

We're in the NEXus! Building Gerontological Nursing and Doctoral Education Capacity via Inter-University Exchange

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Background:

The double challenges:

- Increase the number of doctorally-prepared nurses;¹ and,
- Increase numbers of gerontological leaders in nursing practice, education, and research.

To address challenges:

- **NEXus*** (Nursing Education Xchange) provides opportunities for students to register for and complete courses from member universities.
- We promote more academic opportunities for students as they progress through doctoral programs of study, overcoming potential limitations of traditional "single" universities' matriculation, registration, payment, and degree-awarding policies.²



Method: "Joining"

- Courses were identified based on our internationally recognized strengths: doctoral (PhD & DNP) education, evidence-based practice/research, gerontological and geriatric mental health capacity, systems theory, and distance (web-based and/or intensive) education delivery expertise. See table.
- Courses feature "distance-capable" delivery (e.g., web-based live class sessions plus web-based asynchronous activities, via common learning management system).

Exemplars: Courses, Clusters, Delivery:

Course:	NEXus Cluster:	Delivery:
"Psychopathology of Adults and Older Adults"	Gerontology & Geriatrics Education; Scientific Underpinnings for Advanced Practice Nursing	Adobe Connect live class / weekly session; traditional semester
"Systems Theory"	Nursing Knowledge Development: Theory, Philosophy and Science ; Systems, Leadership, Informatics, Policy	Adobe Connect live class / weekly session; traditional semester
"Translating Evidence into Nursing Practice"	Research Methodology	Asynchronous, Blackboard; web-based format
"Application of Health Information Technology and Systems"	Systems, Leadership, Informatics, Policy, Instrumentation	Asynchronous, campus visit & intensive format

Conclusion:

- An inter-university, inter-professional partnership expands access to doctoral education.
- Partnership in NEXus promotes tailored plans of study for our students near and far; and
- Addresses the IOM goal of increasing the numbers of doctorally-prepared nurses, nationwide.



Preliminary Results:

- Several decision points in the process of joining NEXus.
- Our course offerings and expertise meet the needs of several NEXus "clusters"
- Offer students core and elective topics that are not available in home universities or in desired timeline. An expanded catalog offers choice.
- Start-up is slow. Zero enrollees to date.
- Students from NEXus member universities may not be aware of core and elective courses available through NEXus partners.³

References:

1. Institute of Medicine (2010). *The Future of nursing: Leading change, advancing health*. Washington, DC: National Academies Press.
2. Lobo, M. L., Haas, B. K., Clark, M. C., & McNeil, P. A. NEXus: Evaluation of an innovative educational consortium for doctoral education in nursing. *Journal of Professional Nursing*, 31(2), 104-111. doi: 10.1016/j.profnurs.2014.07.005
3. Survey findings ("Never-never survey") available from winnexus.org

Contact us:

<http://fpb.case.edu/Centers/UCAH/nexus.shtm>

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