We’re in the NEXus! Building Gerontological Nursing and Doctoral Education Capacity via Inter-University Exchange

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Background:

The double challenges:
- Increase the number of doctorally-prepared nurses;¹ and,
- Increase numbers of gerontological leaders in nursing practice, education, and research.

To address challenges:
- **NEXus** *(Nursing Education Xchange)* provides opportunities for students to register for and complete courses from member universities.
- We promote more academic opportunities for students as they progress through doctoral programs of study, overcoming potential limitations of traditional "single" universities’ matriculation, registration, payment, and degree-awarding policies.²

Exemplars: Courses, Clusters, Delivery:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course:</th>
<th>NEXus Cluster:</th>
<th>Delivery:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Psychopathology of Adults and Older Adults&quot;</td>
<td>Gerontology &amp; Geriatrics Education; Scientific Underpinnings for Advanced Practice Nursing</td>
<td>Adobe Connect live class / weekly session; traditional semester</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;Systems Theory&quot;</td>
<td>Nursing Knowledge Development: Theory, Philosophy and Science; Systems, Leadership, Informatics, Policy</td>
<td>Adobe Connect live class / weekly session; traditional semester</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;Translating Evidence into Nursing Practice&quot;</td>
<td>Research Methodology</td>
<td>Asynchronous, Blackboard; web-based format</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;Application of Health Information Technology and Systems™&quot;</td>
<td>Systems, Leadership, Informatics, Policy, Instrumentation</td>
<td>Asynchronous, campus visit &amp; intensive format</td>
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Conclusion:

- An inter-university, inter-professional partnership expands access to doctoral education.
- Partnership in NEXus promotes tailored plans of study for our students near and far; and
- Addresses the IOM goal of increasing the numbers of doctorally-prepared nurses, nationwide.

Method: “Joining”

- Courses were identified based on our internationally recognized strengths: doctoral (PhD & DNP) education, evidence-based practice/research, gerontological and geriatric mental health capacity, systems theory, and distance (web-based and/or intensive) education delivery expertise. See table.
- Courses feature “distance-capable” delivery (e.g., web-based live class sessions plus web-based asynchronous activities, via common learning management system).

Preliminary Results:

- Several decision points in the process of joining NEXus.
- Our course offerings and expertise meet the needs of several NEXus "clusters"
- Offer students core and elective topics that are not available in home universities or in desired timeline. An expanded catalog offers choice.
- Start-up is slow. Zero enrollees to date.
- Students from NEXus member universities may not be aware of core and elective courses available through NEXus partners.³

References:

3. Survey findings (“Never never survey”) available from winexus.org

Contact us:

http://fpb.case.edu/Centers/UCAH/nexus.shtm

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