

# Stronger Together: Impact of Online Course Sharing Between Doctoral Nursing Programs



UNIVERSITY OF  
NORTHERN  
COLORADO

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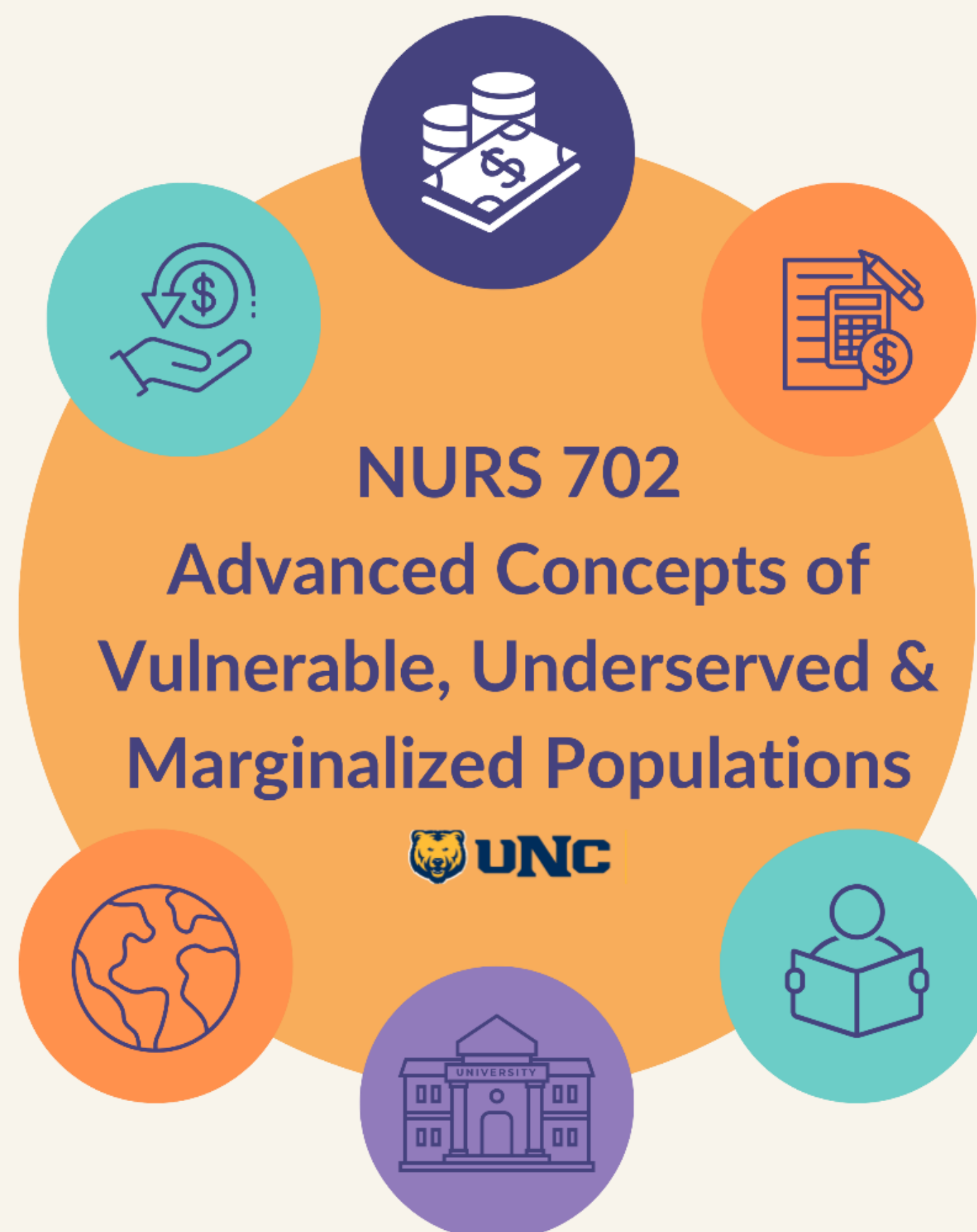
## Impact of One Course

**\$56,400**  
Teaching Income  
UNC gained tuition from visiting students

**\$270,600**

### Salary Savings

For each term students enrolled, sending universities saved an estimated \$12,300 on faculty salaries



**\$47,700 Course Development Savings**

Each sending university saved an estimated \$5,300 by not having to create the course

**14 States & International**

Students were from AZ, CA, CO, CT, DC, HI, IA, KS, MO, NM, NV, TX, UT, VA & Pakistan

**9 Universities**

Number of consortium members that sent students

**30 Students**

Number of enrollees from other universities from 2010 to 2023

**NEXUS**  
THE NURSING EDUCATION XCHANGE

#### 2024-25 MEMBERS

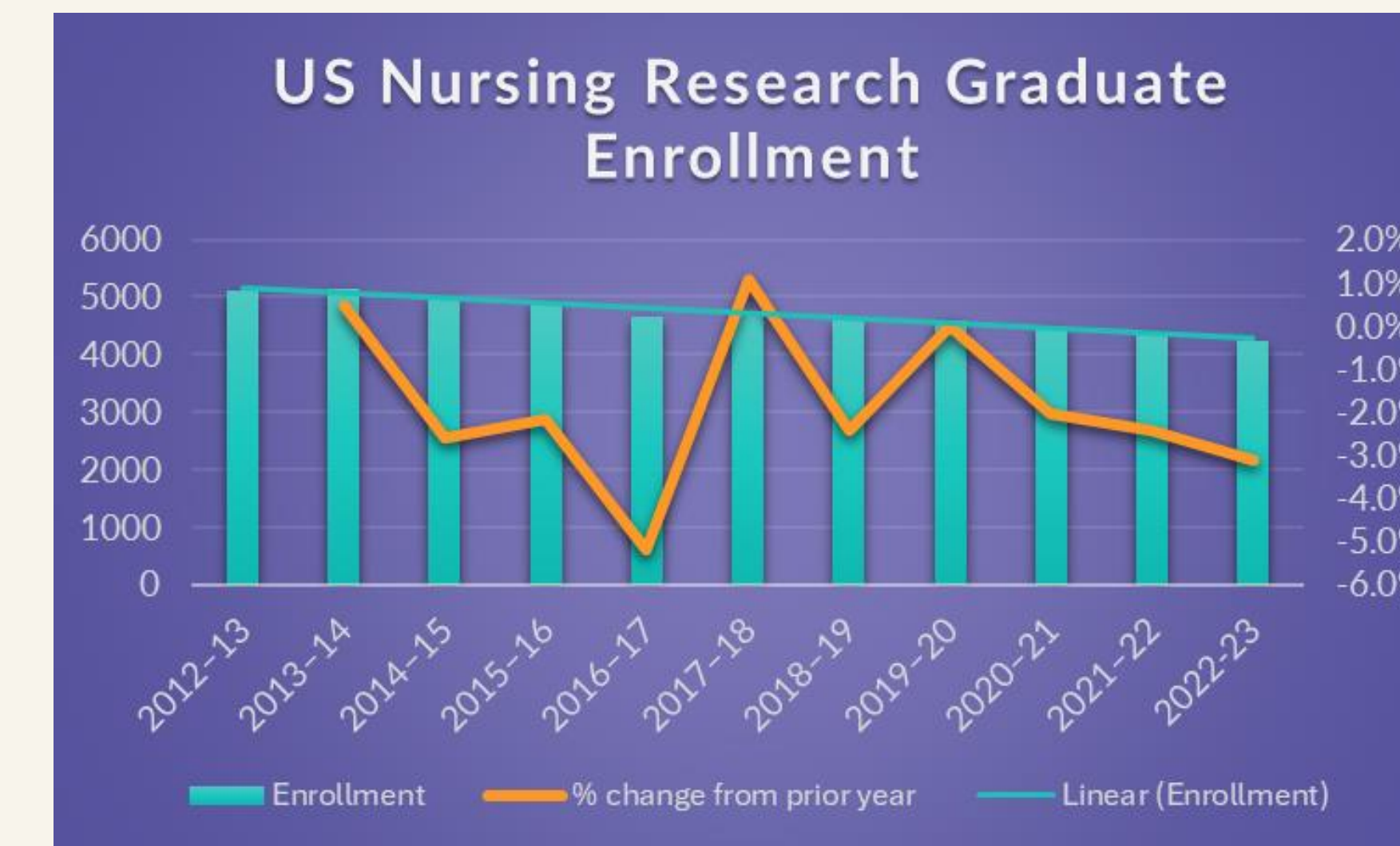
Arizona State University  
Loma Linda University  
Oregon Health & Science University  
The University of Iowa  
The University of Oklahoma

The University of Texas at Tyler  
University of Colorado  
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

## BACKGROUND

- From 2013-2023 enrollment in PhD nursing programs fell 17.5% to 4,244



- < 150 nursing PhD programs in U.S.
- 2022-2023 reported highest faculty vacancies, especially needing a PhD
- By 2025, 1/3 of faculty will have retired (projected)

## PURPOSE

The Nursing Education Xchange (NEXus):

- Allows universities to offer online doctoral courses to a wider audience
- Provides courses an institution may not have the bandwidth or expertise to offer
- Provides students access to a wider array of course offerings

## PROCESS

NEXus is a consortium of universities that collaborate to increase doctoral-level course offerings online. Students may enroll in courses and pay a fixed tuition amount.

**250+** Courses

- Advanced Nursing Practice
- Specific Populations
- Nurse Education
- Research Methodology
- Leadership
- Special Topics

## RESULTS

- 1,278 students have enrolled in 309 courses from public & private universities
- Students represent 43 states & several countries
- 75% were PhD degree seeking
- 85% of students took a course because it was not offered at their institution
- 96% indicated NEXus facilitated on-time graduation

## CONCLUSIONS

Course sharing helps schools of nursing meet enrollment minimums, maintain rigor, and gain additional tuition income, all while helping doctoral students excel.

- Partnering helps institutions navigate challenges associated with decreasing enrollments & faculty shortages.
- NEXus helps students by providing access to additional course offerings taught by experts to support timely degree progression.
- NEXus helps institutions by reducing course development costs and salary expenses.