

PROFESSIONAL DOCTORATES IN THE UW SYSTEM

**Presentation to the Board of Regents
Senior Vice President Rebecca Martin
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Why a discussion of professional doctorates?

- Increasing importance of professional doctorates in program array of research and comprehensive institutions nationwide
- Regent interest in:
 - national and Wisconsin contexts
 - policy implications for offering such degrees, especially at the comprehensives

Transitions in Professional Education

- Changing professional licensure and accreditation requirements
- Additional disciplinary and practice depth in response to emerging technologies
- New knowledge in content areas
- Changing workforce demands for graduate-level training

Doctor's Degree: Research/Scholarship

- A PhD or other doctor's degree that requires advanced work beyond the master's level, including the preparation and defense of a dissertation based on original research, or the planning and execution of an original project demonstrating substantial artistic or scholarly achievement.
- **Examples:**
 - PhD – Multiple Disciplines
 - DBA – Business Administration
 - DMA – Musical Arts

Doctor's Degree: Professional Practice

- A doctor's degree that is conferred upon completion of a program providing the knowledge and skills for the recognition, credential, or license required for professional practice.
- **Examples:**
 - JD or LLB – Law
 - MD – Medicine
 - DDS – Dentistry

Doctor's Degree: Professional and Research

- The Doctor of Education (EdD) blurs the distinction between the research doctorate and the professional practice doctorate
 - Requires dissertation research
 - Often applied in nature
- Increasing relevance to leadership roles in public education
- EdD is undergoing a national reevaluation, in relation to the PhD in Education

Professional Doctorates

- Require at least a bachelor's degree for entry, often in a related field
- Include study of applied or clinical research and/or advanced practice
- Provide preparation of body of knowledge needed for professional practice in a specific field
- Provide preparation for professional licensure and accreditation

History in the UW System

The UW System Board of Regents has recently authorized the implementation of three professional practice doctorates in health-related fields:

- Two as consortial or collaborative degrees between two UW System institutions (2005, 2006)
- One as a free-standing program at a doctoral campus (2008)

UW System Professional Doctorates

- Doctor of Medicine (pre merger) – UW-Madison
- Juris Doctorate (pre merger) - UW-Madison
- Doctor of Veterinary Science (1983) – UW-Madison
- Doctor of Pharmacy (1989) – UW-Madison
- Doctor of Audiology (2005)) – UW-Madison/UW-Stevens Point collaborative degree
- Doctor of Physical Therapy (2006) – UW-Milwaukee/UW-La Crosse collaborative degree
- Doctor of Physical Therapy (2008) – UW-Madison,
- Doctor of Nursing Practice – UW-Madison, in development
- Doctor of Nursing Practice – UW- Milwaukee, in development
- Doctor of Nursing Practice – UW-Oshkosh/UW-Eau Claire collaborative degree, in development

Recent National Context

- Changes in the necessary competencies, requiring degree levels to be raised
- Disciplinary re-assessment of degree requirements, primarily in applied health professions
- Selective authority for comprehensive institutions to develop professional doctorates in Physical Therapy, Audiology, Nursing Practice, and Education at peer institutions

Peer Institutions Comparison

University of Minnesota System: Professional doctorates offered primarily at the flagship institution

The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System:
Comprehensive institutions offer selected applied doctoral degrees

State University of New York: Research-oriented campuses designated as “university centers” offer doctoral degrees; professional practice doctorates are also offered at specialized professional colleges.

North Carolina System: Professional doctorates are offered at institutions with Carnegie classifications of “doctorate-granting” and “high research.”

Peer Institutions Comparison

California Higher Education Systems:

- University of California System is charged by state's "Master Plan for Higher Education" as the only public institution responsible for awarding doctoral degrees
- Recent challenge by the California State University System in the legislature, still pending
- Limited professional doctorates are now offered collaboratively between the two systems

Perspectives from UW Comprehensive Institutions

- Chancellor Brian Levin-Stankevich
UW-Eau Claire
- Chancellor Rick Wells
UW-Oshkosh

Policy Questions

- What is the appropriate role of the UW System's comprehensive institutions in providing professional doctorate education?
 - Is the offering of professional doctorates within the mission of the comprehensive institutions?
 - Should UW comprehensive institutions be authorized to offer professional doctorates, either individually, or in collaboration with another comprehensive institution?

Important Questions to Consider

- How would the offering of professional doctorates impact the role of master's degrees and other forms of graduate education in our institutions?
- Will the addition of professional doctorates change the focus on undergraduate education and institutional culture at the comprehensives?
- To what extent is mission congruence an issue for comprehensive institutions?

Policy Areas for Further Consideration

- Resource implications
- Access
- Pricing and revenue opportunities
- Quality of programs, curricula, faculty, facilities
- Overall institutional capacity
- Alignment with Growth Agenda goals