



UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA WILMINGTON

School of Nursing Clinical Research Program

In 2004, the University of North Carolina Wilmington admitted its inaugural class to the Clinical Research Program within the School of Nursing. The B.S. in Clinical Research degree was developed in partnership with Pharmaceutical Product Development, Inc., one of the world's largest contract research organizations, now expanding into related biopharmaceutical fields of business. With its world headquarters in Wilmington, PPD provided initial funding to address the growing need for skilled professionals in the biopharmaceutical industry. This program also mitigates the common practice of hiring nurses out of health care settings, compounding the current nursing shortage.

Within the last two years, enrollment has increased from 5 students to 41 students. Courses in the junior and senior years, in clinical monitoring, data management, regulatory affairs, clinical quality, and pharmaceutical marketing and sales, are taught through distance learning. This format allows non-traditional students to pursue the degree while continuing employment.

Companies in Wilmington's growing biopharmaceutical industry, such as Inclinix and Kendle, hire UNCW Clinical Research students as interns. Graduates of the program do not require extensive on-the-job training, which typically costs companies \$5,000 to \$25,000. Given the success of this undergraduate program, a Master of Science in Clinical Research, with concentrations in Biopharmaceutical Sciences or Regulatory Affairs, is under development.

Chancellor Rosemary DePaolo said that "UNCW appreciates the support of PPD, is extremely pleased to be a partner in their growth, and continues to look for additional opportunities to develop demand-driven degrees for such extraordinary employers in our metropolitan area. As the Clinical Research Program grows, many graduates will remain in Wilmington, with a significant impact on the workforce and the economy."