

## DNP Project Guidelines – Effective Summer 2019

### DNP Project

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy and procedure is to provide guidance for faculty and students in the DNP project process. This policy combines the policies of the Graduate School, as applicable and the process approved by the College of Nursing DNP Council.

#### **Policy**

The DNP project is the culmination of students' study in the DNP program. The project is done under the supervision of the DNP committee consisting of two graduate faculty in the College of Nursing (one serves as the Project Chair and one as the project committee member), and one outside practice mentor. Other individuals may be added if additional expertise is needed. This project is graded T/U and implemented in NURS 897. A total 6 credit hours (over at least 2 semesters) of NURS 897 must be completed for the degree and may be taken for variable credit (1-6). The College of Nursing does not allow a student to continue in the program with a grade of U in two semesters. Students must successfully prepare a project proposal, which serves as the written and oral comprehensive exam required by the Graduate School, prior to the implementation of the project. All proposals must obtain IRB approval prior to implementation. The student must successfully complete the project and will not graduate until the DNP project committee approves the project.

#### Procedure for DNP Project Committee

1. Students are assigned to a Project Chair after NURS 737, the Project Chair and student will work together and select the inside second CON project committee member and the practice mentor. After the project committee is complete, the Doctoral Committee Approval (DCA) Form is completed and submitted to the Graduate Student Services Coordinator II (GSSC).
2. The DNP Project Chair with the committee determines when the student is ready for proposal and final DNP Project defense and if the student has successfully completed the DNP project.

#### Scholarly Paper

**All DNP students must complete a scholarly paper outlining the project.**

**Part A** - The DNP Project Proposal must be completed and approved prior to the oral proposal defense of the project to the DNP Project Committee and DNP Director (or alternate administrator).

**Part B** – The DNP Project Final Paper must be completed and approved prior to the oral final defense of the project to the DNP Project, and DNP Director (or alternate administrator).

## Part A

### DNP Project Proposal Outline – Student will need

Sections to be included in the DNP Project Proposal include:

- **Abstract (maximum 250 words)** (819) or Executive Summary -
- **Introduction** (819)
- **Background including:**
  - scope of the practice problem (737)
  - the resulting recommendations – what needs to be done to address the problem (build the case for the project you are proposing) (819)
- **Problem Statement**
  - One to three sentences (737/780) (Nature and significance of the local problem)
  - State why the project is appropriate for the site where it will be implemented (780)
- **Review of the Literature**
  - Summarize, compare, and contrast published literature; what is currently known about the problem, including relevant previous studies (literature table in Appendix), then synthesize the key concepts (819)
- **Theoretical Framework/Evidence Based Practice Model** (780)
  - Informal or formal frameworks, models, concepts, and/or theories used to explain the problem, any reasons or assumptions that were used to develop the intervention(s), and reasons why the intervention(s) was expected to work
- **Goals, Objectives, and Expected Outcomes**
  - Primary and Secondary Aims (780/819) (one to two paragraphs)
- **Project Design**
  - Project site (708) , feasibility (780) and population (808)
- **Implementation Plan/Procedures**
  - Measures and Tools (817)
    - Measures chosen for studying processes and outcomes of the intervention(s), including rationale for choosing them, their operational definitions, and their validity and reliability

- Description of the approach to the ongoing assessment of contextual elements that contributed to the success, failure, efficiency, and cost
- Methods employed for assessing completeness and accuracy of data
- Planned Data collection procedures (817/781)
- Planned Data Analysis; Qualitative and quantitative methods used to draw inferences from the data (817)
- **Timeline/Ghant Chart**
  - Of implementation and evaluation (840A/783or 807)
- **Budget or Resource Requirements** (783/805)
- **Protection of Human Subjects** (805)
- Ethical aspects of implementing and studying the intervention(s) and how they were addressed, including, but not limited to, formal ethics review and potential conflict(s) of interest

## References

- An appropriate listing includes all references cited in Chapter 1. Please see American Psychological Association. (2009). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (6th ed.)*. Washington, DC: Author.

## Appendix

- Project's Evidence Table (begin work in 737, 734 and with final product due in 819) and other supporting materials (as appropriate). Follow APA formatting for in text referencing of Appendices.

**Part B** (Maximum 35 pages for Part A and Part B excluding the Abstract, References or Appendices)

## Format of the Final DNP Project

(Revise Part A – THE DNP Proposal paper to the past tense for final paper adding any content if the planned proposal was not carried out as planned. see above

Additional sections to be included in the final paper include:

## Results

- Key findings, including relevance to the rationale and specific aims

- Particular strengths of the project and limitations
- (Initial steps of the intervention(s) and their evolution over time (e.g., time-line diagram, flow chart, or table), including modifications made to the intervention during the project
- Details of the process measures and outcome
- Contextual elements that interacted with the intervention(s)
- Observed associations between outcomes, interventions, and relevant contextual elements
- Unintended consequences such as unexpected benefits, problems, failures, or costs associated with the intervention(s); details about missing data

### **Discussions**

- Future direction for evidence-based project
- Nature of the association between the intervention(s) and the outcomes
- Comparison of results with findings from other publications
- Impact of the project on people and systems
- Reasons for any differences between observed and anticipated outcomes, including the influence of context

### **Conclusion**

- Sustainability of the project and Dissemination of the Project
- Usefulness of the work and potential for spread to other contexts.
- Suggested next steps

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### **Appendix**

- Project's Evidence Table and other supporting materials (as appropriate). Follow APA formatting for in text referencing of Appendices.

**Authorship:** The DNP Candidate must be the first author on each paper and presentation; and must be prepared under the guidance of at least 1 member of the candidate's project committee or approved faculty member(s) who will be co-author. The student should consult the American Psychological Association. (2009). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (6th ed.)*. Washington, DC: Author. For further information on

publication credit or other professional organization guidelines on authorship and acknowledgement of contributions.

### **Procedure for Completion of DNP Project**

Project must be completed at least 30 days before the date of graduation. Once the DNP Project is completed, the DNP Project Chair signs the Signature and Approval Form that is forwarded to Graduate School. If unsuccessful, the student will receive a grade of U for the semester and repeat the process above.

## **Dissemination of Project**

Dissemination may include any of the following formats as agreed upon by the DNP Project Chair.

- Manuscript (for example peer reviewed journal, white paper, or short brief)
- Oral presentation at local, state or national venue
- Poster presentation at local, state or national venue

Guidelines adapted from

SQUIRE 2.0 Guidelines (2017). Revised standards for quality improvement reporting excellence.

Retrieved from

<http://squirestatement.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=Page.ViewPage&PageID=471>.

Brown, M. A., & Crabtree, K. (2013). The Development of Practice Scholarship in DNP Programs:

A Paradigm Shift. *Journal of Professional Nursing*, 29(6), 330-337.

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