

DNP Project and Residency Handbook

Overview of the DNP Project and Residency

The purpose of this handbook is to serve as a guide for the development and implementation of the DNP Project and Residency. The DNP degree culminates in an integrated, practice-focused project or DNP Project (AACN, 2006). Reflecting AACN (2015) guidelines, the focus of the DNP Project is practice change through translation of evidence and quality improvement.

The DNP Project and Residency provide an opportunity for the student to engage in clinical scholarship and integrate new knowledge and skills into the practice setting to achieve advanced practice competencies delineated in the *DNP Essentials*. The integration of these new or refined skills improves healthcare outcomes through organizational/systems leadership, quality improvement processes, and the translation of evidence into practice (AACN, 2015)

The Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Nursing Practice (American Association of Colleges of Nursing, 2006) states “the final DNP Project produces a tangible and deliverable academic product that is derived from the practice immersion experience and is reviewed and evaluated by an academic committee”. The Project demonstrates acquisition of the Doctor of Nursing Practice Essentials competencies.

DNP PROJECT TEAM ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

All DNP students develop a Project in collaboration with an agency consultant and faculty mentor as part of the DNP Project Team.

<https://www.aacnnursing.org/DNP/Tool-Kit>

DNP Student – The DNP student serves as the Project Leader by establishing and maintaining a Project team that draws upon the expertise and priorities of team members in the development, implementation, and evaluation of the DNP Project. Specific responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Establish a collaborative relationship with their faculty mentor.
- Establish the partnership with the Agency Consultant
 - Interprofessional collaboration is encouraged
 - [DNP Project and Residency Agency Consultant Acknowledgement.pdf](#)
- Convene regular team meetings to discuss progress, communicate frequently with Project team members including faculty mentor to clarify roles of the team members and Project management timeline.

- As necessary, revise Project management timeline and authorship responsibilities (if applicable).
- In collaboration with faculty mentor, obtain any and all necessary approvals to proceed in all phases of the Project.
 - [DNP Project and Residency Course Letter of Agreement.pdf](#)
- Review and abide by all University of Florida and clinical agency policies and procedures. (e.g., IRB, QIPR, HIPPA)
- Maintain log to document time devoted to plan, implementation, evaluation, and dissemination of the Project
- Submit final deliverable to DNP Project team for evaluation.
- Pending approval by faculty mentor, disseminate final deliverable in an approved format

DNP Project Faculty Mentor – The faculty mentor is responsible for collaborating with the DNP student to guide the development, implementation, evaluation, and dissemination of the DNP Project. Specific responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Serve as primary support for the DNP student and Project team members.
- Review and provide feedback of drafts on both written and oral presentations
- Serve as primary support for technical, content, and methods expertise
- Assist the student in maintaining the clinical agency partnership
- Participate in regular meetings with the DNP student and Project team members
- Review and evaluate key milestones within the Project management plan and assist the student in achieving the milestones for a successful implementation.
- Evaluate final DNP Project deliverables in collaboration with the Project team members
- The responsibility of the faculty mentor includes the oversight of the design, implementation, and evaluation of DNP Project and associated experiences that are aligned to student and program outcomes (Residency).

DNP Project Agency Consultant – The DNP Project Agency Consultant's primary responsibility is to serve as a resource within the clinical agency to support the implementation and evaluation of the DNP Project. Specific responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Collaborate with the student, faculty mentor, and Project team to ensure that the DNP Project aligns with the strategic initiatives of the clinical agency
- Refer the student and faculty mentor to appropriate agency stakeholders to facilitate communication and approval for the Project
- Support the student in the implementation of the Project in accordance with the clinical agency policies and procedures.

- Assist in problem solving along with the faculty mentor to facilitate the implementation of the DNP Project

DNP PROJECT

According to the AACN Position Statement, The Doctor of Nursing Practice: Current Issues and Clarifying Recommendations (2015), all DNP Projects should:

- Focus on a change that impacts healthcare outcomes either through direct or indirect care
- Have a system (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 should 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

Examples of DNP Projects:

- Implementation of an evidence-based intervention or practice guideline
- Quality improvement initiatives
- Program development and evaluation
- Policy implementation, analysis, revision
- Design and evaluation of a new practice model
- Needs assessment to inform improving clinical practice and patient outcomes (may include use of integrated data repository i2b2)

Note: Systematic literature reviews alone are **not** sufficient for DNP Projects

DNP RESIDENCY (NGR7940L)

The DNP Residency consists of four 1 semester credit hour courses equaling 48 hours of *indirect* clinical hours per semester. Residency courses are taken in conjunction with DNP Project courses. The DNP Residency hours *must support* the development and implementation of the DNP Project. Residency activities assist the student in meeting the DNP Essential competencies. Table 1 includes examples of DNP Residency activities. All Residency activities should be documented as appropriate.

Activities that are a requirement of your job or are provided with compensation, will not count towards your DNP Residency hours.

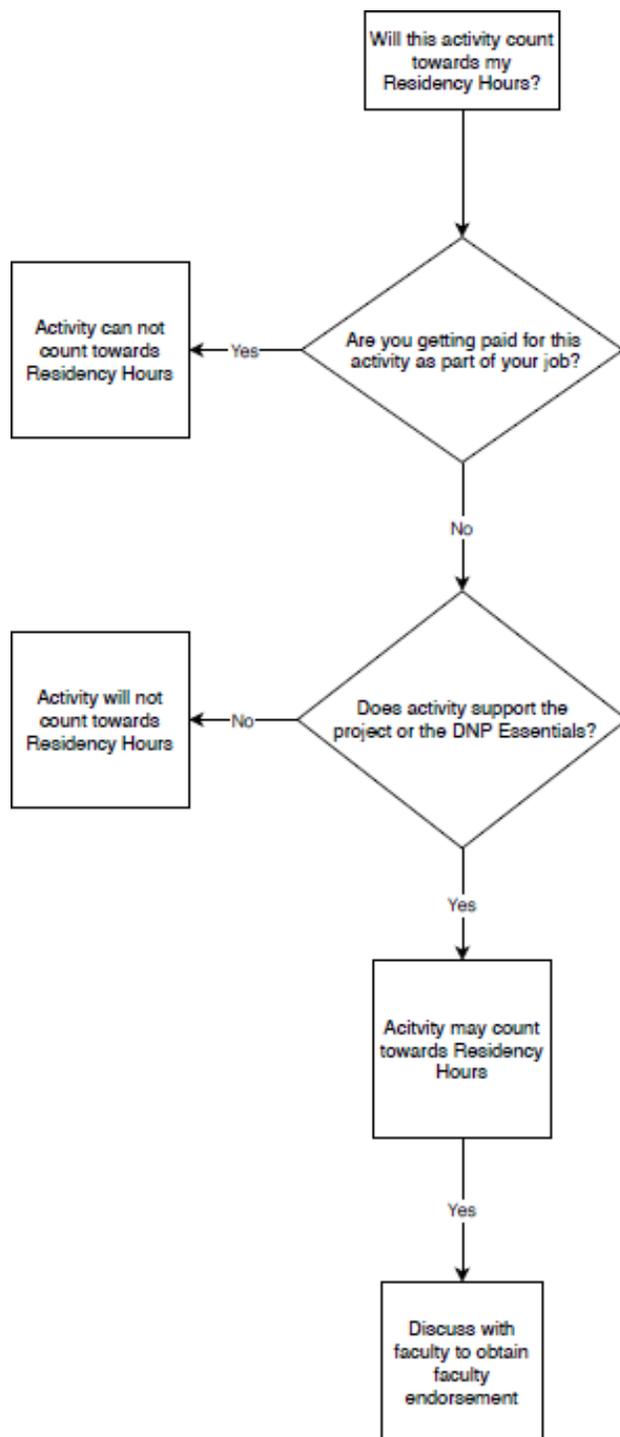
Figure 1: Residency Activity Decision Algorithm

Table 1

AACN DNP Essential	Exemplar Residency Activities
Essential I: Scientific Underpinnings for Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate a practice protocol related to Project focus • Attend scientific conference or professional workshop directly related to the DNP Project focus
Essential II: Organizational and Systems Leadership for Quality Improvement and Systems Thinking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with key stakeholders, agency contacts and others regarding the DNP Project • Attend and participate in meetings of leadership team in clinical agency • Experiential time in the clinical agency working on some aspect of the Project
Essential III: Clinical Scholarship and Analytical Methods for Evidence-Based Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in presentations, rounds and seminars related to the DNP Project • Formal skill building to develop, implement, or evaluate Project (such as tutorials, meetings, consultation with experts, professional, or community conference attendance)
Essential IV: Information Systems Technology and Patient care Technology for the Improvement and Transformation of Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate systems to enhance safety and quality of health care • Participate in formal skill building in Information and patient care technology to support DNP Project focus
Essential V: Health Care Policy for Advocacy in Health Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage in advocacy activities related to social justice, equity, and ethical policies in local, regional and national arenas
Essential VI: Inter-professional Collaboration for Improving Patient and Population Health Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present to or facilitate work groups related to the DNP Project, e.g., planning and Project development and implementation
Essential VII: Clinical Prevention and Population Health for Improving the Nation's Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onsite experience with agencies such as Health Departments, County Extension Agencies, Community Agencies/Organizations such as Red Cross, American Heart Association etc. to examine prevention and population health related to DNP Project focus

Essential VIII: Advanced Nursing Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review courses for nurse practitioner national certification exams* • Attend professional presentations, seminars and workshops directly related to advanced practice specialty focus* (i.e. annual FNP and/or AANP conference, FNP affiliate meetings)
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***These activities limited to 10 hours total**

OVERVIEW OF DNP PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION (NGR7970L)

The DNP Project course consists of four 1 credit hour semesters and is organized to help the student establish and implement the DNP Project. Each semester contains the expected steps and deliverables in order to complete the DNP Project. It is recognized that students will progress at different rates throughout the implementation phase of the Project. See timeline table for overview.

Pre-DNP Project Implementation

The following core courses prepare the DNP student to develop and implement the DNP Project.

Core Courses and Objectives supporting the DNP Project

Course	Course Objectives Supporting DNP Project
NGR 6101 Theory and Research for Advanced Nursing Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critique research studies used to explore clinical problems in nursing. • Differentiate between quantitative and qualitative research approaches and their appropriateness to nursing inquiry.
NGR 6836 Leading Quality Improvement Practice Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the phases of a quality improvement project • Identify successful interventions to improve health and health outcomes for different populations.
NGR 6840 Applied Statistical Analysis I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critique data analysis and interpretation of complex results in current research articles.
NGR 6850 Research Methods and Evidence-based Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Articulate the definition and differences between EBP and CQI in health care. • Synthesize clinical investigative skills by completing an extensive literature search to identify a nursing related question or problem to improve health outcomes. • Analyze the quality and reporting guidelines for continuous quality improvement and research studies.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop new practice/next steps design approaches based on the integration of research, theory, and practice knowledge.
NGR 6870 Nursing Informatics and Information Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate the ability to extract and utilize practice data from large databases to address clinical problems relevant to nursing practice. • Perform a critical assessment and evaluation of a health information system or technology to identify the potential impact on the quality, cost, safety and effectiveness of the nursing care provided.
NGR 6638 Health Promotion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze risk factors and recommended prevention strategies to improve population health. • Integrate principles of behavioral change and anticipatory guidance in the development of culturally relevant and linguistically appropriate health education, communication strategies and interventions.
NGR 7891 Health Policy and Finance in Advanced Nursing Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze the influence of health policy, social factors and other variables on advanced nursing practice roles and methods of health care delivery. • Critique health policy issues at the local, state, national, and international levels that affect the health care system and the nursing profession. •
NGR 7700 Health Systems Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze leadership theories and organizational frameworks for systems change regarding organizational culture, interdisciplinary stakeholder involvement, and equitable distribution of resources in health care systems. • Utilize a strategic process framework for planning, implementing and evaluating organizational goals.

DNP Project Course Implementation (Table 2)

DNP Project (Semester 1)

In semester 1 of the DNP Project course, the student focuses on the essential components of the DNP Project necessary in order to complete the Project. The student will develop a DNP Project Proposal that will serve as the basis for implementing the Project. The Project Proposal should follow a standard template and contain the key elements to implement the DNP Project. Key elements of semester 1 include:

- [DNP Project Template.pdf](#)
- Background and significance of DNP Project topic
 - DNP Project topics are practice-focused and improve healthcare outcomes through quality improvement, practice innovation/change, or process improvement
- Develop a problem statement
- Identify key stakeholders
- Identification of the agency and agency consultant for the DNP Project
- Reproducible literature review and literature matrix [Literature Matrix.docx](#)
- Theoretical or change model [Theoretical Conceptual Framework Models.pdf](#)
- Project design
- Timeline with milestones/deliverables
- Data analysis / evaluation plan
- Plan for Project sustainability including financial impact
- Dissemination plan

DNP Project (Semesters 2-3): Project Start-up and Implementation

In semester 2 and 3 of the DNP Project course, the student focuses on refining the established proposal from semester 1 based upon feedback from the faculty mentor, agency consultant and key stakeholders and begins to formulate the necessary elements to implement the Project. Key elements of semesters 2 and 3 include:

- Refine the Project proposal from semester 1 [..\DNP Program Enhancement Handbook 8 25 2020\proposal_paper_rubric.pdf](#)
- Formalizing the Project team
- Gaining the appropriate agency approvals
- Formalizing the stakeholder base
- Determining if agency or UF IRB approval is needed (<https://bridge.ufhealth.org/>) under the Research tab. Access through VPN
- Determining if quality improvement Project registry (QIPR) register is needed (note: QIPR is *not* an approval process) [Quality-Week-Poster-2019 What is QIPR.pptx](#)

- IRB and QIPR can be accessed through the UF Bridge Page must access with VPN
- Student collaborates with faculty mentor and agency consultant to initiate the Project once approvals (i.e. IRB, agency) are obtained
- Collects, stores and accesses data according to the approved Project Proposal (and IRB protocol, if appropriate). Analyze/evaluate data in collaboration with faculty mentor and agency consultant
- Identifies DNP Project outcomes and analyzes significance for clinical agency and advanced practice
- Draft results/outcomes and discussion section of DNP Project Paper
- Update dissemination plan

DNP Project (Semester 4): Project Completion / Project Close-Out

In semester 4 of the DNP Project course, the student focuses on the completion of the DNP Project and dissemination of findings. Key elements of this semester include:

- Writing the final DNP Project Paper [..DNP Program Enhancement Handbook 8 25 2020\project paper or journalarticle rubric.pdf](#)
- Submit abstract for poster presentation
- Disseminating the Project results as a poster (required) Poster templates can be found on the College of Nursing Home Page under the Research tab
- Disseminating the Project results as a manuscript (optional)
- Close the IRB protocol of applicable
- Store or discard data. Refer to data plan and/or IRB protocol
- Submit final evaluation form by Faculty Mentor [DNP Final Project Evaluation Final Form.pdf](#)
- Upload final paper and UF Repository Grant of Permissions-Pilot form to Canvas [Grant of Permissions.pdf](#)

Table 2 Graphic Representation of DNP Project Progression

Deliverables	Project Semester 1	Project Semester 2	Project Semester 3	Project Semester 4
Identify an area of interest	X			
Identify agency and agency consultant	X			
Proposal draft see appendix	X			
Timeline with key milestones	X			
Evidence grid	X			
Refine Project proposal		X		
Obtain agency approvals (see appendix)		X		
IRB approval (if applicable) UF IRB		X		
QIPR (if applicable) QIPR		X		
Approval to initiate Project		X	X	
Project implementation		X	X	
Data collection			X	
Evaluate data			X	
Evaluate project outcomes and significance for agency and advanced practice			X	
Revise dissemination plan			X	
Write final DNP Project Paper				X
Write an abstract for a poster/podium presentation				X
Poster presentation				X
Project close-out through IRB				X
Final evaluation form submitted by Faculty mentor				X
Submit final DNP Project Paper and Granting Permission form to Canvas				X

References

American Association of Colleges of Nursing. The essentials of doctoral education for advanced nursing practice. American Association of Colleges of Nursing Web site.
<http://www.aacn.nche.edu/publications/position/DNPEssentials.pdf>.

AACN DNP toolkit <https://www.aacnnursing.org/DNP/Tool-Kit>

American Association of Colleges of Nursing. New white paper on the DNP: current issues and clarifying recommendations. American Association of Colleges of Nursing Web site.
<http://www.aacn.nche.edu/news/articles/2015/dnp-white-paper>