

# Graduate Specialty Preparation in Nursing

## Moving Toward the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

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# DNP: Why Now?

- Extraordinary complexity in health care
  - Explosion of new knowledge and technology
- New demands on health care professionals
  - “System masters” as well as expert clinicians
  - Specialist practice

# DNP: Nursing's Approach to Specialist Practice

- Entry to nursing practice at the BS level
  - A highly effective model to prepare generalists
- Masters preparation for specialty practice
  - Not sufficient to meet today's demands

# DNP: A New Level of Specialty Practice Preparation

- High level clinical and analytic skills
- Focus on safe, effective, patient-centered, collaborative health care
- Ability to manage and lead in highly regulated, complicated system
- Additional depth in
  - Information technology
  - Genetics/genomics
  - System management and leadership, health policy
  - Preparation for mentoring/teaching

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## DNP: Why in Wisconsin?

Planning for the Future and  
Preserving the Tradition of Excellence

# DNP: Serving Wisconsin's Needs

- Preparing nurse specialists
- Preparing nurse leaders
- Addressing faculty shortage
- Meeting baccalaureate education needs

# Student & Employer Needs

- Survey of MSN graduates, UW-EC
- Regional Schools of Nursing already enrolling DNP students
- Impact on UW Nursing graduate programs
- Quality improvement and outcomes
- Interdisciplinary practice

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## DNP Curriculum Essentials

For Advanced Practice Nursing




# Curricular Needs

- DNP is not an entry level degree
- Complexity and content has increased
  - Procedures
  - Diagnostic Acumen
  - Pharmacologic Therapies
  - Other Newer Management Strategies
  - Leadership Skills
- MSN curriculum 10-15 credits longer than other Master's degrees
- Advanced Practice Nurses have significant responsibility and accountability for patient care



# AACN APN Curriculum Recommendations

1. Scientific underpinnings for practice—MSN
2. Advanced Nursing Practice—MSN
3. Organization and system  
    leadership/management, quality improvement  
    and system thinking—MSN & DNP
4. Analytic methodologies related to the evaluation  
    of practice and application of evidence for  
    practice—MSN & DNP



# AACN APN Curriculum Recommendations

5. Utilization of technology and information for the improvement and transformation of healthcare—  
MSN & DNP
6. Health policy development, implementation and evaluation—MSN & DNP
7. Interdisciplinary collaboration for improving patient and population healthcare outcomes—  
MSN & DNP

# The DNP will

- Augment curricular areas where advanced practice nurses need increased knowledge
- Provide learning to improve, create, and transform health care issues and policy
- Promote better health care outcomes
- Teach advanced leadership skills
- Work with population-based issues and evidence-based practice

# The Bridge Curriculum

- Provides DNP education to MSN advanced practice nurses
  - Expanded curriculum previously not learned
  - 2-3 semesters of fulltime study
  - Offers career advancement to become a nurse educator

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## Collaboration: The Best Way to Serve the State

# Proposed DNP Program in WI

- UW-Madison entitled to plan a DNP program
- UW-Milwaukee entitled to plan a DNP program
- UW-Eau Claire and UW-Oshkosh will be requesting an entitlement for a collaborative DNP

# A History of Successful Collaborations

- The BSN@Home program
- Additional distance education offerings
  - graduate offerings at all 5 campuses
  - on-line PhD option at UW-Milwaukee



# Other Statewide Collaborations

- Administrators of Nurse Educators in Wisconsin (ANEW)
- State of Wisconsin Initiative to Fast Track Nursing Educators (SWIFT)
- The Wisconsin Center for Nursing
- Wisconsin Nurse Educators Task Force joint report and recommendations, July 2007

# Building on Expertise

- Collaboration makes best use of the specialized knowledge and foci that currently exist at each campus--
  - UW-Milwaukee: urban expertise
  - UW-Madison: rural expertise
  - UW Oshkosh and UW Eau Claire: expertise in adult, family and nursing education

# Expanding Options through Collaboration

- Virtual community of faculty in advanced practice education
- Match prerequisite requirements and simplify transfer
- Specialty courses available to DNP students statewide
- Online courses
- Alternate semester offerings so students can complete designated courses at any DNP site