

Introduction

The need for nurses to pursue additional education is imperative to the professionalization of the discipline of nursing and the healthcare environment. Furthermore, characteristics of nurses who seek advanced education are poorly understood. This information is critical to planning long-term strategies for US nursing education (Kovner, Brewer, Katigbak, Djukic, & Fatehi, 2012).

IOM Report (2011):

- ✓ Increasing the proportion of baccalaureate prepared nurses
- ✓ Double the number of doctoral prepared nurses by 2020
- ✓ Seamless transition into higher degrees

Purpose

The purpose of this study is to describe the motivational orientation and factors of nurses pursuing doctoral education

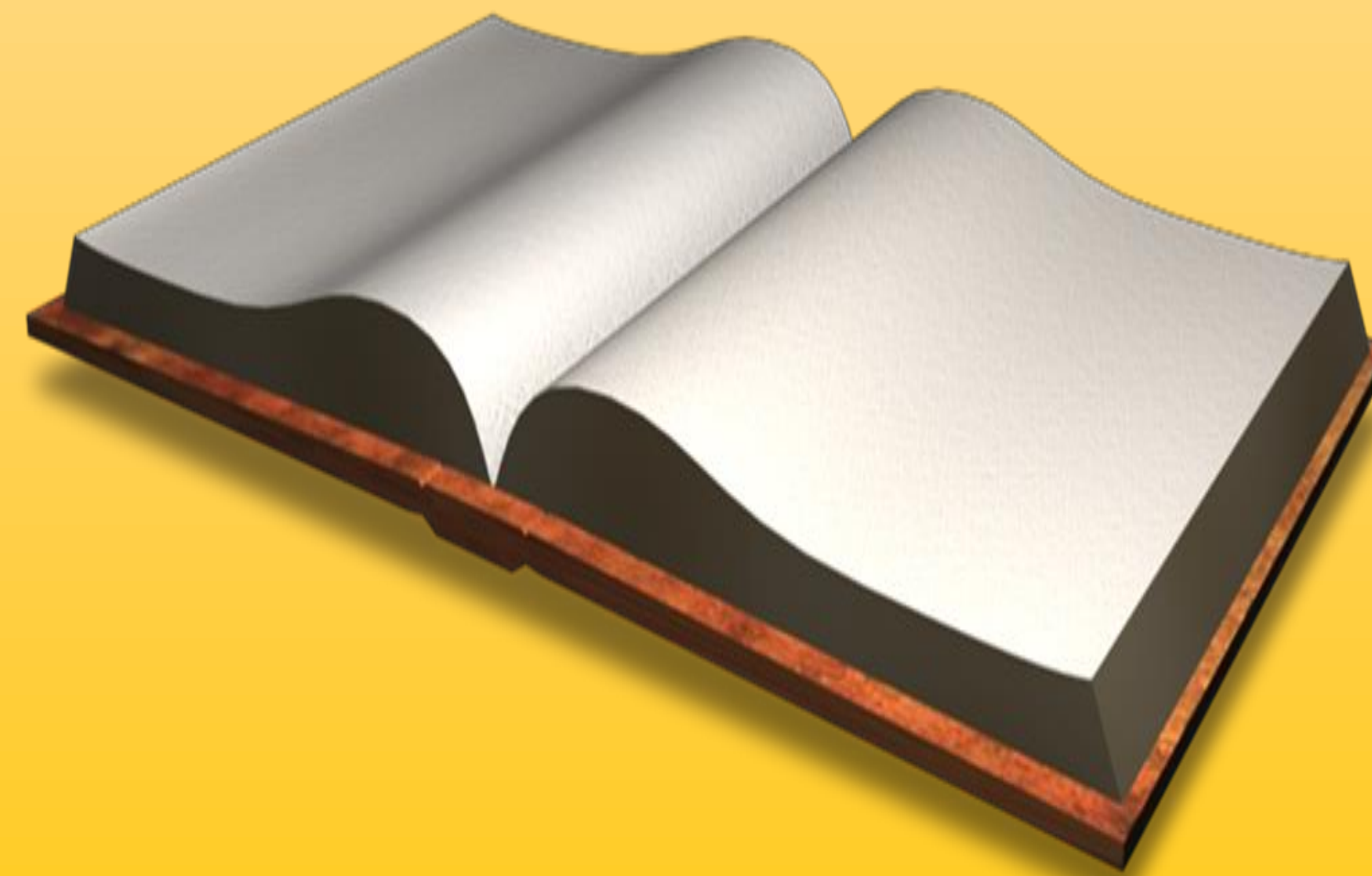
Methods

Design: Descriptive Correlational

Setting: Comfortable, distraction free setting selected by each participant

Sample: A sample of registered nurses enrolled in either a PhD or DNP educational program in the southeastern region of the United States from various universities will be invited to participate in the study. Participants will be divided into two groups: (1) registered nurses seeking the PhD; and (2) registered nurses pursuing the DNP.

Data collection: A power analysis was performed to identify the needed sample size. A total of 250 completed questionnaires are needed for the sample so the targeted sample size is 1,000 to ensure that a sufficient number of surveys will be available for analysis.



Discussion

This study will include currently enrolled registered nurses pursuing the doctorate of nursing practice (DNP) and the doctorate of philosophy (Ph.D.).

It is anticipated that results will be used to describe the motivational orientation and demographic factors of RNs who pursue doctoral study.

References

- Institute of Medicine (IOM) (2011). The future of nursing: Leading change, advancing health. National Academy Press: Washington, DC.
- Kovner, C., Brewer, C., Katigbak, C., Djukic, M., & Fatehi, F. (2012). Charting the course nurses' achievement of higher education levels. Journal of Professional Nursing, 28(6), 333-343. Retrieved from <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.profnurs.2012.04.021>

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