

DNP Programs & Outcomes on Practice

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Who are these students?

- Master's prepared CNS
- Prior work experience as staff nurse in the area of psych/mental health nursing
- Project director for a federally funded nursing practice grant
- Aspirations – to be a psych nurse practitioner and to teach

My classmates....

- Many were APN's already,
- Some were in academia, some administrators, some in collaborative practice and a few owned & managed clinics
- A couple were looking into careers as expert consultants upon completion of the degree

Why did I chose the DNP?

- I wanted a practice focused doctorate
- I needed the flexibility of an online program
- I chose UT because I could complete the DNP, FNP and PMHNP during my course of study
- The DNP program would enable me to meet my career goals

How did the program transform my practice

- It was an absolute transformation
- The courses were a higher order than in our MSN programs
- The focus of the courses was on practice
- The course content was designed to build upon itself

What happens after graduation...

- I graduated in May from the DNP program at UT
- I accepted a faculty appointment as an assistant professor at USI
- I am the first DNP on faculty
- No discussion about the credibility of my doctorate
- I am eligible for tenure and promotion

As a result of completion of the program.....

- Initially interested on learning how to interpret research pertaining to my practice
- Incorporating evidence into my practice
- Examining issues in my practice (mental health in general) increased my interest in research.

As a result....

- I am a current PhD student at UT
- There is a clear distinction in the programs
- One is pure practice and one is pure research
- If I had to do it over, I would do both programs again