



The leader in quality nurse practitioner education

The Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree: Entry to Nurse Practitioner Practice by 2025

May 2018

On April 20, 2018, the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF) made the commitment **to move all entry-level nurse practitioner (NP) education to the DNP degree by 2025**. Today, there are more than 300 DNP programs throughout the United States (US) (AACN, 2018), and NONPF has led the evolution of NP educational preparation to the DNP degree level (NONPF, 2015). NONPF maintains its dedication to all currently credentialed NPs and faculty members; however, we recognize that as the health care delivery system has grown increasingly complex, the role of NPs has evolved. The DNP degree reflects the rigorous education that NPs receive to lead and deliver quality health care.

NONPF supports a seamless, integrated DNP curriculum without a master's exit point as preparation for entry to the NP role (NONPF, 2015; NONPF, 2016). The DNP NP curriculum is not an add-on to the master's curriculum; instead, the curriculum integrates objectives and learning opportunities for students to achieve the NP core and population-focused competencies that are written for doctoral-level education (NONPF, 2013; NONPF, 2017a; NONPF and AACN, 2016). There are currently 187 post-baccalaureate DNP NP programs in the US, a 24% increase since 2015 (AACN, 2018). NONPF is committed to providing resources and support for faculty members as they embrace curricular changes (NONPF 2016).

Moving all entry-level NP education to the DNP degree by 2025 will take commitment from multiple stakeholders and development of strategies and initiatives yet to be determined. In December 2017, NONPF hosted a DNP summit with stakeholders from nearly 20 national organizations to have a critical dialogue about moving entry-level NP education to the DNP degree by 2025 (NONPF, 2017b). While not all participants agreed that the DNP should be the entry level degree for NP practice, everyone agreed to continue the dialogue, stay actively engaged, and take the information back to their organizations. Moving forward, NONPF will continue to work with the DNP Summit participants and additional organizations and stakeholders, as they are critically important to realizing our goal.

As the preeminent leader in NP education that provides timely and critical resources for NP educators, NONPF moves forward with an unwavering commitment to create innovative, high quality educational resources to NP faculty during this transition. Our work will lead and unite NP educators to transform healthcare.

Approved by the NONPF Board of Directors, April 2018.

References

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