goals.

Abstract:

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) and the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in nursing degrees are widely accepted as terminal degrees that reflect the highest levels of scholarly preparation for practice and research. Many schools/colleges of nursing have strived to distinguish between the two doctoral programs in terms of objectives, admission criteria, degree requirements, outcome measures, and career goals to facilitate deciding between the two doctorates. However, recognizing that the two doctorates complement each other, students seeking to combine leadership in advanced practice with the development of nursing science now have the opportunity to pursue a combined DNP/PhD degree. Through the integration of clinical and research doctorates into a single program of study, students develop a unique focus for research and practice and are prepared to excel as clinical researchers, faculty members, health care administrators, and public policy professionals. While few schools/colleges of nursing have an option for simultaneous completion of the two doctorates, some provide the opportunity for graduates with one of the degrees to complete the other one sequentially by waiving courses that overlap both programs. The Bolton School of Nursing at Case Western Reserve University provides options for students seeking doctoral education to complete the DNP and PhD either simultaneously or sequentially. This vision reflects our University’s mission to think beyond the possible and prepare future nursing leaders with combined expertise in advanced clinical practice and research. This presentation will describe the process for the development of these options along with rationale for these programs of study.