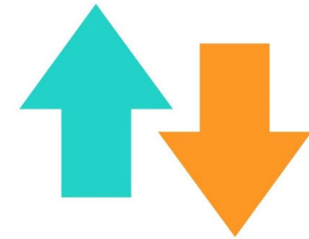


The NEXus Consortium:

Increase Access and Reduce Impact in Changing Academic Environments



Anne Boerner, Project Director
NEXus – The Nursing Education Xchange

Mary S. Koithan, PhD, RN, CNS-BS, FAAN
Dean, College of Nursing
Washington State University

Objectives:

- ▶ Describe the current enrollment climate for nursing PhD programs
- ▶ Introduce the Nursing Education Xchange (NEXus), a nursing education partnership that provides access to diverse educational experiences for graduate students
- ▶ Share two real course case studies that demonstrate the benefits of course sharing for both students and schools of nursing.

Background: The Case for Course Sharing

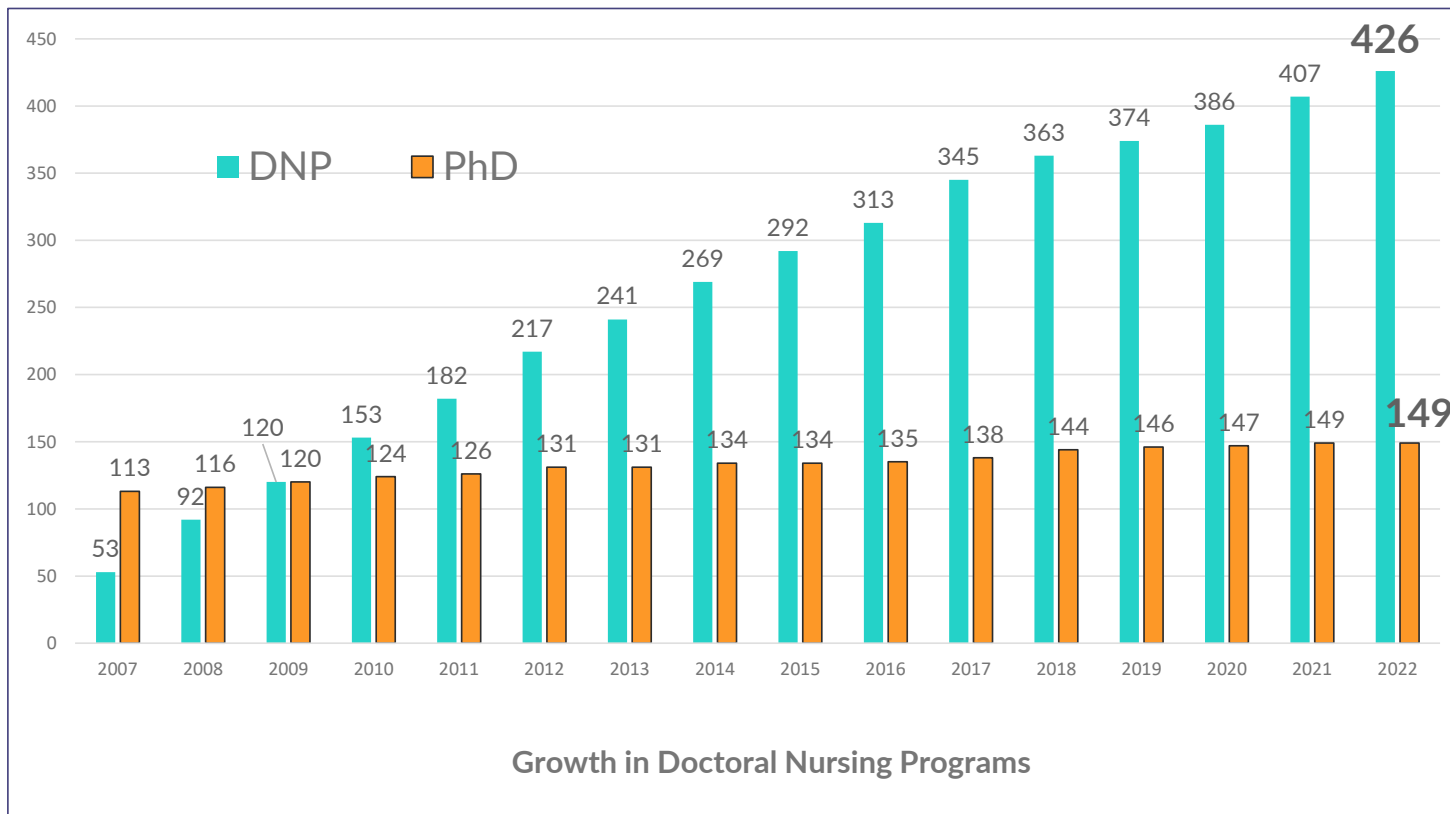
The Enrollment climate is shifting, particularly for Nursing PhD Programs

Schools of Nursing are experiencing:

- ▶ Declining Enrollments
- ▶ Fewer number of PhD Graduates
- ▶ Shortages of Faculty

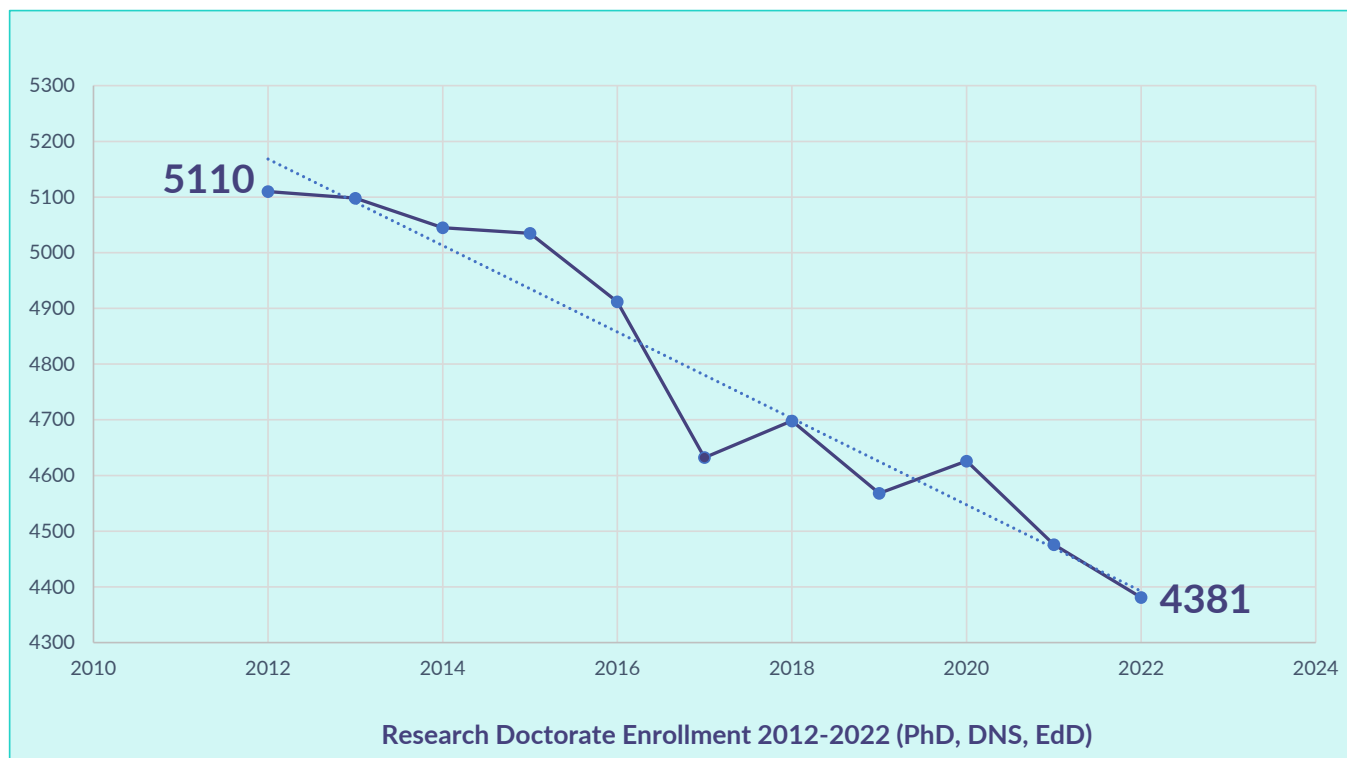
Doctoral Programs

- ▶ While DNP Programs have grown to 426, there are less than 150 PhD nursing programs in the U.S



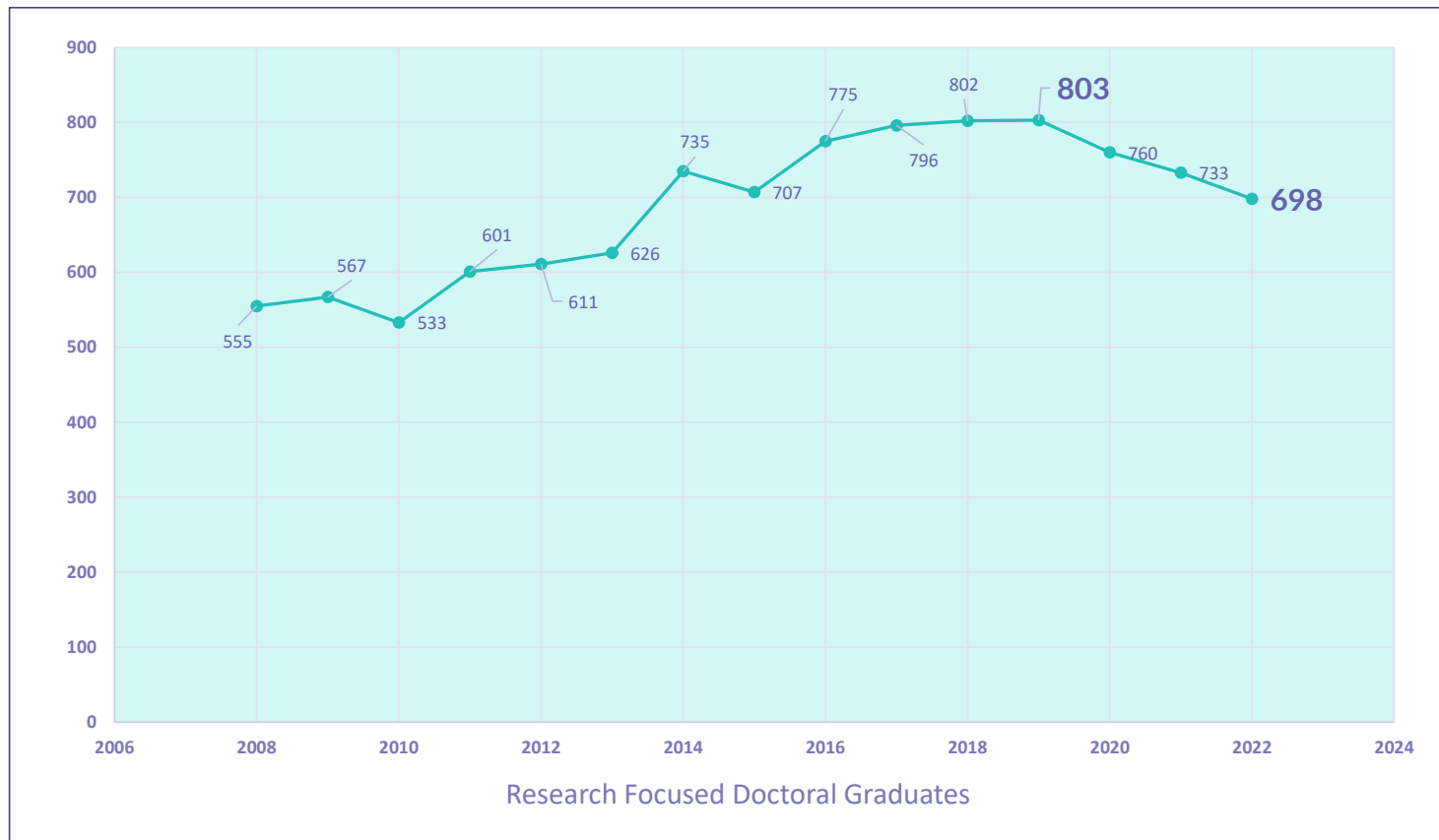
PhD Enrollment

- ▶ Over the last decade AACN reported Research Doctorate Enrollment declined 14.3% (729)



PhD Graduates

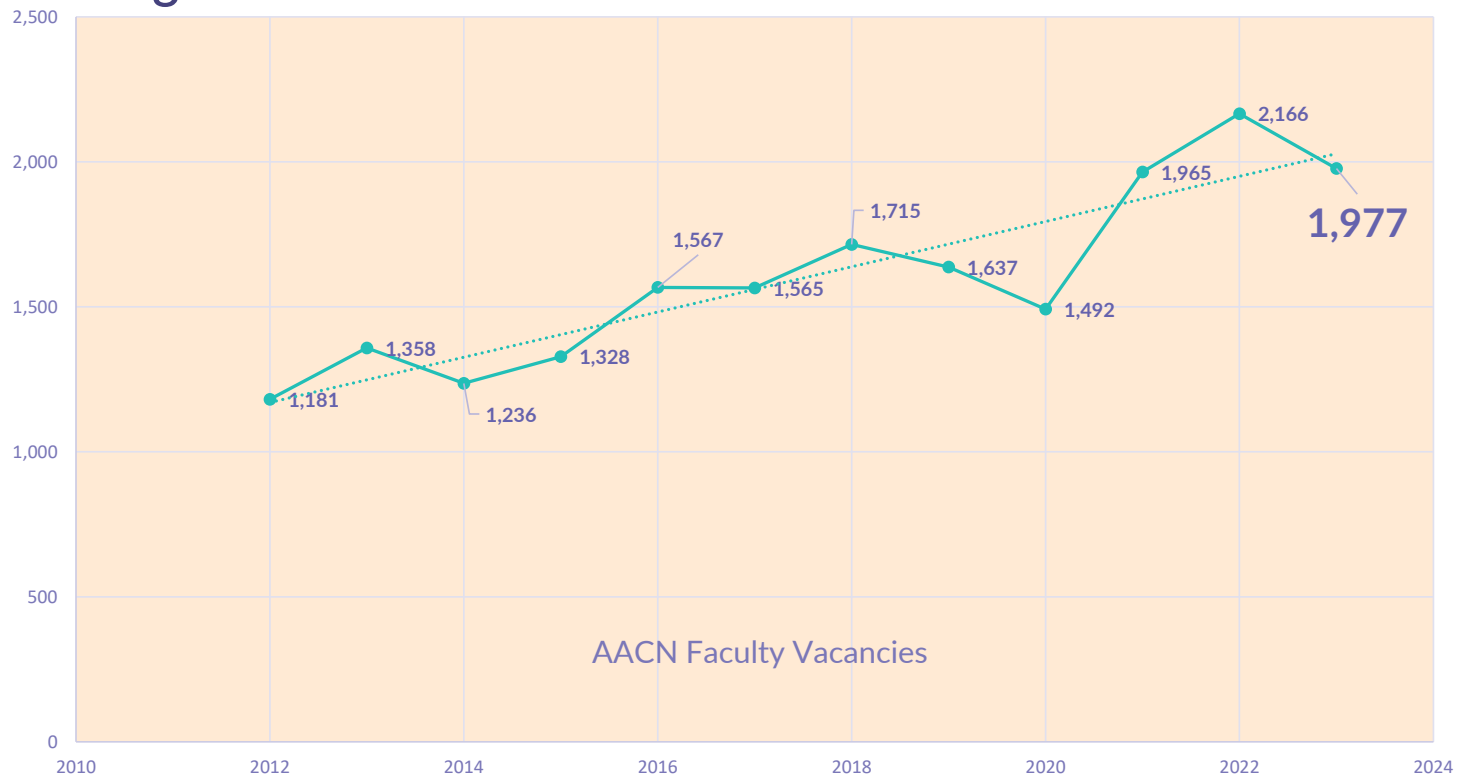
- ▶ Since 2019 the number of Research Focused Doctoral Graduates declined 13% (105)



<https://www.aacnursing.org/news-data/all-news/data-spotlight-a-closer-look-at-phd-in-nursing-program-enrollment-and-graduations>
<https://www.aacnursing.org/news-data/all-news/article/data-spotlight-trends-in-nursing-phd-programs>

Faculty Vacancies

- ▶ The trend line shows vacancies are expected to continue to increase.
- ▶ The majority of vacancies in 2023-2024 (80%) required or preferred a doctoral degree.



Faculty Retiring

► It's projected that by 2025 one-third of faculty will have retired.

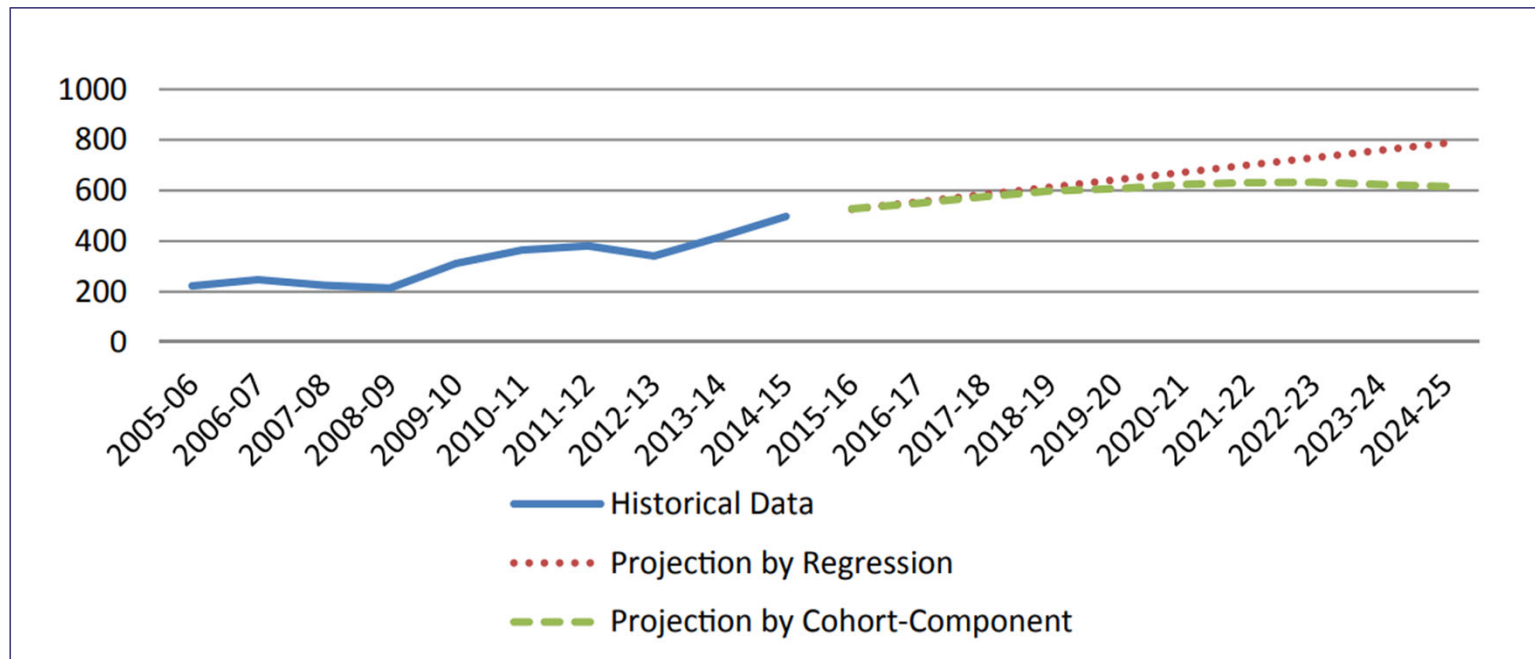


Figure 3 - Projection of full-time faculty retirements 2015-2016 to 2024-2025. Nursing Outlook March 14 2017. Retirements and succession of nursing faculty in 2016&2025; Di Fang, PhD*, Karen Kesten, DNP, APRN, CCNS, CNE, CCRN-K; American Association of Colleges of Nursing and School of Nursing, The George Washington University, Washington, DC

Enter Course Sharing via NEXus

WHY:

- ▶ Collaborate across organizational systems to impact change in education and practice
- ▶ Address nursing and nurse educator shortage
- ▶ Increase course offerings for doctoral-level students via distance learning
- ▶ Assist in timely graduation of PhD and DNP students
- ▶ Reduce cost of creating online courses for schools of nursing
- ▶ Overcome administrative barriers of shared courses

What is NEXus?

The Nursing Education Xchange

A non-profit consortium of schools of nursing that collaborate to increase graduate-level online course offerings in a cost-effective way.

- ▶ Universities share their own selection of online classes with students from other member universities via the NEXus catalog.
- ▶ Emphasis is on doctoral level courses.

Current Members



Current Members (16)

Arizona State University

Loma Linda University

Oregon Health and Science University*

The Ohio State University

The University of Iowa

The University of Oklahoma

The University of Texas at Tyler

University of Colorado Denver*

University of Hawaii at Manoa

University of Kansas

University of Nevada Las Vegas

University of New Mexico

University of Northern Colorado*

University of Utah*

Virginia Commonwealth University

Washington State University

**Founding Member*

Timeline



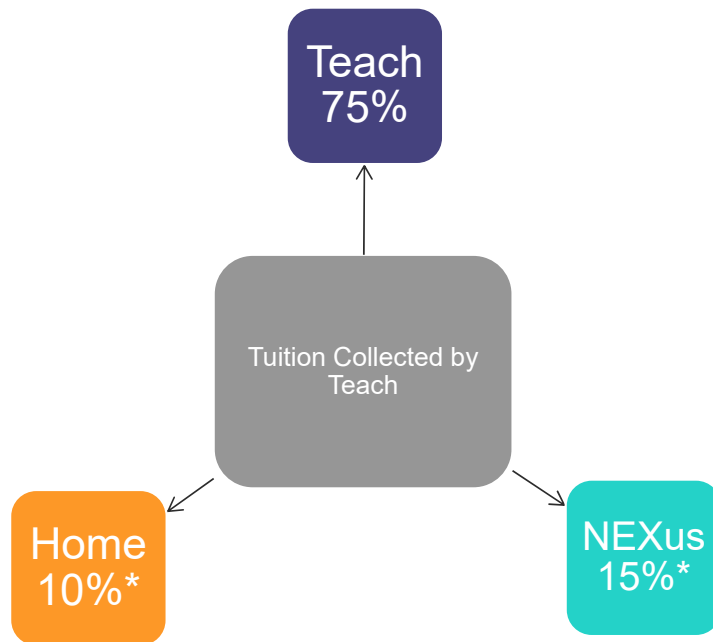
How NEXus works

INSTITUTIONS:

- ▶ Pay annual dues of \$6,000 to participate
- ▶ Facilitate student paperwork
- ▶ Collect and share tuition between the **Teaching** and **Sending** institutions, and **NEXus Administration**.

How the Financials Work

SHARE FORMULA



- ▶ Students pay common tuition rate \$865/semester credit (2024-2025 rate)
- ▶ Tuition collected by Teaching institution and split three ways

How NEXus works for Students

STUDENTS:

- ▶ Choose from >250 online graduate courses <https://winnexus.org/>
- ▶ Use own institution's process for approval to enroll
- ▶ Earn credits toward their own university's program
- ▶ May take advantage of existing financial aid
- ▶ Pay a common tuition rate. No additional fees are charged.
- ▶ Use a common approval form.

Access to Diversity of Course Offerings

Advance Nursing Practice

- ▶ Scientific Underpinnings for Advanced Nursing Practice
- ▶ Nursing Knowledge Development: Theory, Philosophy, and Science

Nursing Education

Specific Populations

- ▶ Children, Parents and Family
- ▶ Chronic and Disabling Conditions and Palliative Care
- ▶ Diverse and Vulnerable Populations
- ▶ Gerontology and Geriatric Nursing

Special Topics

- ▶ Ethics
- ▶ Interprofessional Collaboration
- ▶ Non-Nursing Courses

Research Methodology

- ▶ Mixed Methods, Qualitative and Quantitative Research Methods
- ▶ Scholarship and Writing

Leadership

Systems, Leadership, Informatics and Policy

250+ courses
offered a year
(70-90 each
term)

Outcomes

AS OF 2024:



250 ANNUAL CLASSES



1270 REGISTRATIONS



535 GRADUATES

Benefits for Students

- ▶ Larger diversity of course offerings
- ▶ Networking opportunities
- ▶ Timely progression in program and graduate on time
- ▶ Experience different teaching styles.

Student Satisfaction from Surveys

- ▶ 96% indicated NEXus facilitated their on-time graduation
- ▶ 85% sighted taking a course not offered at their institution
- ▶ Students were very satisfied (4.12/5 effectiveness) with courses meeting their learning needs

Benefits for Schools of Nursing

BENEFITS

- ▶ Reach a larger diverse group of students
- ▶ Fill seats in courses/cancel less courses
- ▶ Offer broader range of diverse courses and specialized electives
- ▶ Ease faculty workload
- ▶ Respond to vacancies and emergencies quickly

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

- ▶ Save on instructor salary and faculty search/hiring time
- ▶ Save on course development costs
- ▶ Generate additional tuition income
- ▶ Retain students

Case Studies of Impact of Two Courses

▶ NURS 702

Advanced Concepts of Vulnerable, Underserved and Marginalized Populations

Provider: University of Northern Colorado



UNIVERSITY OF
NORTHERN
COLORADO

▶ NURS 6339

Mixed Methods Research Design

Provider: University of Texas at Tyler



UTTyler
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER

REAL CASE STUDY #1 : University of Northern Colorado (UNC)

Course: NURS 702

Advanced Concepts of Vulnerable, Underserved and Marginalized Populations

Instructor: Darcy Copeland, PhD, RN

Associate Professor, Program Coordinator PhD in Nursing Education and Post MS-Nursing Education Certificate

Registrations: Total 30 students from 13 different states and one international student.

Registration Info

- ▶ The University of Northern Colorado enrolled 30 visiting students from nine different NEXus schools in their course *Advanced Concepts of Vulnerable Underserved and Marginalized Populations*. Registrations counts were from fall of 2010 to summer of 2023.

Partner University	2010	2012	2013	2014	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Grand Total
Loma Linda University			1	1				1		1		4
The University of Iowa									1			1
The University of Oklahoma							1					1
University of Colorado						1		2		4	2	9
University of Hawaii									1			1
University of Kansas						2			1	1		4
University of New Mexico	1	1						2				4
University of Texas at Tyler	1				2			1				4
Virginia Commonwealth University								2				2
Grand Total	2	1	1	1	2	3	1	8	3	6	2	30

Student Demographics



UNIVERSITY OF
NORTHERN
COLORADO

- ▶ Enrollees were from 13 different states as well as one international student.
- ▶ Students ranged from age 24 to 68 years old when they enrolled in the course (average age 40)
- ▶ 87% were Female (27) and 13% Male (4)
- ▶ 83% were PhD degree students (25) and 17% were DNP (5)

State/Int	DNP	PhD	Grand Total
CA		4	4
CO		4	4
DC		1	1
HI	1		1
IA	1		1
KS	1	1	2
MO	1		1
NM		3	3
NV		1	1
TX	1	6	7
UT		1	1
VA		1	1
CT		1	1
AZ		1	1
Pakistan		1	1
Grand Total	5	25	30

Age Then	Female	Male	Grand Total
24	1		1
25	1		1
26	1		1
27	1		1
30	1		1
31	1		1
33	1		1
34	1		1
35	1	2	3
36	1		1
37	2		2
40	2		2
41	1		1
42	2		2
46	1	1	2
47	1		1
48	2		2
50	1		1
51	1		1
52		1	1
53	1		1
54	1		1
66	1		1
Grand Total	26	4	30

University Income + Cost Savings



1. Income generated from visiting students taking course(s) and
2. Cost savings in faculty salaries and course development time when a university sends students.

Data Inputs

Tuition

- ▶ Common NEXus Tuition Rate (In 2024 = \$2,595 per three semester credit course)
- ▶ Providing institution retains 75% of tuition

Instructional Cost Savings (Estimates)

- ▶ Per course salary with benefits = \$12,300
- ▶ Course development cost = \$5,300



UNIVERSITY OF
NORTHERN
COLORADO

NURS 702 Income

\$56,393

For each registration, the providing university retains 75% of the NEXus tuition charge



Year	Registration Count	NEXus Tuition Per Student	Total Before Share	UNC's 75% Share
2010	2	\$ 2,025	\$ 4,050	\$ 3,038
2012	1	\$ 2,175	\$ 2,175	\$ 1,631
2013	1	\$ 2,325	\$ 2,325	\$ 1,744
2014	1	\$ 2,325	\$ 2,325	\$ 1,744
2017	2	\$ 2,475	\$ 4,950	\$ 3,713
2018	3	\$ 2,475	\$ 7,425	\$ 5,569
2019	1	\$ 2,595	\$ 2,595	\$ 1,946
2020	8	\$ 2,595	\$ 20,760	\$ 15,570
2021	3	\$ 2,595	\$ 7,785	\$ 5,839
2022	6	\$ 2,595	\$ 15,570	\$ 11,678
2023	2	\$ 2,595	\$ 5,190	\$ 3,893
TOTAL	30		\$ 75,150	\$ 56,363

NURS 702

Cost Savings for Salaries

\$12,300 per course offering

\$270,600



Sending University	2010	2012	2013	2014	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Grand Total
Loma Linda University			\$ 12,300	\$ 12,300				\$ 12,300		\$ 12,300		\$ 49,200
The University of Iowa									\$ 12,300			\$ 12,300
The University of Oklahoma							\$ 12,300					\$ 12,300
University of Colorado						\$ 12,300		\$ 12,300		\$ 12,300	\$ 12,300	\$ 49,200
University of Hawaii									\$ 12,300			\$ 12,300
University of Kansas						\$ 12,300			\$ 12,300	\$ 12,300		\$ 36,900
University of New Mexico	\$ 12,300	\$ 12,300						\$ 12,300				\$ 36,900
University of Texas at Tyler	\$ 12,300				\$ 12,300			\$ 12,300				\$ 36,900
Virginia Commonwealth University*								\$ 24,600				\$ 24,600
Grand Total	\$ 24,600	\$ 12,300	\$ 12,300	\$ 12,300	\$ 12,300	\$ 24,600	\$ 12,300	\$ 73,800	\$ 36,900	\$ 36,900	\$ 12,300	\$ 270,600

The NEXus estimate is based on:

- ▶ Base salary of \$90,800 with paid benefits of 21.8%, totaling \$110,600 divided by nine (rounded)

*Enrollments in Spring and Summer 2020

NURS 702

Course Development Savings

\$5,300 per course (one time savings)

\$47,700

Sending University	Development
Nine Universities each saved	\$5,300
Grand Total	\$47,700

The NEXus estimate is based on:
▶ 100 hours to develop one course
▶ Hourly rate of \$53

NURS 702 SUMMARY



TOTAL IMPACT \$374,693

- ▶ 30 Doctoral students enrolled from nine universities to date
- ▶ University of Northern Colorado gained \$56,393 in tuition income
- ▶ Sending universities saved a grand total of \$318,300

REAL CASE STUDY #2 : University of Texas at Tyler (UTT)

Course: NURS 6339
Mixed Methods Research Design

Instructor: Beth Mastel-Smith, PhD, RN, MS, FNGNA
Professor and Assistant Dean for Professional Development

Registrations: Total 44 students from 21 different states



Registration Info



- ▶ The University of Texas at Tyler enrolled 44 visiting students from seven different NEXus schools in their course *Mixed Methods Research Design*. Registrations counts were from spring of 2013 to spring of 2023.

Sending University	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2022	2023	Grand Total
Loma Linda University			1					1		1	3
University at Buffalo	1	1									2
University of Colorado	1					1					2
University of Kansas								1	2	5	8
University of Nevada Las Vegas			1								1
University of Northern Colorado	2	1	3	2			3	3	5	3	22
University of Utah					1			2	3		6
Grand Total	4	2	5	2	1	1	3	7	10	9	44

Student Demographics



- ▶ Enrollees were all PhD degree seeking and from 21 different states.
- ▶ Students ranged from age 29 to 67 years old when they enrolled in the course (average age 45)
- ▶ 93% were Female (41) and 7% Male (3)

State	PhD
AL	2
CA	3
CO	4
ID	1
IL	1
KS	5
MI	1
MN	2
MO	1
NJ	1
NY	2
OH	2
OK	2
OR	1
SD	1
TN	1
TX	3
UT	4
VA	2
WA	4
WY	1
Grand Total	44

Age Then	Female	Male	Grand Total
29		1	1
31		2	2
32		1	1
34		1	1
36		1	1
37		1	1
38		2	2
39		1	1
40		2	2
42		2	2
43		1	1
44		1	1
45		2	2
47		4	4
48		3	3
50		2	2
51		3	3
52		1	1
53		1	1
55		1	1
56		1	1
57		1	1
58		1	1
59		1	1
60		2	2
67		1	1
Grand Total	41	3	44

University Income + Cost Savings



UT Tyler
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER

NURS 6339 Income

\$72,990

For each registration, the providing university retains 75% of the NEXus tuition charge



Year	Registration Count	NEXus Tuition Per Student	Total Before Share	UTT 75% Share
2013	4	\$ 2,175	\$ 8,700	\$ 6,525
2014	2	\$ 2,325	\$ 9,300	\$ 6,975
2015	5	\$ 2,325	\$ 9,300	\$ 6,975
2016	2	\$ 2,325	\$ 9,300	\$ 6,975
2017	1	\$ 2,325	\$ 9,300	\$ 6,975
2018	1	\$ 2,475	\$ 9,900	\$ 7,425
2019	3	\$ 2,595	\$ 10,380	\$ 7,785
2020	7	\$ 2,595	\$ 10,380	\$ 7,785
2022	10	\$ 2,595	\$ 10,380	\$ 7,785
2023	9	\$ 2,595	\$ 10,380	\$ 7,785
Grand Total	44		\$ 97,320	\$ 72,990

NURS 6339

Cost Savings for Salaries

\$12,300 per course offering

\$270,600



Sending University	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2022	2023	Grand Total
Loma Linda University			\$ 12,300					\$ 12,300		\$ 12,300	\$ 36,900
University at Buffalo	\$ 12,300	\$ 12,300									\$ 24,600
University of Colorado	\$ 12,300					\$ 12,300					\$ 24,600
University of Kansas								\$ 12,300	\$ 12,300	\$ 12,300	\$ 36,900
University of Nevada Las Vegas			\$ 12,300								\$ 12,300
University of Northern Colorado	\$ 12,300	\$ 12,300	\$ 12,300	\$ 12,300			\$ 12,300	\$ 12,300	\$ 12,300	\$ 12,300	\$ 98,400
University of Utah					\$ 12,300			\$ 12,300	\$ 12,300		\$ 36,900
Grand Total	\$ 36,900	\$ 24,600	\$ 36,900	\$ 12,300	\$ 12,300	\$ 12,300	\$ 12,300	\$ 49,200	\$ 36,900	\$ 36,900	\$ 270,600

The NEXus estimate is based on:

- ▶ Base salary of \$90,800 with paid benefits of 21.8%, totaling \$110,600 divided by 9 (rounded)

NURS 6339 Course Development Savings

\$5,300 per course (one time savings)

\$37,100

Sending University	Course Development
Seven Universities each at	\$5,300
Total	\$37,100

The NEXus estimate is based on:
▶ 100 hours to develop one course
▶ Hourly rate of \$53

NURS 6339 SUMMARY



TOTAL IMPACT \$380,690

- ▶ 44 PhD students enrolled from seven universities to date
- ▶ University of Texas at Tyler gained \$72,990 in tuition income
- ▶ Sending universities saved a grand total of \$307,700

2022-2023 IMPACT

All University Members



	Universities	Distinct Courses Taught	Credits	Income	Cost Savings	Totals
Total	16	49	177	\$ 128,485	\$ 862,400	\$ 990,885
Average	1	3	11	\$ 8,030	\$ 53,900	\$ 61,930

- ▶ Universities taught or sent 62 students for a total of 177 credits in 49 distinct courses.
- ▶ Institution income totaled \$128,485
- ▶ Total cost savings estimated at \$862,400
- ▶ On average, each institution made \$8,030 in income and saved an estimated \$53,900 in course related costs.

References/Resources

Resources:

www.winnexus.org/win2024

- ▶ The Benefits of Joining NEXus
- ▶ Real Time Catalog of Course Offerings
- ▶ How to Enroll for Students
- ▶ Cluster Descriptions
- ▶ Member Packet Information
- ▶ [Quick Handout: Overview of NEXus](https://winnexus.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/NEXus-Helping-Achieve-More-RP.pdf)
- ▶ Copy of this presentation "*NEXus: Increase Access & Reduce Impact in Changing Academic Environments*" by Mary S. Koithan, PhD, RN, CNS-BC, FAAN, College of Nursing, Washington State University and Anne Boerner, Project Director, NEXus.
- ▶ Copy of the abstract accepted for this presentation "*NEXus: Increase Access & Reduce Impact in Changing Academic Environments*" by Mary S. Koithan, PhD, RN, CNS-BC, FAAN, College of Nursing, Washington State University and Anne Boerner, Project Director, NEXus.

References for Faculty Salary and Course Development Costs:

Course Savings are estimates only and will vary by institution. The NEXus estimates are based on:

- ▶ Base salary of \$90,800 (AACN, 2019-20) with paid benefits of 21.8% (AAUP2019-20), totaling \$110,600 (rounded to nearest hundred).
- ▶ Average faculty course load equivalent of nine/year
- ▶ Estimate of 100 hours to develop one course.
- ▶ Hourly rate = \$110,600 divided by 52 weeks at 40 hours a week = \$53
- ▶ American Association of Colleges of Nursing. Table 76, Associate Professor Rank (Total all Institutions and Doctoral Degree Level). 2019-2020 Salaries of Instructional and Administrative Nursing in Baccalaureate and Graduate Programs in Nursing, Washington, DC.
- ▶ American Association of University Professors. Survey Report Tables 8 & 9. Annual Report on the Economic Status of the Profession, 2019-20
- ▶ Chapman, B. (2010). How Long Does it Take to Create Learning? [Research Study]. Development Ratios - Summary Table. Published by Chapman Alliance LLC. from www.chapmanalliance.com
- ▶ Defelice, Robyn A. "How Long Does It Take to Develop Training? New Question, New Answers." Web blog post ATD Association for Talent Development. ATD Global. 13 Jan. 2021. Web. 25 Feb. 2021.
- ▶ Freeman, Lee A. "Instructor Time Requirements to Develop and Teach Online Courses." Web post Online Journal of Distance Learning Administration, Volume XVIII, Number I. University of West Georgia, Distance Education Center, Spring 2015. 25 Feb. 2021.
- ▶ Safai, Alan. "How long does it take to develop an online course?" Web blog post eLearning Blog. The University of Texas at Dallas, 8 Apr. 2019. Web. 25 Feb. 2021.

Questions

What do these faculty say when asked what's important about NEXus?

“NEXus offers students diverse course offerings that might not be offered by any one institution.”

“Students gain learning opportunities that broaden and deepen their preparation for independent and team-based research.”

Beth Mastel-Smith, PhD, RN, MS, FNGNA

“NEXus opens up opportunities for students.”

Darcy Copeland, PhD, RN