

Clinical doctoral degrees are distinguished by the completion of a project that demonstrates synthesis of your work and lays the groundwork for future practice scholarship. The DNP Synthesis Project is a scholarly experience in which you will implement and evaluate an evidence-based practice to improve clinical or population outcomes under the guidance of a faculty committee and practice mentor.

DNP Synthesis Project Guidelines

All DNP students (BSN to DNP and Post-Master's DNP) will complete an evidence-based synthesis project as a requirement for completion and graduation.

1. Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) students are required to complete a DNP Synthesis Project over the course of 3 semesters in NURS 821, NURS 822 and NURS 823. The DNP Synthesis Project is a rigorous project during which students will identify issues in the practice/organizational setting and will develop, implement, evaluate, integrate, and apply research-based evidence to improve healthcare outcomes. The Graduate Coordinator will advise students who require additional courses to meet the post-BSN requirement of 1000 hours; additional courses will need to be taken to meet this requirement.
2. The DNP Program features a plan of study structured around the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Nursing practice (2006) and focuses on the development of skills and knowledge needed to increasingly complex roles in nursing practice and leadership.
3. You will identify a clinical topic within your area of interest and develop an in-depth understanding of the issue through extensive review of the research literature and examination of the ethical, political, economic and cultural aspects inherent in the problem. The project must be evidence-based and demonstrate synthesis of all areas of DNP development.
4. You are required to participate in the on-campus, end-of-program activity related to professional dissemination and presentation of the DNP Synthesis Project.
5. After completion of the DNP Synthesis Project, you must file with the Nursing Graduate office four approved copies of your final project in the finished form (approved by the Graduate School), each with an approval sheet with original signatures in black ink. The finished project must meet the requirements specified in the publication *Guidelines for the Preparation of Theses, Dissertations, and DNP Synthesis Projects*, available on the Graduate School website. The DNP program has established American Psychological Association (APA) as the style to be used for synthesis projects in the Doctor of Nursing Practice program.