

## V. AACN Contrast Grid of the Key Differences between DNP and PhD/DNSc/DNS Programs

	<b>DNP</b>	<b>PhD/DNS/DNSc</b>
<b><u>Program of Study</u></b>	<u>Objectives</u> Prepare nurse specialists at the highest level of advanced practice  <u>Competencies</u> See AACN <i>Essentials of the DNP</i> (in draft, 2006)	<u>Objectives</u> Prepare nurse researchers  <u>Content</u> See <i>Indicators of Quality in Research-Focused Doctoral Programs in Nursing (2001)</i>
<b><u>Students</u></b>	Commitment to practice career  Oriented toward improving outcomes of care	Commitment to research career  Oriented toward developing new knowledge
<b><u>Program Faculty</u></b>	Practice doctorate and/or expertise in area in which teaching  Leadership experience in area of specialty practice  High level of expertise in specialty practice congruent with focus of academic program	Research doctorate in nursing or related field  Leadership experience in area of sustained research funding  High level of expertise in research congruent with focus of academic program
<b><u>Resources</u></b>	Mentors and/or precepts in leadership positions across a variety of practice settings  Access to diverse practice settings with appropriate resources for areas of practice  Access to financial aid  Access to information and patient-care technology resources congruent with areas of study	Mentors and/or precepts in research settings  Access to research settings with appropriate resources  Access to dissertation support dollars  Access to information and research technology resources congruent with program of research
<b><u>Program Assessment &amp; Evaluation</u></b>	<u>Program Outcome</u> Health care improvements and contributions via practice, policy change, and practice scholarship  Receives accreditation by specialized nursing accreditor  Graduates are eligible for national certification exam	<u>Program Outcome</u> Contributes to healthcare improvements via the development of new knowledge, and other scholarly products that provide the foundation for the advancement of nursing science  Oversight by the institution's authorized bodies (i.e., graduate school) and regional accreditors

(Revised June 2006)