

## Section 3.29 DNP Scholarly Project Addendum 10/16/2020

### 3.29 DNP Scholarly Project

The FNP/DNP graduate must fulfill the current need in the health care system of applying and translating evidence into practice to improve quality, clinical and financial outcomes. The DNP project is the mechanism for students to develop or refine the skill set needed to fulfil this important role. All FNP/DNP students must complete a DNP project that demonstrates practice scholarship.

The goal of the DNP final scholarly project is to develop or refine the DNP skill set outlined in the DNP Essentials. Specifically, students will generate new practice knowledge by “innovation of practice change, translation of evidence and the implementation of quality improvement processes in specific practice settings, systems or with specific populations to improve health or health outcomes” (Task Force on the Implementation of the DNP, 2015, p. 2).

#### Steps and Timeline for DNP Scholarly Project Completion and Work with Committee

Each semester students are expected to reach certain milestones in completing their DNP scholarly project in order to graduate on time. The milestones for full-time FNP/DNP students are as follows:

#### Year 1

- First Trimester
  - Complete DNP Competency Assessment for Practicum Design
- Second Trimester
  - Complete organizational assessment of the practice setting
- Third Trimester
  - Identify a project topic based on organizational assessment from second trimester
  - Submit Project Topic Proposal Summary

#### Year 2

- Fourth Trimester
  - Project Topic approved
  - Assignment of DNP Project Faculty Leader
    - Selection of DNP Project Team members
  - Complete evidence review
- Fifth Trimester
  - Prepare IRB application, if applicable
  - Develop project design and implementation plan

- Oral presentation of DNP Project Proposal
  - Implement DNP Project (pending Proposal approval)
- Sixth Trimester
  - Implement DNP Project

### Year 3

- Seventh Trimester
  - Continuation of DNP Project Implementation
  - Evaluate DNP Project
- Eighth Trimester
  - Submit written DNP Project in journal article format
  - Oral presentation of DNP Project

### Complete Steps for Completion of the DNP Project

1. **DNP Competency Assessment for Practicum Design.** Students must complete the DNP Competency Assessment for Practicum Design in NU710: Health Policy. Completing this self-assessment based on the DNP Essentials helps the student to develop project related activities and practice immersion experiences that strengthens core competencies. Students must update this assessment periodically throughout the program as a tracking mechanism for student achievement of core competencies. See DNP Competency Assessment for Practicum Design form.
2. **Complete organizational assessment of the practice setting.** In NU720: Leading Quality Initiatives & Information Systems, students must complete an organizational assessment of the practice setting where the practice problem resides. As part of this assessment, students will identify the organization's strengths, weaknesses, resources, and other attributes that can help in planning and implementing a project smoothly and successfully.
3. **Project topic identification.** Students must complete assignments in NU 821, and NU 745: Evidence Based Practice for the Doctoral APRN that facilitate the identification of a practice problem that meets the Quadruple Aim criteria.
4. **Submit Project Topic Summary.** Students must complete and submit the Project Topic Summary by the end of NU821: DNP Project Topic Development and submit to the DNP committee via the course professor for NU821. This step formally identifies the project topic, relevance, practice setting, practice mentor and project goal. Students also confirm that the project topic is an organizational priority for the practice setting.
5. **Receive Project Topic Approval.** The DNP Program Faculty will review student Project Topic Summaries in a formal meeting that will take place at the end of NU 821: DNP Project Development. The summary will be returned to the student and newly assigned DNP Project Lead with the committee members' comments and status of 'accepted' OR

'needs revision'. The student will work with DNP Project Leader on DNP Committee identified revisions.

6. **Select DNP Project Leader.** The DNP Program Director will review the student's submitted Project Topic Summary and assign a doctoral prepared Davis & Henley College of Nursing (DHCON) faculty member to serve as DNP Project Faculty Leader of the DNP Student Project Team.
7. **Select DNP Project Team Members.** The DNP Project Team will consist, at minimum of the student, the DHCON DNP Project Faculty Leader and DNP project practice mentor. For some projects, additional experts, mentors, partners, or facilitators may be formal or informal collaborators that provide support as needed throughout the project stages. The DNP Project Faculty Leader and DNP student will work together to select the team members.
8. **Complete evidence review.** Students must complete assignments in, NU822: DNP Project Evidence Review, Recommendations and Proposal Development that support the search and critical appraisal of relevant evidence to inform the practice change recommendation. Based on the evidence students will draft a project plan for implementing the recommendations. Students are expected to continue working on their evidence review with their DNP Project Faculty Leader throughout the program.
9. **Develop Project Plan.** Students must complete and submit a draft of the project plan for course assignments in NU822: DNP Project Evidence Review, Recommendations and Proposal Development. Students are expected to use feedback from peers, course professors and DNP Project Faculty Leader and DNP Project Team Members to refine and revise project plan and methods. The student will submit these revisions to their DNP Project Faculty Leader for review and feedback.

#### Complete Steps for Completion of the DNP Project

10. **Submit Project Proposal.** Students must first submit a written project proposal to their DNP Project Team. After approval, scheduling of the oral DNP project proposal may occur with at least two weeks from the approval of the written proposal. The [DNP Project Proposal Rubric](#) will be used to evaluate the written and oral project proposal.
11. **Give an Oral Presentation of Project Proposal.** Students conduct a formal presentation of the DNP Project Proposal to the DNP Project Team. Course assignments in NU823: DNP Project Proposal Presentation support the development of the oral project proposal presentation. Students are responsible for coordinating the date and time with the Project Team, reserving the room, and obtaining information technology resources. The DNP Project Proposal Rubric are used to evaluate the oral project proposal presentation. Students will be allowed a second attempt to present their proposal to the DNP Project Team if they are unsuccessful the first time. Failing the

proposal on the second attempt will result in an Academic Standings Committee meeting to review student academic progress.

12. **Prepare and Submit DNP Project Proposal to IRB.** Students must work with their DNP Project Faculty Leader to secure IRB approval, if applicable, or other types of setting specific approvals as needed. Typically, IRB approval or other approvals will occur at the setting where the project will occur followed by Sacred Heart University, if required.
13. **Implement and Evaluate the DNP Project.** Students' implement and evaluate their project during the sixth, seventh and eighth semesters. During this time, they must work closely with the DNP Project Faculty Leader and DNP Project Team members.
14. **Present the Final DNP Project.** Students must submit their written project paper to their DNP Project Team. After approval of the written final project paper, the oral project presentation may be scheduled with at least two weeks in advance from the approved written final project paper. Students are expected to make a formal public presentation to their DNP Project Team, with option of invited guests of their DNP scholarly project. Students are responsible for coordinating the date and time with the Project Team and guests, reserving the room, and obtaining information technology resources. A final copy of the PowerPoint slides from the oral project presentation must be submitted to the DNP Project Faculty Leader before graduation. The journal article rubric are used to evaluate the final written and oral project presentation. All forms are located on the DNP website.
15. **Submit the Final DNP Project Written Paper.** Students' written final DNP project in manuscript format must be submitted to the DNP Project Faculty Leader with all completed revisions before graduation. Students are expected to follow the Manuscript Guidelines found on the [DHCON Forms webpage](#).
16. **Submit an Executive Summary.** Students must provide a written executive summary to the organization or practice setting where the project was implemented. A copy will also be submitted to the DNP Faculty Project Leader. Students are expected to follow the Executive Summary Guidelines found on the [DHCON Forms webpage](#).