

# DNP PROJECT POLICY

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## DNP Project Advisor

Project advisors are assigned to doctoral students by faculty based on the area of expertise, methodology and availability. Once the assignment is made, the project advisor assumes primary responsibility for supervising the student throughout the entire project process, although assignments related to the project are integrated into coursework and should be submitted to the course instructor as outlined in the DNP Project Timeline. If a student experiences difficulty with the advising assignment and wishes to request a change in DNP project advisor, the student is required to submit a formal letter to the DNP Director describing the reasons a change in advisor is being requested. If a change in advisor is granted, the student will be assigned to a committee of faculty to oversee completion of the project.

## Progression

A BSN-DNP student may not enroll in NURS 9130 Evidence-Based Practice and Information Systems unless the student has submitted the project proposal to the RMU IRB or the IRB at the agency where the project is being conducted. **The IRB application must be approved by the project advisor prior to submission to the IRB.** If a student has not submitted to IRB by the start of the semester in which the student is registered for NURS 9130, the student must withdraw.

## Graduation

BSN-DNP graduation requires completion of a DNP project advisor approved project manuscript, oral presentation to the faculty, poster of the DNP project, and submission of the completed time log of project hours in adherence with the DNP project timeline and requirements for NURS 9620 Applying Evidence-Based Practice in Healthcare Settings.

## If the DNP project is not completed before graduation:

Failure to complete the requirements for NURS 9620 will result in an Incomplete (I) grade in NURS 9620. Thirty days prior to graduation, students who do not anticipate completion must submit a formal, written request for participation in the graduation ceremony. A determination will be made by the DNP Council.



| <p><b>Spring<br/>Year 3</b></p> | <p><b>NURS 8140<br/>(EBP and Advanced<br/>Nursing Roles)</b></p>                      | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Send the statistical consultant and project advisor the project proposal:<br/>-student should provide statistician and DNP project advisor with abstract/purpose/ and copy of corrected proposal prior to the meeting<br/>-must include project design, sample selection, methods: how and where data will be collected<br/>-general research questions (<b>refer to Appendix A</b>)</li> <li>2. PowerPoint Overview for faculty</li> <li>3. Submit instrument paper</li> <li>4. Submit a Letter of Support to course instructor from the organization where project will occur</li> <li>5. Submit <b>DNP project advisor approved IRB proposal</b> due by the last day of the Spring term or student will receive an Incomplete in NURS8140.</li> </ol> | <p>Course instructor,<br/>DNP project<br/>advisor and<br/>statistical<br/>consultant</p> <p>Course instructor<br/>and DNP project<br/>advisor</p> |
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| <p><b>Semester</b></p>          | <p><b>Course</b></p>  | <p><b>DNP Project Competency</b></p>   | <p><b>Responsibility</b></p>  |
| <p><b>Summer<br/>Year 3</b></p> | <p><b>NURS 9130<br/>(Evidence-Based<br/>Practice and<br/>Information Systems)</b></p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Determine and develop data analysis plan, including how to code data</li> <li>2. Implement project late summer/early fall</li> <li>3. Enter data into SPSS</li> <li>4. Begin analysis of data (<b>Refer to Appendix A</b>)</li> </ol>  | <p>Course instructor<br/>DNP project<br/>advisor and<br/>statistical<br/>consultant</p>   |

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| <p><b>Spring<br/>Year 4</b></p> | <p><b>NURS 9620<br/>(Applying EBP in<br/>Health Care Settings)</b></p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Write abstract for professional presentation using APA format</li> <li>2. Data Analysis should be submitted to Dr. Cline by February 1<sup>st</sup> (<b>Refer to Appendix A</b>)</li> <li>4. Final Draft of manuscript submitted to advisor by March 20th</li> <li>5. Complete manuscript for publication using APA format. Final manuscript and front cover sheet signed by advisor by April 20th</li> <li>6. PowerPoint to advisor by March 31st</li> <li>7. Final PowerPoint approved by advisor by April 10th</li> <li>8. Successful oral presentation of DNP project mid-April prior to graduation</li> </ol> <p>*DNP project advisors are expected to get back to students within 2 weeks of submission. If this does not occur, student should contact DNP Director.</p> | <p>Course instructor and DNP project advisor</p> <p><b>DNP PROJECT ADVISOR MUST</b> sign final approval of DNP project and PowerPoint presentation prior to the presentation</p> |
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Approved 11/9/2012  
Revised: 7/2020

## Appendix A

### DNP Project Guidelines for Statistical Analysis by Statistician

1. Students should send Dr. Cline their DNP project **proposals** when they are completed in NURS 8140. The proposals should include:
  - a. overall design and sample selection (subjects who will participate)
  - b. methods section (how and where the data will be collected)
  - c. general research questions that identify key variables of interest, along with the proposed measures (or tools) that will capture these variables. The research questions should be stated in everyday language, e.g., “I would like to test the difference in anxiety (STAI I) between the control and intervention groups.”
2. Students should meet with Dr. Cline during the Summer Immersion Weekend (Master’s to DNP Program) or late summer or early fall (BSN-DNP Program) to discuss their proposal and draft a data analysis plan, including: variable specification, coding, and building a template in SPSS or Excel to receive the forthcoming data. This content is provided and students are prepared in NURS 9130.
3. Students should code, enter, and begin the analysis of data. **The data base and preliminary data analysis must be reviewed with the DNP project advisor prior to submission to Dr. Cline.** Screen the data in SPSS or Excel and submit it to Dr. Cline **prior to February 1 of their graduating year**. Along with the data, students should clearly state each research question in the following format:
  - a. Independent Variable (identified by name on the Excel or SPSS)
  - b. Dependent Variable (identified by name on the Excel or SPSS)
  - c. Statistical Test (Dr. Cline will help students identify the correct tests)
  - d. Output of data analysis performed by student
4. Dr. Cline will confirm the data analysis and present the findings to the students and DNP project advisor.
5. Students should follow-up and discuss the findings with their DNP project advisor.
6. Students (and DNP project advisor) can follow-up and discuss the findings with Dr. Cline prior to student presentations.