

CLARKSON COLLEGE – GRADUATE NURSING PROGRAM

DNP SCHOLARLY PROJECT INFORMATION

The **DNP Scholarly Project** is an integrated experience in which students engage as part of the program and its required DNP Hours. The DNP Scholarly Project is completed at the end of the DNP curriculum during three consecutive dedicated scholarly project courses (6 credit hours). During these courses, each student works within a 3-person DNP project team consisting of the DNP student, an appointed internal DNP Project Faculty Chair, and a student-selected, approved external subject-area expert mentor (SAEM).

According to AACN (2020), DNP Project should be guided by evidence-based practice, quality improvement processes, and/or clinical program evaluation and reviewed by the faculty at regular intervals (Faculty and Student Responsibilities section, para. 1). DNP Projects should be designed so that the processes and/or outcomes will be evaluated to guide practice and/or policy.

American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN). (2018). Doctor of nursing practice (DNP) tool kit. Retrieved from <https://www.aacnursing.org/DNP/Tool-Kit>

Types of DNP Scholarly Projects (Select 1)

There are four (4) types of projects from which the DNP student can choose for his or her project. Once the DNP student has selected an option, the student must proceed with that decision. The DNP Project Faculty Chair will be appointed by the program director or designee. ALL OPTIONS/CHOICES require the student to submit a formal Executive Summary upon conclusion of the project.

CHOICE 1: Evidence-based comprehensive action plan to address a healthcare outcome

- The DNP student will present an in-depth evidence-based analysis and synthesis of the evidence related to a selected topic relevant to advanced nursing practice and the improvement of healthcare outcomes.
- This type of project will include a well-written description and synthesis of the evidence, including an evidence matrix that documents the current evidence related to the topic, if applicable.
- As the DNP student progresses through the DNP project courses, he or she will develop a comprehensive action plan for implementing the best evidence-based solution, or the solution based on the evidence that has the greatest potential for impacting clinical practice and healthcare outcomes.
- By the end of the last DNP project course (DNP 962), the student should have an evidence-based action plan ready to implement in the clinical setting.

Note:

- Requires project site letter of support, if applicable
- Complete Human Subject Determination Form

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CHOICE 2: Public health policy action plan to address a healthcare outcome

- The DNP student will present an in-depth evidence-based analysis and synthesis of the evidence related to a selected topic relevant to advanced nursing practice and the improvement of healthcare outcomes.
- This type of project will include a well-written description and synthesis of the evidence, including an evidence matrix that documents the current evidence related to the topic, if applicable.
- The DNP student may complete a public database inquiry, gathering de-identified data to develop a comprehensive action plan to influence policy change, legislation advocacy, and/or a public health initiative.

Note:

- Requires project site letter of support, if applicable
- Complete Human Subject Determination Form

CHOICE 3: Quality improvement plan addressing a healthcare outcome

- The DNP student will present an in-depth evidence-based analysis and synthesis of the evidence related to a selected topic relevant to advanced nursing practice and the improvement of healthcare outcomes.
- This type of project will include a well-written description and synthesis of the evidence, including an evidence matrix that documents the current evidence related to the topic, if applicable.
- The DNP student will select a group of participants with whom to develop a comprehensive action plan to implement, including evaluation of the plan in the clinical setting.

Note:

- Requires project site letter of support, if applicable
- Complete Human Subject Determination Form

***CHOICE 4:** A case study with a client addressing a healthcare outcome

- The DNP student will develop an in-depth evidence-based synthesis of evidence on a selected topic relevant to clinical practice and the improvement of health care outcomes.
- This type of project will include a well-written description and synthesis of the evidence, including an evidence matrix that documents the current evidence related to the topic.
- The DNP student will select a client with whom to develop a comprehensive action plan to implement, including evaluation of the plan in the clinical setting.

Note:

- Complete Human Subject Determination Form
- Requires project site letter of support

***BSN-DNP Nurse Anesthesia may not choose this option.**

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Executive Summary

The Executive Summary submitted upon completion of the Scholarly Project must include the following headings:

- Introduction
- Identify Nursing Practice Problem (Background & Significance)
- PICOT Question
- Analysis & Synthesis of Literature/Evidence, including Gaps
 - Summary of Evidence & Most Compelling Evidence for a Solution, including Clinical Relevance
- Plan for Implementing the Solution
- Plan for Evaluating the Proposed Solution
- Plan for Dissemination
- Conclusion
- References

Dissemination of the DNP Project

In addition to submitting an Executive Summary, at the conclusion of the DNP Project, all DNP students must disseminate prior to graduation via one of these presentation methods:

1. Presentation at the clinical site where the project was completed; if possible, Faculty Chair present or Zoom presentation recorded for asynchronous viewing.
2. Presentation within the classroom at the College; Faculty Chair present, Graduate Nursing faculty and peers may attend. BSN-DNP Nurse Anesthesia students will present in the final semester on campus.
3. Virtual presentation (e.g., Zoom); Faculty Chair, Graduate Nursing faculty, and peers may attend.

The presentation may be open to the public. All project team members (i.e., Faculty Chair and external subject area expert mentor) are invited to attend. Other stakeholders are also invited to attend.

Following the presentation/dissemination, the DNP student is encouraged to continue working with his or her Faculty Chair to submit the Executive Summary of the project for publication in a relevant scholarly/peer-reviewed journal.