



Demystifying Doctoral Education for Clinicians



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Objectives

At the conclusion of this session participants will be able to:



Discuss the historical academic context for doctoral education



Differentiate between research and professional doctoral education

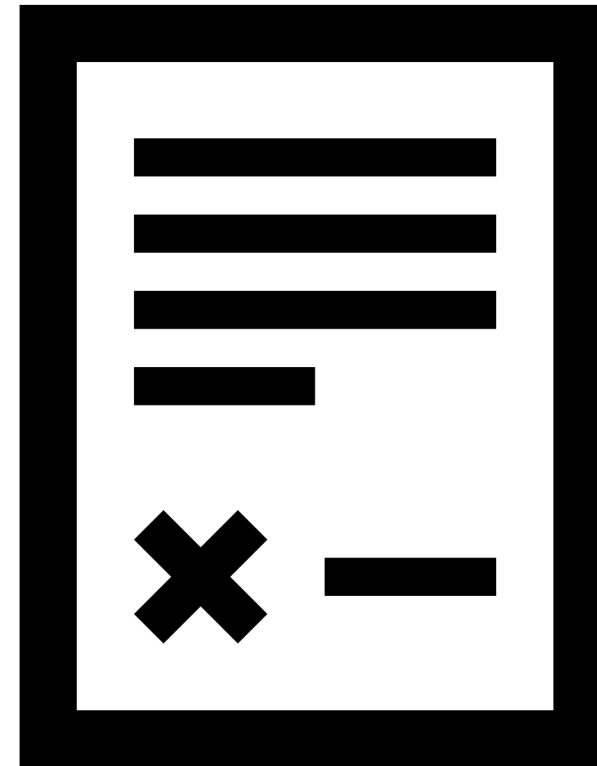


Determine a path forward to optimize personal and professional goals and opportunities

Disclosures

PAEA represents 277 accredited programs, non of which are mentioned or promoted in this lecture.

I currently hold a volunteer appointment as clinical associate professor at the University of Maryland Baltimore Graduate School which offers numerous degrees including professional and research degrees.





Academic Origins of Doctoral Degrees

Medieval System from Europe designed originally to create communities of academic scholars, prepared and authorized to teach and afforded academic freedom.



Doctor of Philosophy PhD

The highest academic degree granted by North American Universities

The defining characteristic is the independent research and contribution of new knowledge to the field, marking an individual capable of intellectual leadership in the field.

Council of Graduate Schools-Policy Statement

Professional Doctoral Degrees

Designed for professional training or focus on applied research related to professional practice rather than basic research that expands the knowledge base of the field.

Council of Graduate Schools

Generations of Professional Doctoral Degrees

Task force on
Professional
Doctorate Degrees

Council of
Graduate Schools
2006

- **First generation:**
- M.D. (doctor of medicine)
- D.D.S. (doctor of dental science, or surgery)
- D.V.M. (doctor of veterinary medicine)

- **Second generation:** J.D. (doctor of jurisprudence)
- Pharm.D. (doctor of pharmacy)
- Ed.D. (doctor of education)
- D.Psych. (doctor of psychology)
- D.P.H. (doctor of public health)

- **Recent:**
- Aud.D. (doctor of audiology)
- O.T.D. (doctor of occupational therapy)
- D.P.T. (doctor of physical therapy)
- D.N.P. (practice doctorate in nursing)

Professional Doctoral Program Healthcare

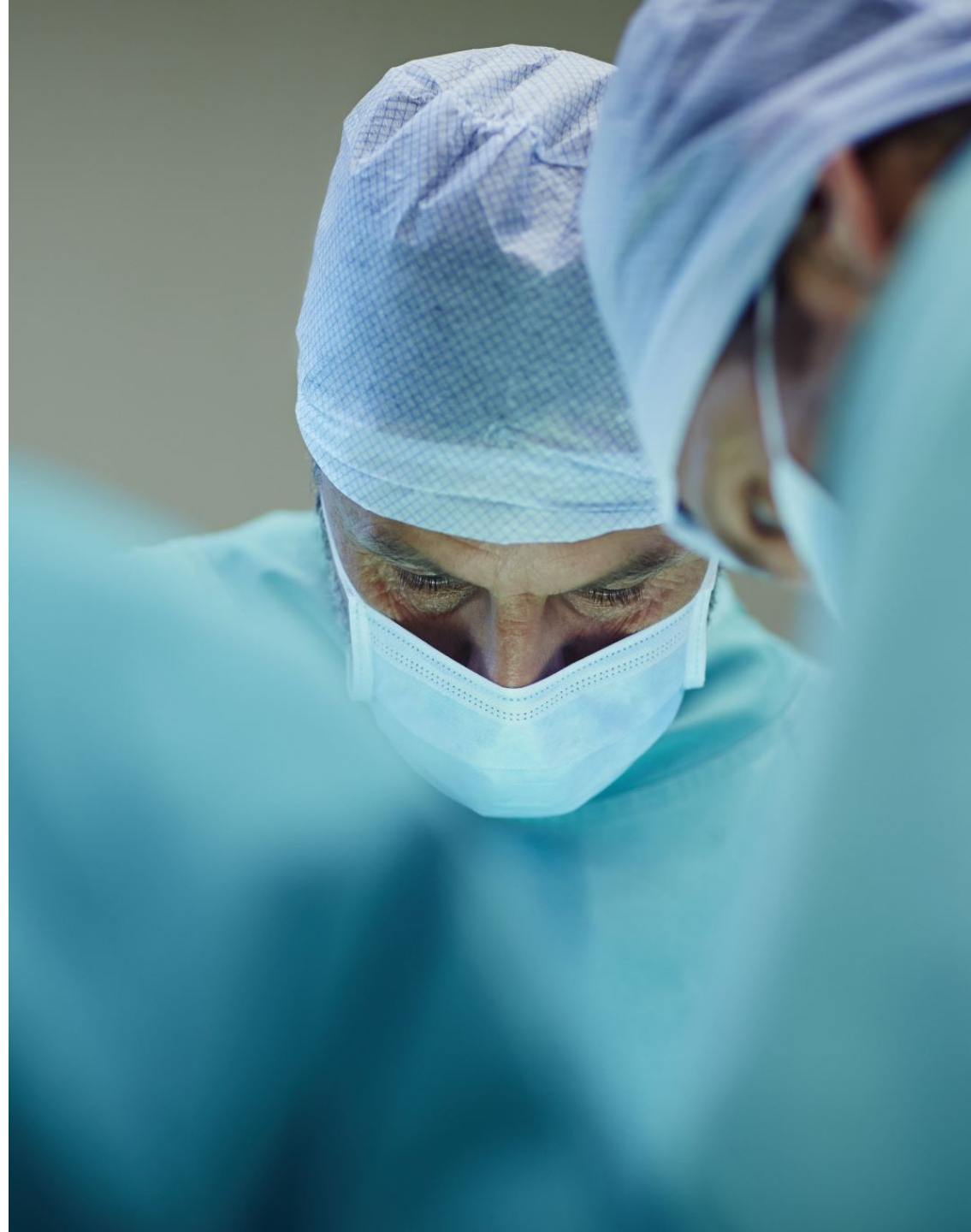



The desire to change to a doctoral degree by Pharmacy, Physical Therapy and Nursing was consistent with and motivated by a change in practice goals.

Expanding scope of practice and advancing clinical competency were key motivators for change.



For the PA profession this desire to change practice is less clear. Because of our generalist education and team-based practice orientation, scope of practice has not typically been a function of formal education level.





US Doctoral Education

Differentiating Doctoral Degrees:
Research/Scholarship from the
Professional Practice Degrees



Carnegie Classification

An institutional classification coding structure developed by the Andrew W. Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

<https://surveys.nces.ed.gov/ipeds/public/glossary>



Opportunities for PAs and NPs Abound and are Growing



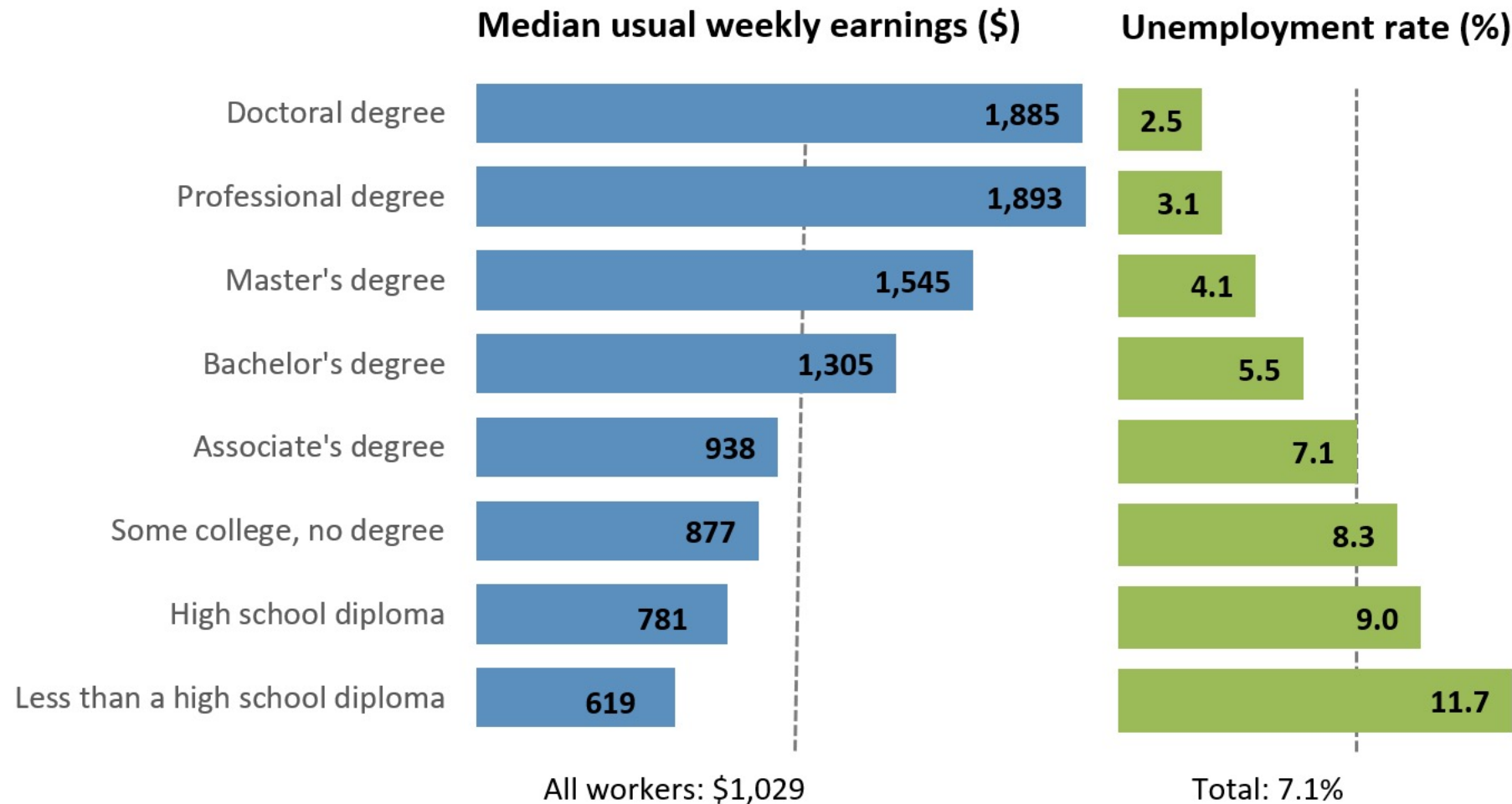
Academe, Administration, Government
Business

National PA Data

- As of December 31, 2020 there were 148,560 certified PAs
- 127,560 provided responses for the NCCPA profile yielding an 85.9% response
- 94.8% indicated they are practicing clinically
- 100,464 PAs identified the Master's as the highest credential completed.
- 2,604 PAs identified the Doctoral degree as the highest credential completed. Representing 2% of PAs.
- 3.8 % of those responding to the survey are pursuing additional education.
- 12% stated intention to retire from clinical practice

NCCPA Statistical Profile of Certified PAs 2020

Earnings and unemployment rates by educational attainment, 2020



Note: Data are for persons age 25 and over. Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.



Finding your Path

Education should open doors to opportunity.
Choosing the best path, is an individual decision.

Choosing your Path



ACADEMICS

1. What is my area of interest or expertise that I wish to share with students?
2. How can I demonstrate my knowledge of the field with my colleagues? Teaching? Publications, Original research?
3. What type of institution and program will assist me with developing my interest and expertise?
4. What do I need to be successful?



Administration

1. What is my area of interest or expertise that I wish to share with colleagues?
2. What knowledge and skills do I need to develop to be successful in leading as an administrator?
3. What type of faculty and curriculum will assist me in practicing these skills and obtaining these opportunities ?
4. What do I need to be successful?



Choosing your Path



Business and Innovation

1. What is my idea for a business?
2. What knowledge and skills do I need to develop a successful product or service?
3. What type of program, faculty and curriculum will support my way of learning ?
4. What do I need to be successful?
5. <https://sites.google.com/a/slu.edu/eweb/doctors-programs-in-entrepreneurship>



Advocacy and Policy

1. How do I advocate and shape policy to advance the profession?
2. What knowledge and skills do I need to have to advance legislation and policy at the state and federal level?
3. What type of program, faculty and curriculum will assist me in developing, practicing these skills and obtaining these opportunities ?
4. What do I need to be successful?



Time and Investment



1. Do I intend to work clinically as I pursue my education?
2. Are there educational opportunities that will allow me to work and go to school?
3. What other people and priorities do I have that need to be factored into this decision?
4. How much time am I willing to invest in achieving my education goals?
5. Are there alternative paths I should consider?

1. What is the total cost of the degree per semester, per year?
2. What are the proposed short term and long-term return on investments of this degree?
3. What is my current debt burden ?
4. What institutional support is available to lesson loan or debt burden?
5. Will my employer pay for my time off or offset tuition and fees?



Micro credentials

Future of Education
Life-Long Learning



Take Home Points



- Your story is yours to write
- Opportunity abounds for PAs.
- Consider what success looks like for you and those close to you
- Envision the community you wish to lead



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- Healthcare, Science and Education are evolving rapidly
 - Do you want to be a knowledge creator?
 - Do you want to examine and apply knowledge and theory?
 - Align your goals with the educational opportunity

References

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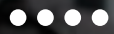
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Bureau of Labor and Statistics <https://www.bls.gov/bls/linksite.htm>

THANK YOU



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