The mission of a doctoral program is to prepare future nurse scientists with advanced knowledge in nursing education, practice, research, health and public policy and provide scholarly activities that will create leaders in the discipline of nursing. Professional Socialization is a learning process where individuals of a particular profession socialize among themselves and acquire the specialized knowledge, skills, attitudes, values, norms and interest needed to perform their professional roles. Doctoral students (PhD & DNP) participate in professional socialization, by engaging in three Interdisciplinary Collaborative Courses: Global Leadership Strategies and Diversity Awareness, Epidemiology and Biostatistics and Bio-Ethical Imperatives that provides the foundation for advanced knowledge in the field. In addition they participate in two major scholarly activities: the Annual Doctoral Colloquium and the Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) Lambda Chi Chapter Research Conference. In addition, purposive sampling was employed to select 40 participants to interview about their Professional Socialization experience. Individual semi-structured interviews using open-ended questions were used to obtain data. Data were analyzed following qualitative techniques.

The results of this study confirmed the objectives and revealed that student peer interactions, supportive faculty environment, collegiality, and student scholarly engagement, were prevalent in the data analysis.