Dwight Schar College of Nursing and Health Sciences

Doctorate of Nursing Practice
Scholarly Project Handbook
2020-2021

The DNP Project Introduction

Doctoral education is characterized by a project or product that is the synthesis of the study in which the student has engaged. Nurses prepared at the DNP level are expected to provide leadership for evidence-based practice in nursing. The entire DNP project process provides a vehicle for this outcome to emerge in a manner most consistent with student career goals and objectives. The DNP project produces a tangible academic product derived from the clinical immersion experience.

The final scholarly project will demonstrate the student's ability to evaluate and translate evidence with the educational and practice acumen congruent with the DNP degree. Through the lens of advanced nursing practice, the scholarly project shall be quality improvement and/or evidence-based, and shall involve a population, program, system, or clinical intervention. The project shall be innovative, and include planning, implementation, and evaluation components.

"All DNP Projects will

- Focus on a change that impacts healthcare outcomes either through direct or indirect care.
- Have systems (micro-, meso-, or macro- level) or population/aggregate focus.
- Demonstrate implementation in the appropriate arena or area of practice.
- Include a plan for sustainability (e.g. financial, systems or political realities, not only theoretical abstractions).
- Include an evaluation of processes and/or outcomes (formative or summative). DNP Projects will be designed so that processes and/or outcomes will be evaluated to guide practice and policy. Clinical significance is as important in guiding practice as statistical significance is in evaluating research.

Provide a foundation for future practice scholarship" (AACN, 2019)

https://www.aacnnursing.org/our-initiatives/education-practice/doctor-of-nursing-practice/tool-kit

The faculty has endorsed the criteria for the DNP Project as promulgated by the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculty and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing. Below those criteria are listed along with the Student Learning Outcome that each criteria addresses.

1. The project is related to advanced practice in the nursing specialty and benefits a group, population or community rather than an individual patient. (SLO's: 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9)
2. The scholarly project addresses identified needs. (SLO's: 3, 4, 5, 6, 9)
3. The literature review suggests an evidence base for the project or supports the need for the project. (SLO's: 1, 6)
4. Description of the innovation is adequate for others to use (essential components for success, cost, etc.). (SLO's: 1, 6)
5. A systematic approach is used and data are collected using methods and tools that meet accepted standards. (SLO's: 1, 6)
6. Expected outcomes are defined and measured (SLO's: 2, 6)
7. The project is conducted according to ethical principles. (SLO's: 7, 9)[1]
8. Dissemination modes are professional and public. (SLO: 6)

DNP PROJECT INFORMATION

In summary, the DNP Project is an integral part of the total program of study as well as the culminating activity. It is expected that the project will represent translation of evidence in the area of student specialization. The target benefits of the intervention or innovation designed would be beyond the individual patient or family but focus more on institutions, patient populations or communities. Specific project criteria will be provided to students.

The DNP Project is a faculty-guided experience to address a clinical or practice relevant problem. The DNP Project process provides the student with the opportunity to engage in an immersion experience in their domain of practice. The DNP Project documents the outcomes of the students' educational experiences, provides a measurable medium for evaluating the students practice inquiry competencies and forms the foundation for future scholarly practice. Students will be mentored to conceptualize and approach practice through a scientific mindset – challenging habits of practice, cultivating curiosity about common approaches and forming practice inquiry questions.

The student will begin to build the foundation of knowledge and literature for their DNP project during the core courses. Courses on the DNP role, interprofessionalism, evidence based practice, epidemiology, quality, safety and delivery of healthcare, health policy and healthcare informatics will encourage students to look at their areas of interest from multiple persepectives. Students will be immersed in the literature for their areas of interest. Scholarly project courses will continue this process.

The BSN-DNP student and the MSN-DNP (HSL track) will take 4 semesters of scholarly project courses (1 credit each semester.)

Scholarly Project I-During the first scholarly project course, students will begin to finalize their project ideas. By the end of the course, they will have their PICOT question, abstract, and the start of their literature review. There will be faculty and peer feedback during this semester.

Scholarly Project I- During the second scholarly project I, the literature review will be completed. This will include level of evidence, review of research and non-research literature, building an individual evidence table, and synthesis of the literature. By the end of this semester, the student will give a 5-10 minute presentation of their project to their adviser and 1-2 other faculty for final approval. The DNP project approval form will be signed after the project has been approved.

Scholarly Project II-Review of literature will be updated. Students will determine where the project is to be completed and HSRB will be submitted to Ashland University. If the facility where the project is to take place has an IRB board, the IRB must be submitted first.

Scholarly Project II- The second Scholarly Project II course will be finalization of the written project and preparing the presentation that will occur during the last semester of the DNP track.

MSN-DNP (APRN track) students will take 2 scholarly project courses (2 credits each).
By the end of Scholarly Project I, the student will need to have the HSRB and/or IRB submitted.

They will also have the PICOT questions, abstract, and literature review completed by the end of the course. The student will give a 5-10 minute presentation of their project to their adviser and 1-2 other faculty for final approval. The DNP project form will be signed after the project has been approved.

Scholarly Project II will include the completion of the written project and presentation of the project.

DNP PROJECT INFORMATION

Scholarly Project I-Presentation of Project idea

Date of Project Presentation Idea _____

Title of Project:

Student:

Adviser:

Faculty Present:

Recommendations to student:

Approved:

Approved after changes:

Returned to student:

If the student decides to change the project after approval, they must receive approval from their adviser and repeat this process.

Faculty Roles

The following are faculty roles. Please be aware you may have more than one faculty serve in these roles.

Faculty Adviser - A faculty adviser is assigned to each student when they enter the graduate program based on the program, chosen specialty, and student's area of interest. The student can find the faculty adviser's name and email address on Web Advisor. This faculty will be the adviser for the beginning of the program but may change depending on the DNP project the student chooses.

DNP Project Chair – After the project idea is presented to the adviser and at least one other faculty member, the final DNP project chair will be determined. This project chair will become the student's faculty adviser. The DNP project chair must hold an earned doctorate, must have doctoral faculty status and be a member of the nursing department. The DNP Program Director will provide final approval of the Project Chair and committee members. The student works, with the help of the DNP Project chair, to complete the DNP Project proposal.

DNP Project Committee Guidelines

DNP project chair

1. Chair of the DNP Project committee must be a Nursing department faculty member who holds a terminal degree.
2. There will be a minimum of two members on the committee, at least one of which is a nursing faculty member and is the chair. Usually the second member will be external and provide mentoring to the student in the DNP Project experience.
3. Depending on the topic being explored, the needs of the student and the judgment of the chair additional committee members can be added.
4. The role and function of committee members over and above the chair and the external mentor must be established at the time of appointment to the committee. Such individuals may or may not be full voting members of the committee; they may be consultants or local experts in the student's area of interest.

Preceptor/ External Member
1. It is highly desirable that the external member hold a commonly held terminal degree in their field i.e. PhD, DNP, MD, DO, etc. and/or a masters prepared advanced practice nurse: Certification in the practice arena is also highly desirable.
2. The DNP Director and/or appointed course faculty reserves the right to assess the credentials of all individual applications for preceptors/external members and to make the final decisions regarding their appointment.

The external member will:
- Support the University's values and goals of the program
- Share their expertise in the interest area of the student
- Be committed to the student's academic advancement
- Understand the general principles that guide the exploration of knowledge (i.e. HIPAA, IRB, etc.)
- Pave the way for access and support to the student in order to complete the

DNP Project
- Offer feedback and evaluate the student's progress toward the DNP Project.
- Participate in fostering and facilitating the completion of the DNP Project.
- Participate with faculty and DNP committee

DNP Project: Written
The DNP written project will use professional scholarly language and APA format. The project needs to include at least the following areas: Title, Abstract, Introduction (Problem description, available knowledge, rationale, and specific aims), Methods (Context, interventions, measures, analysis, ethical considerations), Results, and Discussion (summary, interpretation, limitations and conclusion) and references.

DNP Project: Formal Oral Presentation
The final DNP Project is to be presented on or before the Friday before Commencement. Faculty, students and other guests will be invited to attend the presentation. Each student will be given 30 minutes to present their project. The 30 minutes includes 20 minutes for the presentation and 10 minutes for audience questions. The form of presentation is determined by the student and adviser and may be a poster or other oral presentation. Power point is limited to 20 slides. The student should focus on the project and outcomes of the project. The student submits their pre-approved final written project to the DNP Project Chair on the day of the student pre-arranged DNP presentation day. The final written project will include three copies (1 of the 3 copies is hard bound).

DNP PROJECT BLANK SIGNATURE PAGE EXAMPLE

Title of DNP Project

By

Student's Name

DNP Project Paper in partial fulfillment of the requirements

For the degree of

Doctorate of Nursing Practice

Ashland University

Month, Year

SHOULD BE LEFT BLANK

_____   _____

Signature of DNP Project Committee Chair   Date _____

_____

Signature of DNP Program Director   Date

_____   _____

Signature of Dean   Date

DNP Project Final Approval Form*

Student Name:_____   Date: _____

☐   DNP Project Paper Completed

☐   DNP Project Presentation Completed

Title of DNP Project:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____   Date: _____
DNP Project Committee Chair (Please print)

_____   Date: _____
Signature of DNP Project Committee Chair

_____   Date: _____
Signature of External Member or Preceptor

_____   Date: _____
Signature of DNP Program Director