How Doctoral Programs Are Training New Faculty: Their Practice and Teaching Experience

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The Challenge

• Difficulty finding faculty with clinical credentials to teach practice
• Group to share perspectives
• An unexpected by-product of experienced practitioners coming to doctoral education as a step toward leaving practice?
Approach in NYU’s Research Oriented PhD Program

• Select students to have a substantive expertise- not just strong methods and stat.
  • Require students to focus on a specialization.
  • Need multiple electives in the specialization.
  • Creates strong substantive base on a social work problem.

• REQUIRED teaching and learning course
  • Course focused on SW education.
  • Prepares students to teach in schools of SW

• Once completing the course students are eligible to teach in BSW and MSW program at Silver.
  • Many do.
  • Curriculum revision seeks to formalize teaching experience in years 4 and beyond of their studies.
Approach in NYU’s Research Oriented PhD Program

• CORE SW curriculum that is the foundation of our curriculum.
  • Core is intended to address the SW profession- contributions, history, distinctive features, practice and policy issues, etc.
  • Focus is on a strong professional identity and preparation for university teaching in SW schools.

• Scholarship emphasis: original empirical research

• No focus (requirement) on years of practice experience.
  • Rather, we attempt to work with our students to ensure strong research methods, stat, substantive expertise in an area relevant to SW profession, professional identity, SW teaching and learning, and core SW knowledge about the profession.
  • Can teach in relevant social work areas (policy or practice or HB, not just research).
But is this enough?
Alternative Approach in NYU’s DSW Program

• Goals are to prepare practitioners to teach in social work education and to lead practice innovation at the agency level (including EBP)

• Recruit advanced practitioners with an explicit interest in practice

• Curriculum
  • Similar course on pedagogy and teaching
  • Strong base in
    • advanced practice theory
    • Implementation science
    • Critical reviews
  • Clinical practice supervision internship
  • Teaching internship
Issues for Discussion

• Inputs to SW doctoral education
  • Should prior practice experience be required for admission?
  • Should licensure be required?

• Throughputs
  • Few programs provide practice experience opportunities while in doctoral study
  • I think this encouragement is key
  • Some students get it because they have to work.
  • Encourage teaching experience in practice, teaching, HB
  • Many students come into programs interested in practice, but programs do not encourage practice interest or integration of practice and research.

• Outputs
  • The proper license
  • The interest and motivation to teach practice