



October 16, 2019

University of Utah
Graduate Council
Salt Lake City, UT 84112

Dear Graduate Council Members,

In my role as Dean of the School of Nursing and Health Sciences at Westminster College, I am writing to offer our enthusiastic support of the University of Utah College of Nursing's proposal to implement a dual DNP/PhD degree beginning fall 2020. This newly-emerging trend in nursing education allows students to earn both terminal doctoral degrees (the Doctor of Philosophy [PhD] and Doctor of Nursing Practice [DNP]) simultaneously with fewer overall credits and in less time than if students were to seek these degrees separately. This will help meet the increasing demand for advanced practice nurses trained as clinician-scientists who possess both advanced clinical skills and the scientific background to conduct clinically relevant research; and then to translate that research into practice. As Utah's only PhD nursing program, the University of Utah College of Nursing (my own alma mater) is well-suited to meet this challenging demand.

I'm confident the College of Nursing has the necessary resources to offer such a program and offer my full support for this important endeavor.

Sincerely,

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