

The Nursing Education Xchange (NEXus):

A Cost-Effective Way to Increase Graduate Nursing Enrollment

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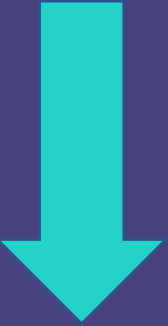
Anne Boerner, Project Director
NEXus – The Nursing Education Xchange

Objectives

- To discuss how NEXus improves student and faculty satisfaction with graduate nursing education
- To describe the benefits of being a member of NEXus, including return on investment

Need for PhD Graduates is Critical

- In 2022, U.S. nursing schools rejected 78,191 qualified baccalaureate and graduate applicants
 - 201 were PhD applicants
- From 2013 to 2022, PhD enrollment decreased by 14.8% nationally
- By 2025, one-third of faculty are expected to have retired



NEXus – The Nursing Education Xchange

- Established in 2006, NEXus is a non-profit consortium of universities that collaborates to offer graduate-level courses in a cost-effective way
- Offerings now include MS/N and DNP as well

ASU Edson College of
Nursing and Health Innovation
Arizona State University

 LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY
School of Nursing

 THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF NURSING

 College of
Nursing

 FRANK AND EARL ZIEGLER
COLLEGE OF NURSING
at the UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

 School of
NURSING

 **UT** Tyler
NURSING

 College of Nursing
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

 UNIVERSITY of HAWAII at MANOA
NANCY ATMOSPHERA-WALCH
SCHOOL of NURSING

 **KU** SCHOOL OF
NURSING
The University of Kansas

 **NM** COLLEGE
OF NURSING

 **UNLV** SCHOOL OF
NURSING

 UNIVERSITY OF
NORTHERN
COLORADO

 COLLEGE OF
NURSING
UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

 **VCU**
VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY
School of Nursing

 WASHINGTON STATE
UNIVERSITY
World Class. Face to Face.

Members Includes Public + Private

2023-2024 Members



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*

Diversity of Course Offerings

250+

Helps meet demand for curriculum flexibility while faculty vacancies are high

Advanced Nursing Practice

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

Specific Populations

- Children, Parents and Family
- Chronic and Disabling Conditions and Palliative Care
- Diverse and Vulnerable Populations
- Geriatrics

Nursing Education

Leadership

- Systems, Leadership, Informatics & Policy

Special Topics

- Ethics
- Interprofessional Collaboration
- Non-Nursing Courses

Research Methodology

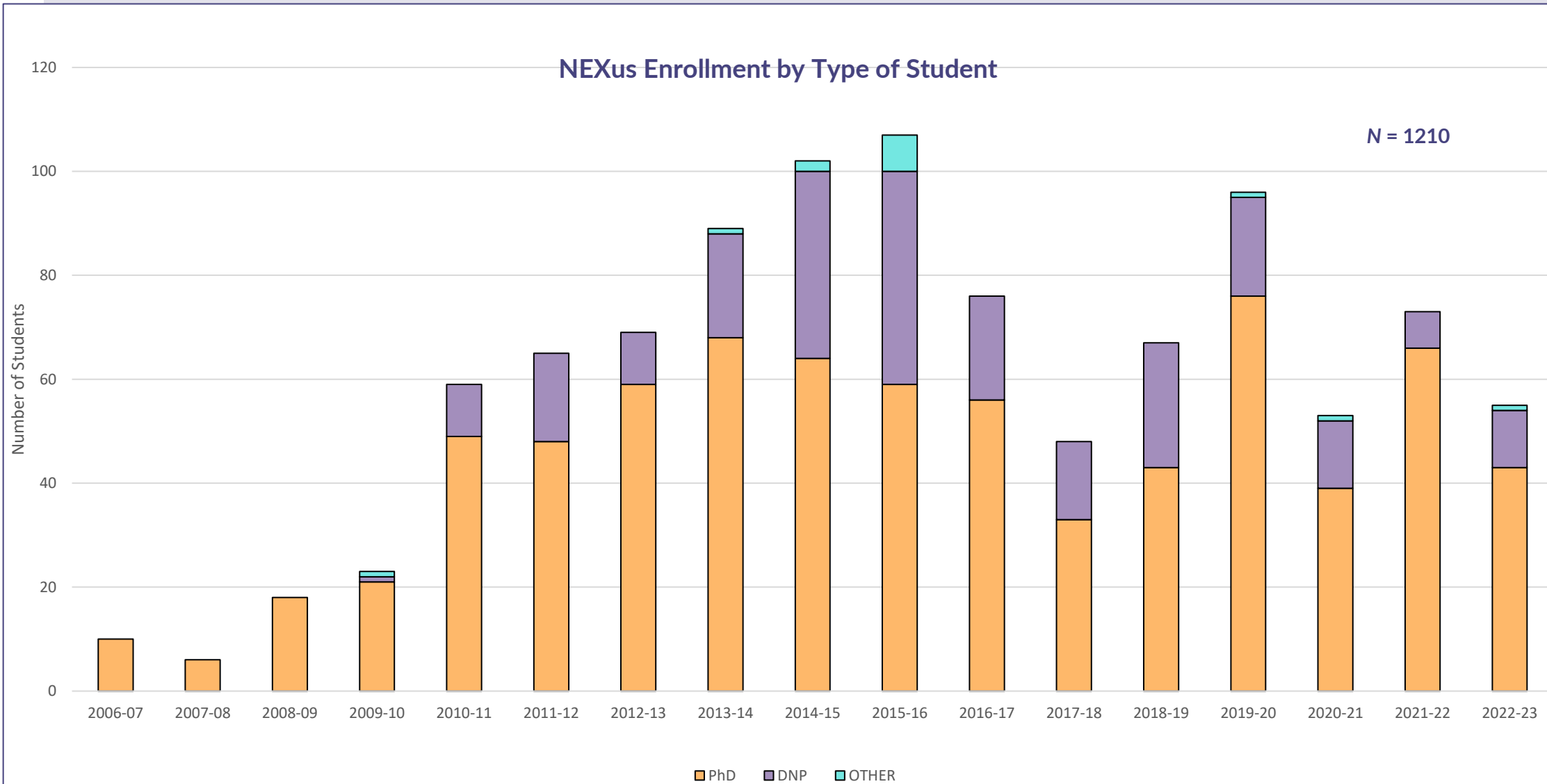
- Mixed Methods, Qualitative & Quantitative Research Methods
- Scholarship & Writing

Evaluation Methods

Formative and summative methods are used to evaluate:

- The effectiveness of courses
 - The exchange itself
 - Student and faculty satisfaction
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- Students complete a survey each term
 - Faculty complete a survey at least once an academic year
 - NEXus staff gather and analyze historical enrollment, graduation, and financial data

Results



Student Survey Results

- 96% of students reported NEXus facilitated their on-time graduation
- Over 85% took a course not offered at their home institution

Anecdotal Student Feedback

“I appreciated the diversity and exposure to other doctoral teaching methods”

“Networking with faculty at other schools really helped me grow”

Faculty Survey Results

- Faculty appreciated the diversity of thought and students' wide geographical distribution, which enriched student experiences by comparing their perspectives of nursing to perspectives in other regions
- The professional network opportunities grew research and academic partnerships between faculty and students

Anecdotal Faculty Feedback

“Nexus is crucial to the success of our program”

“Having this more widely distributed group of students adds depth and value”

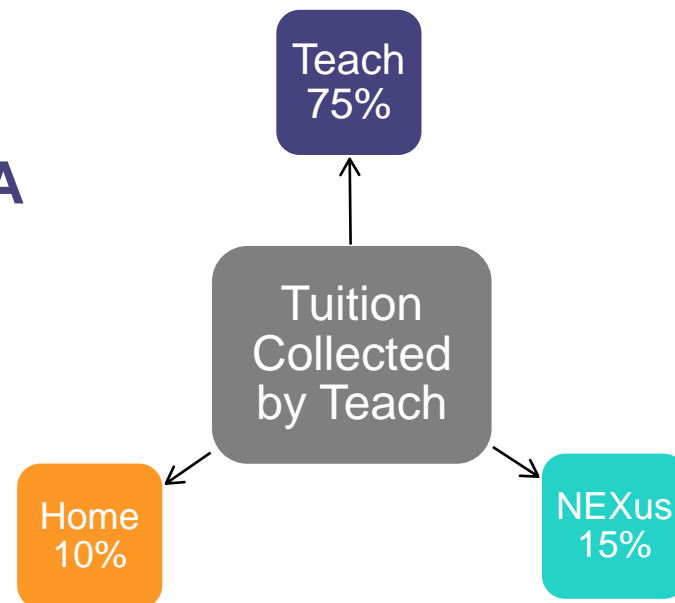
“This collaboration is invaluable, both from the standpoint of our students, as well as related to the interactions among programs of nursing education... We are stronger together!”

How NEXus Works

INSTITUTIONS:

- Pay annual dues to participate (\$6,000 FY24)
- Facilitate student paperwork
- Share tuition among the Sending and Teaching institutions, and NEXus

SHARE FORMULA



FALL TERM ONLY 2023

COURSE OFFERINGS	97
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STUDENT ENROLLMENTS	30
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TOTAL TUITION (before split)	\$76,120
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AVG MEMBER TUITION	\$4,044
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How NEXus Works (continued)

STUDENTS:

- Choose from the NEXus catalog of online graduate courses
- Use home institution's process for approval to enroll in selected course(s)
- Earn credits toward their own university's program
- May take advantage of existing financial aid
- Pay a common tuition rate (\$865 per credit hour). No additional fees charged.

Benefits for Member Universities

Members gain cost savings, income and time.



BENEFITS

- Reach a larger, diverse group of students
- Provide student networking opportunities
- Meet course minimums, especially during smaller cohort times
- Offer diverse courses and specialized electives with expert faculty
- Timely progression and retention – keep students on track
- Save faculty search/hire time by using faculty already teaching established courses

How Cost Savings are Estimated

Per course, NEXus estimates faculty salary savings of \$12,300 (plus benefits) and \$5,300 in course development

Based on:

1. Base salary of \$90,800* with benefits (21.8%**) totaling \$110,600 (rounded to nearest hundred)
2. Hourly rate = $\$110,600 / 52 \text{ weeks} = \$2127 / 40 \text{ hours} = \$53/\text{hr}$
3. About 100 hours to develop one course

Savings are estimates only and vary by institution.

*Table 76 AACN 2019-2020 Salaries of Instructional and Administrative Nursing Faculty

**Survey Report Tables 8 & 9 AAUP Annual Report on the Economic Status of the Profession, 2019-20

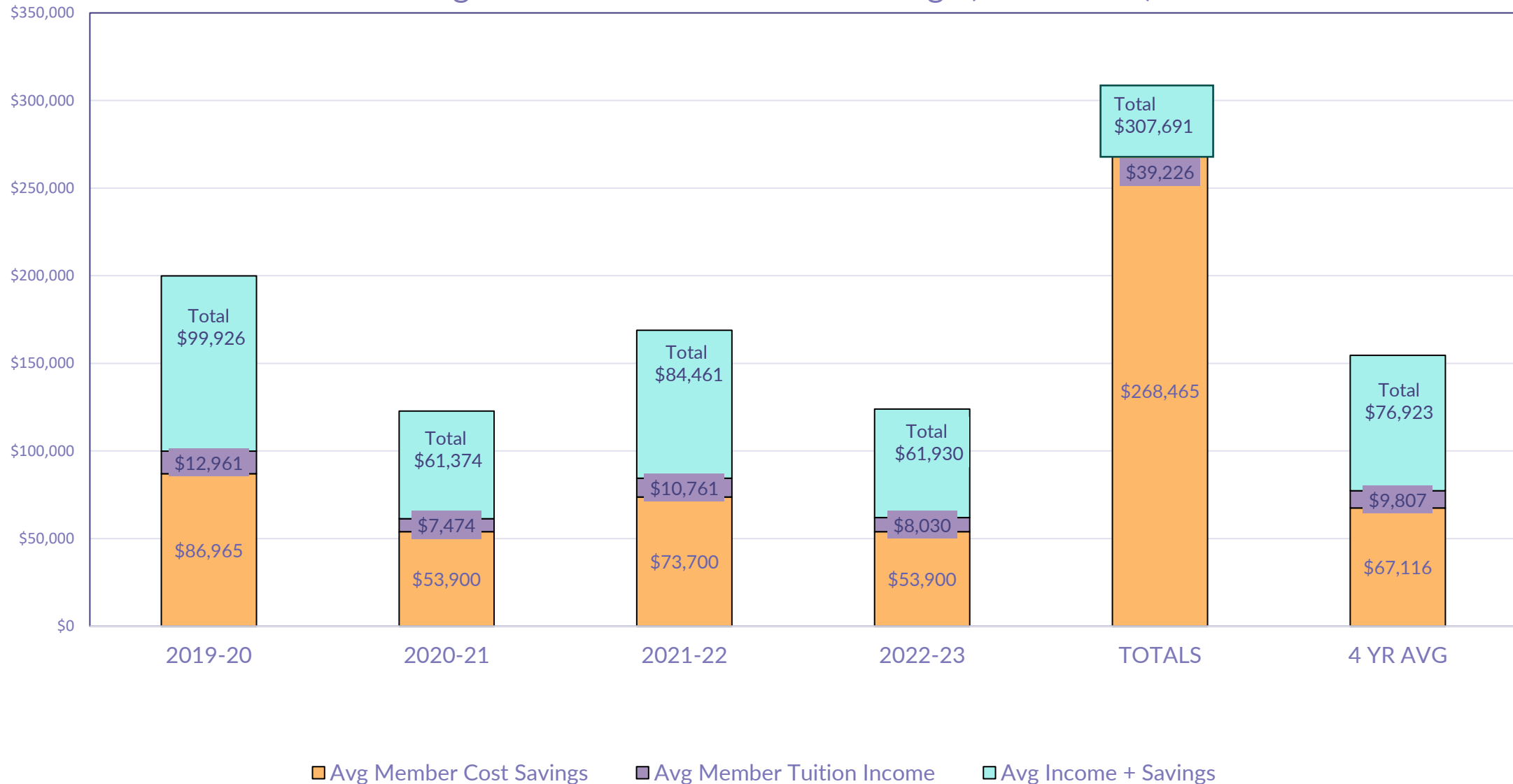
Return on Investment (ROI): Income + Cost Savings

- From 2020-2023, NEXus generated an average of \$195,100 in annual tuition
- Each year, members saved an estimated \$67,000 on course development and faculty salaries
- Over four years, the average member gained over \$39,000 in tuition revenue
- The average university saved \$268,470



ROI: Average Member, 2020-2023

Average Member Tuition + Cost Savings (2020-2023)



Who Benefits from NEXus?

- Nationwide U.S. nursing programs are stakeholders
- Graduate students
 - Students from over 40 states and several countries have taken NEXus courses
 - NEXus helps students meet their graduation needs
- Faculty teach a larger, more diverse group of students
- The profession of nursing...
 - ...by contributing to more doctoral nursing graduates

Questions?

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<https://winnexus.org/>