SUPPLY AND DEMAND FOR NEW DOCTORATE RECIPIENTS IN NURSING

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Demand for registered nurses (RN) is high

- In 2009, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) projected that more than 581,000 new RN positions will be created through 2018.
- BLS reported that hospitals and other healthcare settings added 37,000 new jobs in March 2011, the biggest monthly increase by any employment sector. As the largest segment of the healthcare workforce, RNs were recruited to fill many of the positions.
Enrollments & Graduations in PhD Programs

Enrollments
Graduations
Enrollments & Graduations in Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Programs

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Employment Commitment of Graduates from Doctoral Programs, 2010

Percent

Faculty or Post-doc Positions

PhD

DNP
One reason for insufficient number of graduates from PhD programs in nursing: faculty salaries are not competitive

2010 AACN Annual Survey, Schools with insufficient Faculty
Another reason for insufficient number of graduates from PhD programs in nursing: the time to receiving the doctorate since receipt of an undergraduate degree is often too long.

Mean time in 2001

- Nursing 21.8 Years
- Other Fields 12.7 Years

Mean age of doctoral students when entering doctoral programs by type of doctoral degree pursued, 2010

- PhD: Mean age 41.9
- DNP: Mean age 42.5
Percentage as Part-Time Students by Types of Programs, 2010

2010 AACN Annual Survey, Schools with insufficient Faculty
One consequence of insufficient supply of doctoral graduates in nursing is faculty shortage, which is also the leading reason for turning qualified applicants away.

Degree Requirements of Vacant Faculty Positions in 603 Nursing Schools, 2011

- Doctorate Required: N=603 (58.0%)
- Doctorate Preferred: N=337 (32.4%)
- Master's Degree: N=84 (8.1%)
- Other (Please Specify): N=15 (1.4%)
Another consequence of insufficient supply of doctoral graduates in nursing is the proportion of faculty with a doctoral degree is too low.
Likely Solutions

1. Faculty practice plan

2. “Fast-Track” Baccalaureate-PhD and baccalaureate-DNP programs
Summary

- Demand for nurses is high
- Demand for doctoral graduates in nursing is also high but the supply is low
- Reasons: 1) non-competitive faculty salary, and 2) entering doctoral programs at older ages
- Likely solutions: 1) faculty practice plan, and 2) “fast-track” baccalaureate-doctoral programs