DNP Project

All students enrolled in the DNP program will complete an evidence-based DNP project. The project is a culmination of the knowledge gained in the DNP courses. This project will demonstrate identification and resolution of a practice problem through translation of evidence. The primary objective of these projects is to positively contribute to nursing and/or healthcare. These evidence-based projects may target healthcare delivery systems to improve population health, organizational changes that impact local, regional and national health, and legislation and health care policies to reduce healthcare disparities. Students will identify their project and submit it for formal approval during the first semester project course (NURS 866). The project will be further developed and implemented in subsequent DNP project courses. The project must be completed before graduation.

To complete the DNP project, each student will be assigned to a primary and secondary faculty mentor. The student will also select a practice partner(s) who will collaborate with the faculty mentors and student on the DNP project.

The DNP project plan will include:
- Needs assessment, problem statement and background information
- Feasibility of the project along with market/risk analysis
- Project goals and objectives
- Evaluation plan with methodology and measures included
- Reasonable and comprehensive timeframe
- Budget (if applicable) with funding sources identified

Types of DNP projects:
- Organizational or systems' quality improvement processes
- Analyze and implement a policy change that positively impacts nursing, healthcare systems and/or patient populations
- Develop and implement information technologies to improve outcomes
- Design, implement, and evaluate health care or health education programs.
- Lead interprofessional collaborative projects to implement regional, state, or national policy and evaluate care models.
- Lead consumer and professional coalition projects to develop, implement or evaluate programs.

To meet graduation requirements, the project will include:
- Poster presentation of the DNP project proposal at a professional conference as part of completion of the second DNP project course
- Podium presentation of the completed project at a regional, state or national professional conference at the completion of the fourth DNP project course.
- A submitted manuscript of the completed project to a peer reviewed professional journal at the completion of the fourth DNP project course.
- A DNP project summary of the completed project submitted to the DNP project faculty and DNP project mentor at the completion of the fifth DNP project course.

Role of the DNP practice partner, academic advisor, faculty mentors, course faculty and project review committee

- DNP Practice Partner:
    - Assist the student in selecting goals that support the objectives of the DNP program
    - Guide the student in the development and acquisition of leadership skills required for the project
    - Meet with the student regularly and provide feedback
    - Support completion of the DNP project and communicate as needed with the DNP project faculty

- DNP Academic Advisor
    - Guides the student's program of study
    - Reviews course selections each semester
    - Engages in discussions with the student regarding project goals
    - Meets with the student during intensive and as needed to review progress
    - Reviews progress and writes progress report
    - May serve as a second reader

- DNP Faculty Mentors (primary and secondary)
    - Reviews proposal draft (primary and secondary)
    - Provides timely feedback to students on project proposal, design and implementation (primary)
    - Reviews project course assignments (primary and secondary)
    - Assigns project course assignment and final course grades (primary)
    - Assists the student in preparing/submitting the IRB forms if applicable
    - Assist the student in preparing for poster presentation (primary and secondary)
    - Assists the student with publications (primary and secondary)
    - Meets with the student during intensive and as needed to review progress (primary)
    - Meets with practice partner along with DNP student (teleconference/in person)
    - Gives final approval of DNP project (primary)

- DNP Course Faculty
    - Organizes, teaches and manages the DNP project course
    - Provides timely feedback to student on assignments
    - Meets with students individually as needed
    - Assigns the grade for the DNP project course

- DNP Project Review Committee
    - Reviews project proposals submitted by students in the first DNP project course
    - Provides feedback to students and DNP faculty mentors on the proposed project
    - Approves DNP projects based on the DNP project proposal rubric criteria

Each DNP student will be required to complete the DNP Project Practice Partner form and comply with all terms of the agreement at the location of the project. A copy of the form may be found in Appendix E.

Completion of the DNP Project

The content of the DNP project report is the responsibility of the DNP student and faculty mentor. The following documentation will be completed by the faculty mentor, practice partner, and program chair to ensure successful completion of the written proposal and final written report.

The proposal for the DNP project must be written and approved no later than the completion of Nursing 866: DNP Project I, and prior to project implementation. The faculty mentor is responsible to sign the DNP Written Proposal Evaluation (Appendix F) signifying that the written proposal has met the criteria for proceeding forward with the project. The student is responsible for sharing the written proposal with the practice partner and securing their agreement and support. If the written proposal has met the DNP project proposal criteria, a meeting with the DNP student, faculty mentor, and program Chair will be held to formulate a plan for successful completion of the written proposal. Progression to Nursing 867: DNP Project II is contingent upon successful approval of the written proposal.

Upon completion of the DNP project, the faculty mentor, practice partner, and student will sign the DNP Final Written Report Evaluation (Appendix G). The DNP project must be completed by the end of Nursing 873: DNP Project VI course. The program Chair signature on the DNP Final Written Report Evaluation signifies successful completion of the DNP project as a requirement of the DNP program.

DNP Project Proposal Rubric

Student name: _____

Proposed project title: _____

Faculty mentors: _____

Submission date: _____   **Submission number:** _____

This rubric will guide DNP students in developing a DNP project that positively contributes to nursing and/or healthcare. Students will need to identify and demonstrate a need for the proposed project plan through a formal needs assessment and preliminary literature review. The proposed project plan will involve a systems change based on current evidence and include an evaluation method for measuring outcomes.

1. Students will develop a written plan using the ***DNP Project Proposal Rubric.*** The written summary will include each of the required sections outlined in the ***DNP Project Proposal Rubric***. *The written proposal will be no more than 4 pages, double spaced*.
2. Students will submit their written proposal to the ***DNP Project Review Committee*** by the **Monday following USI's Fall Break (1ˢᵗ submission)**.
3. The ***DNP Project Review Committee*** will evaluate each proposal based on the ***DNP Project Proposal Rubric*** and provide students with feedback. Students will receive a MET or NOT MET.
4. Students who receive a MET for their proposal will go onto the next step of developing their plan proposal in collaboration with their assigned faculty mentors.
5. Project plans that receive a NOT MET will include feedback from the committee on which particular elements were not met with the proposal.
   a. Students will then communicate with their assigned faculty mentors and devise a plan for either modifying the proposed plan or identifying another plan if necessary.
   b. Students will then submit their revised plan to the ***DNP Project Review Committee*** no later than the **second Monday in November** for review.
6. Students not receiving approval of their proposed DNP project plan by **Nov 30ᵗʰ (2nd submission)** will receive an IP for NURS 866 and will be required to resubmit to the ***DNP Project Review Committee*** by the **first day of spring semester (3ʳᵈ submission).**
   a. Following the third submission, if the student does not receive an approval from the ***DNP Project Review Committee*** the student will be unable to progress in the DNP Curriculum.

DNP Project Proposal Rubric

Student name: _____

Proposed project title: _____

Faculty mentors: _____

Submission date: _____   Submission number: _____

		Met	Not Met/ Comments
Introduction to Problem	• Identify problem background • Provide supporting statistics (min 3 stats) Reviewer's comments to DNP student:		

Needs Assessment	• Assess the current practice (current policy/procedure) and identify SWOT for aligning to current EBP
	• Needs assessment includes:
	   ○ *Internal data* supports the problem is a priority for the organization and/or population.
	   ○ *External data (if appropriate)* supports the problem is priority for the organization and/or population
	   ○ The population is description
	   ○ The key stakeholders are identified including rationale on why they were chosen
	
	Reviewer's comments to DNP student:		

Initial literature Review	• An initial literature review supports the problem and an evidence-based intervention is required to address the identified problem • Evidence is within 5 years or seminal articles Reviewer's comments to DNP student:		
Problem statement	• The problem statement explains the background and significance of the proposed practice problem Reviewer's comments to DNP student:		

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DNP Project Proposal Rubric

Student name: _____

Proposed project title: _____

Faculty mentors: _____

Submission date: _____   Submission number: _____

Purpose Statement	• The purpose statement includes the targeted problem, population, intended outcomes, project setting and timeline (if applicable). Reviewer's comments to DNP student:		
Brief summary of proposed plan	• A written summary of the proposed project is logical, is based on current evidence and the needs assessment, and addresses the problem statement Reviewer's comments to DNP student:		
Practice Partner	• The practice partner's position is described and is appropriate for the proposed project plan • Explain how the practice partner will assist the DNP student in achieving the project goals and implementation of the practice change. Reviewer's comments to DNP student:		
Essentials of a DNP Project (AACN, 2015)	The proposed DNP project: • Has a system or population focus • Demonstrates implementation that positively influences nursing practice and/or healthcare (academic settings excluded) • Includes a plan for sustainability • Involves an evaluation process or measurable outcomes Reviewer's comments to DNP student:		
Final DNP project approval:			
Reviewers Comments:			

DNP Project Proposal Rubric

Student name: _____

Proposed project title: _____

Faculty mentors: _____

Submission date: _____ **Submission number:** _____

DNP Project Evaluation Rubric

Name: _____ Primary Faculty Mentor: _____

Secondary Faculty Member: _____ Practice Partner: _____

Students will use this rubric to develop their DNP project report. The written summary will include each of the rubric content headings and should include all elements. Students will review and initial each element on the **_DNP Project Evaluation Rubric_** prior to sending their narrative to their assigned faculty mentors.

Faculty Mentors:
Both the primary and secondary faculty mentors will review and evaluate the written DNP project report according to the required rubric elements.
- The faculty mentors will initial each rubric criteria as either met or not met.
- "Reviewer's Comments" will indicate what elements require revisions.

Students and faculty mentors will determine an agreed upon deadline for any revisions. The agreed upon deadline must allow time for faculty review and approval prior to semester end. Failure to complete the requirements and receive faculty mentor approval by the end of the semester will result in an IN PROGRESS (IP) for that semester.

DNP Project Evaluation Rubric

Narrative Headings (DNP project course)		Met	Not Met
Introduction to Problem (N866)	• Identify problem background • Provide 3-4 supporting references Reviewer's comments to DNP student:		

Needs Assessment (N866)	• Discuss the current practice (current policy/procedure) and identifies current deficits.
	 • Complete a needs assessment including:
	     ○ *internal data* supports the problem is a priority for an organization and/or population.
	     ○ *external data (if appropriate)* to supports the problem is priority for an organization and/or population
	     ○ population description
	     ○ key stakeholders and rationale
	
	 Reviewer's comments to DNP student:		

Literature Review (N866)	• Include a minimum of 20 scholarly references (published within the last five years, unless a seminal article)		

	• Describe the procedure utilized for the literature review (including keywords, search phrases, databases used, number of articles found, inclusion/exclusion criteria, number of articles retained, and why). • Complete a thorough integrated literature review • Synthesize evidence supporting the problem and proposed project plan Reviewer's comments to DNP student:		
Problem statement (N866)	• Construct a problem statement explaining the background and significance of the proposed practice problem Reviewer's comments to DNP student:		
Purpose Statement (N866)	• Develop a purpose statement including the targeted problem, population, intended outcomes, project setting and timeline (if applicable) Reviewer's comments to DNP student:		
Theoretical Framework (N867)	• Integrate key elements of the theoretical framework into the project plan • Explain rationale on theory selection Reviewer's comments to DNP student:		
Project Goals and Objectives (N867)	• Describe proposed goals • Identify specific objectives and strategies to achieve described project goals Reviewer's comments to DNP student:		
Detailed project plan (N866-N873)	• Articulate the proposed project plan including project activities and necessary resources • Explain the DNP student's role in the proposed project plan • Describe how the scope of the project plan is congruent with the problem statement, needs assessment, and scholarly literature review • Identify the project setting and population		

	• Review the required resources for the project plan including those available and plan to acquire those currently unavailable • Include the specific details and required logistics to facilitate replication and transferability to other organizations or populations. • Develop a detailed timeline for completing the DNP project Reviewer's comments to DNP student:		
Marketing plan (N867)	• Create a comprehensive marketing plan • Identify risks and threats to the project plan • Describe key stakeholders • Include marketing medium/media that will be used. Reviewer's comments to DNP student:		
Budget (N867)	• Summarize the budget table • Justify the essential budget items • Explain who granted permission/approval for in kind items (include position/role of person) Reviewer's comments to DNP student:		
Evaluation plan (N867)	• Explain the overall evaluation plan including how each goal and objective will be measured • Provide details of the human subject's protection methods (if applicable). • Provide specific outcome measures including any tools/instruments to be used for data collection; psychometric properties and instruments used; status of permission to use instruments; procedures for data collection. Reviewer's comments to DNP student:		
Results (N871)	• Describe the type of data analysis • Report the outcomes/results for each goal and objective analyzed • Include the effect size calculations if applicable • Summarize data/outcome findings		

	Reviewer's comments to DNP student:		
Discussion (N872)	• Interpret data • Compare/contrast results with current evidence Reviewer's comments to DNP student: •		
Implications (N872)	• Synthesize implications for nursing practice and healthcare systems based on project outcomes and lessons learned Reviewer's comments to DNP student: •		
Sustainability (N872)	• Explain the strategies for sustaining change based on the project outcomes and lessons learned • Discuss organizational support for the project as well as financial support, if applicable. • Describe additional funding from other sources if applicable Reviewer's comments to DNP student:		
Conclusion (N872)	• Summarize key elements of the project Reviewer's comments to DNP student:		
Scholarly Writing: logical, proper grammar, good transitional elements to promote cohesion, APA format, proper primary course citations within text and on reference page			
Date of DNP student's Revision(s)			
Date of Preceptor Revision(s) Request/Approval			
Additional Comments/Feedback:			