



Partners in Disaster

Integrating Nursing Administration and Emergency Management
in a Master of Science in Nursing Program

June 4, 2020



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22nd Annual Emergency Management Higher Education Symposium, June 1–4, 2020

The Program

- MSN in Nursing Administration and Emergency Management
- Hybrid program between Department of Nursing and Department of Emergency Management (“EM”)
- 39 credit hours: 30 core hours plus 9 track hours
 - Core hours include 6 hours emergency management
 - Administrative track
 - Emergency management track
- Online



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Genesis of the Program

- Serendipitous discussion at a university-wide long-range planning luncheon
 - Based on existing strengths of Arkansas Tech University
- Support of the university
- Support and approval of Arkansas Department of Higher Education



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Department of EM

- Nationally recognized graduate program
- First in the world to earn accreditation from Foundation in Higher Education in Disaster/Emergency Management
- Housed in same building on campus
- EM Department head is PhD, RN



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Strengths/Facilitators of Program

- Excitement for new program
- Doctorally prepared RN Department Head of EM
- Joint planning between the two departments
- Standards for disaster plans for health care agencies
- The EM program is widely recognized for innovation and excellence



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Challenges (Initial)

- Lacks a theoretical framework
- Accreditation questions
- Highly specialized program
- Making others understand what we are about
- Lack of current, established disaster preparedness competencies for master's prepared nurses
- Emergency management is discipline still in its infancy



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Challenges (Ongoing)

- Bound to existing EM program and courses
 - Not all EM courses online each semester
 - EM curriculum and available courses have changed over time
- Changes in faculty
 - New EM faculty not acquainted with vision and purpose of MSN program
- Housed in different colleges (College of Natural Health Sciences and College of Engineering and Applied Sciences)
- Recruitment



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Plans for the Future

- Recruitment targets
 - Military interest
- Add courses that are co-designed by Nursing and EM faculty
- EM courses focused on health care
- Collaborate on EM-focused thesis/research project opportunities for MSN students



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