



THE NURSING EDUCATION XCHANGE

www.winnexus.org

### NEXUS MEMBERS

#### ACADEMIC AFFILIATES

- Arizona State University
- Case Western Reserve University
- Loma Linda University
- Oregon Health & Science University
- The Ohio State University
- The University of Iowa
- The University of Texas at Tyler
- University at Buffalo
- University of Colorado
- University of Hawaii at Manoa
- University of Kansas
- University of New Mexico
- University of Nevada Las Vegas
- University of Northern Colorado
- University of Utah
- Virginia Commonwealth University
- Washington State University

#### ACADEMIC AFFILIATES

- Idaho State University
- The University of Oklahoma

## What is NEXus?

NEXus is a partnership among select universities offering doctoral programs in Nursing (PhD and DNP) that provide opportunities for students at one academic collaborating institution to take a course/s or a series of related courses in a cluster, from another academic collaborating institution.

The overall goal of NEXus is to address the nursing shortage by educating well-prepared nurse educators through application of distance accessible delivery methods, enabling rural nurses to remain in their home communities and be employed in rural nursing education programs.

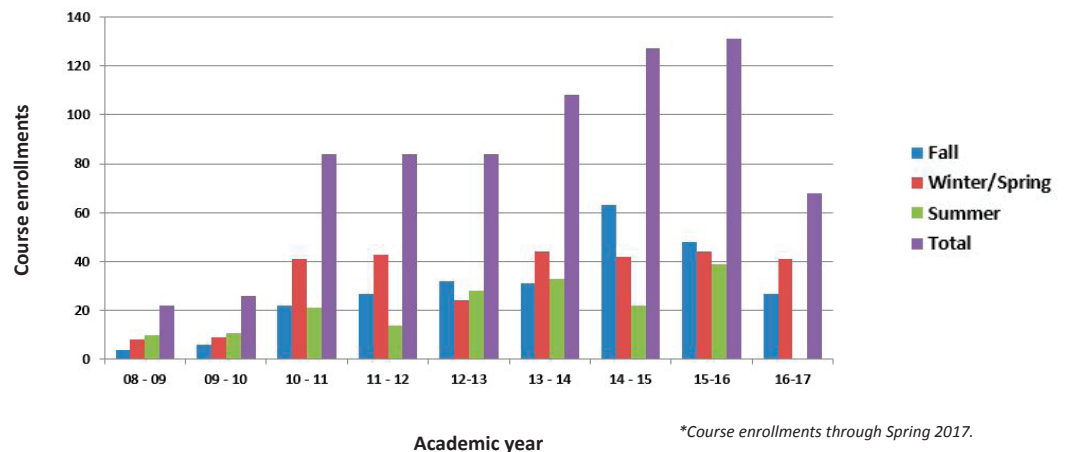
NEXus offers two types of membership, the Academic Collaborator and the Academic Affiliate. An Academic Collaborator is a school/college of nursing that participates in NEXus as both a teaching institution and a home institution. An Academic Affiliate is a school/college of nursing that participates in NEXus solely as a home institution and does not offer shared courses through the exchange.

### ANNUAL DUES

- **Academic Collaborators:** \$5,000
  - **Academic Affiliates:** \$6,000
  - **First-year new member premium:** \$1,000
- Add \$1,000 for each additional program per institution.*

NEXus is currently accepting applications for membership.

## Proof that NEXus is working



*“Because of NEXus and the NEXus courses I’ve been able to take, I’m much more well rounded; I think I have a better resume.”*

— NEXus Student

## The Course Exchange

Member schools identify courses to offer through the online course Xchange. Courses are clustered by area of interest to assist students and their advisors in selecting the best match that can serve as an elective in the student's program of study or possibly substitute for a required course for an off-time student. Numerous courses are open to both PhD and DNP students, further enriching the doctoral education experience.

### ACTIVE CLUSTERS

- Advanced Nursing Practice\*
- Children, Parents and Family
- Chronic and Disabling Conditions and Palliative Care
- Diverse and Vulnerable Populations
- Ethics\*
- Gerontology and Geriatric Nursing
- Interprofessional Collaboration\*
- Nursing Education
- Nursing Knowledge: Theory, Philosophy and Science
- Research Methodology
  - Qualitative Research Methods
  - Quantitative Research Methods
  - Mixed Methods
- Scholarship and Writing
- Scientific Underpinnings for Advanced Nursing Practice\*
- Systems, Leadership, Informatics and Policy

\*DNP Specific

## NEXus: A Brief History

by Paula A. McNeil, Project Director



NEXus was initially funded in 2004 by the Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education, US Department of Education, and in 2008 by the Health Resources and Services Administration, US DHHS. The first aim of NEXus was to address the looming nursing shortage and to facilitate doctoral students in completing their programs of study by making accessible the distance education courses from consortium members.

NEXus had three main goals: 1) through sharing, reduce the costs of creating online courses; 2) increase the choice of courses available to nursing PhD students; and 3) overcome the administrative barriers to students enrolling in shared courses. The goal of the second grant was to extend NEXus beyond the western region. A full list of members is available at [www.winnexus.org](http://www.winnexus.org). NEXus is now fully sustainable without grant assistance.

NEXus offers about 250 courses/academic year, taught through distance modalities. Courses are clustered by interest and topic area to assist students and their advisors in selecting courses as an elective(s) or as a substitute required course for off-time students. NEXus started with PhD nursing students in AY 2006-2007 and DNP students were added in Fall 2009. Many courses are now open to both PhD and DNP students, further enriching the doctoral education experience. Enrollments began slowly but have grown steadily, reaching 131 in AY 2015-2016. Enrollments to date are 752.

A total of 177 individuals who have taken NEXus courses have graduated through 2016. NEXus students complete surveys at the end of each term. They indicate they: 1) were able to take courses not offered on their own campuses; and 2) were able to stay on course and graduate as a result of a NEXus course(s).

Courses are offered at a set price because tuition among members ranges between \$567 and \$1,952 per semester hour so inequity in enrollments is likely. The NEXus Common Price has remained steady at \$775/semester hour, but will increase to \$825 in AY 2017-2018.

Students who have taken NEXus courses present their research and DNP projects at the WIN and other regional conferences, resulting in further growth of nursing research and the body of nursing knowledge. NEXus brings together nursing education, practice and research and it remains an exciting and productive project.

## NEXus Students are Graduating

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Phd Degrees Awarded	1	2	8	16	20	25	29	21	122
DNP Degrees Awarded	0	2	5	8	6	6	14	14	55

Students from NEXus member institutions are completing their respective degrees and graduating. Of the 177 graduates, 122 students have received their PhD and 55 have received their DNP.

Here’s what students are saying... “I had an opportunity to study with an expert in the field. I would not have had that opportunity without NEXus. Thank you!”

“My school needs NEXus to facilitate electives. It creates a wonderful opportunity and less stress for us to find electives. I can’t imagine how electives would be found without NEXus.”

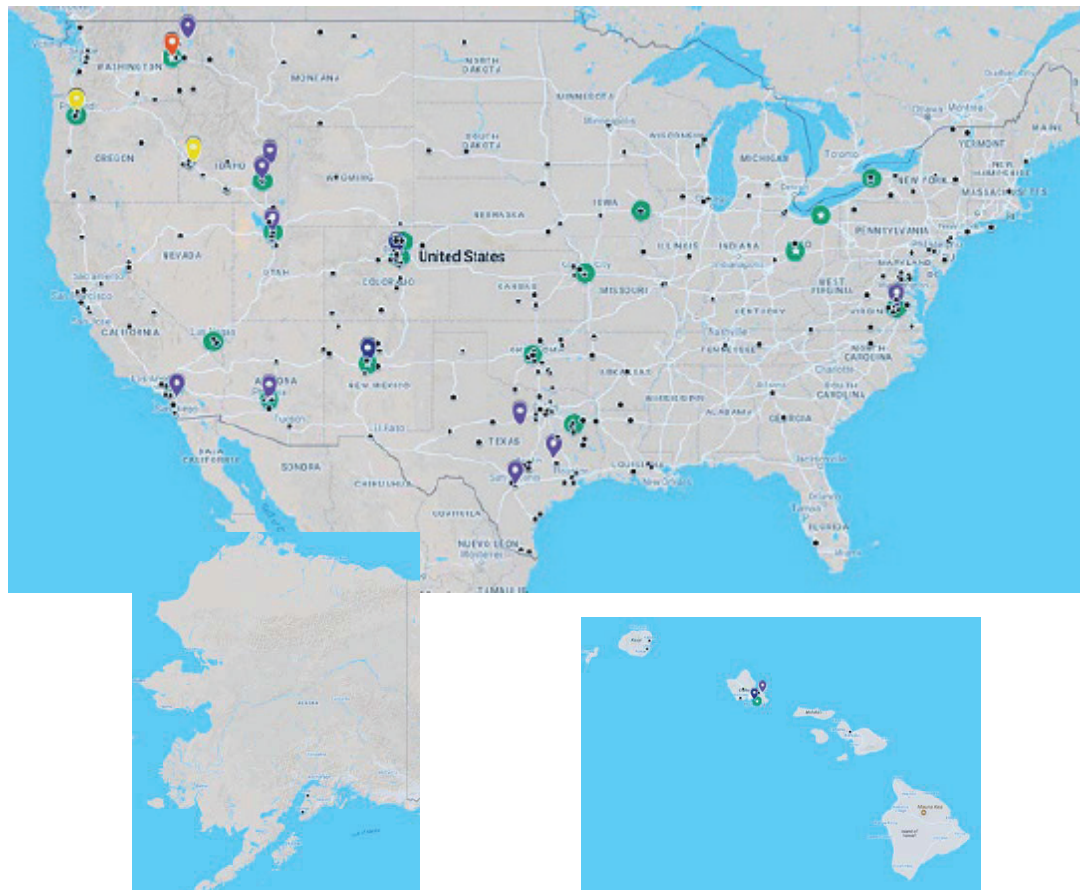
## NEXus Courses: Summer 2017















Fifteen member institutions are offering 58 different courses. For a complete list of course descriptions along with detailed information on registration and enrollment visit

[www.winexus.org](http://www.winexus.org)

First application **deadline date** is **April 14, 2017**

## Reaching beyond the US - member institutions and enrollments



- NEXus Members** 
- Enrollments**
-  1-5
-  6-8
-  9-11
-  12-15
-  16-20
- International Enrollments**
- France  2
- Jamaica  3
- Lebanon  2
- Liberia  3
- Philippines  3
- Malaysia  5
- Pakistan  6
- China  6

*NEXus is administered by the Western Institute of Nursing. It has been funded by grants through the Fund for the Improvement of Post-secondary Education (FIPSE), US Department of Education, (P116B040822) and the US Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (D09HP09070).*

### CONTACT NEXUS

3455 S.W. Veterans Hospital Road  
Portland, OR 97239-2941

Phone: 503 494-7671

FAX: 503 494-3691

Email: [nexus@ohsu.edu](mailto:nexus@ohsu.edu)

## Student Feature: Troy Larkin



“The class offerings made through the NEXus collaboration are an amazing resource for doctoral students from any partnering institution,” says Troy Larkin, a PhD student from the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. “I was lucky enough to take a course through the NEXus exchange that has proved invaluable in my dissertation phase.” Troy is studying clinical-academic partnerships in nursing so he was naturally drawn to explore NEXus. His positive experience with NEXus caused him to seek out ways to become more involved. Troy now serves as the U.H. student representative to

the NEXus Student Advisory Committee. “It has been an honor to be involved with the student advisory committee. I am truly thankful for the labor of so many to make this program work for students and the partnering organizations.”

### NEXus EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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#### NEXUS ADMINISTRATION

Paula McNeil, RN, MS  
Anna Galas, MS



Western Institute of Nursing  
3455 SW Veterans Hospital Road  
Portland, Oregon 97239-2941