An Innovative Structure for Guiding the DNP Scholarly Project: Expected Timeframes, Format, Faculty Support, and Dissemination Options

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• I have nothing to disclose.  
• I do not have any conflicts of interest.  
• No sponsorship or commercial support was provided for this presentation.
Objectives

- Describe how an innovative structure for the DNP scholarly project can optimize student success.
- Discuss key ways to support students during the development and implementation of the scholarly project.
- Identify ideas that may be applicable to implement in your DNP program.
Vanderbilt University School of Nursing
Nashville, Tennessee, USA

- DNP Program established 2008
- 88 DNP Faculty
- Both a full-time and a part-time option
- Online with one week intensive session each semester
- 65-70 students enrolled in each cohort
- DNP Scholarly Project required for degree conferment
Scholarly Project Integrative Courses

Series of three integrative application of evidence-based practice courses:

- Course 1: Proposal draft, committee member appointed
- Course 2: Proposal paper and presentation, IRB submission, dissemination options determined
- Course 3: Implementation, data analysis, written and oral final scholarly products
Statement of the Problem

- 2014: 21 students requested incomplete grade contracts
- Scholarly writing
- Data analysis
- Expectations and process
- Project paper as final assignment
Scholarly Project Process Guidelines

- 16 page document explanation each step of the scholarly project
- Posted in every course related to the project
- http://www.nursing.vanderbilt.edu/current/dnpscholarly.html
Solutions to the Problem

- Mentoring and Support
- Project Timelines
- Evaluation Tools
- Scholarly Writing Support
- Biostatistician
- Dissemination Options
Structure: Mentoring and Support

Small Group
Integrative
Course Faculty
Member

Student

Committee Chair

Committee Member(s)
Project Timelines

- Step-by-step timeline of the scholarly project process for each integrative course

- Emailed by course coordinator prior to the start of the semester

- Student is required to fill-in the timeline dates
  - Be prepared to present timeline to committee during the intensive week committee meeting
  - Must be signed by Committee Chair and student
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prior to Intensive Week</th>
<th>Prior to Intensive Week</th>
<th>Prior to Intensive Week</th>
<th>Prior to Intensive Week</th>
<th>Intensive Week</th>
<th>Initial: 5/25  Response: 5/31</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Readings</td>
<td>Intensive Small Group Session: Project Proposal Overview PowerPoint</td>
<td>Develop Scholarly Project Proposal Timeline</td>
<td>Schedule appointment with Chair to meet during the DNP intensive week</td>
<td>Meet with Chair</td>
<td>Discussion Board 1: Methodology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonnel and Smith (2014) text: Chapters 10 – 15</td>
<td>Email PowerPoint presentation to your small group faculty leader no later than May 3, 2015</td>
<td>This timeline is a required tool to be used throughout N430 and to review with Chair during DNP intensive week.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Chair’s approval of this document is required and must be signed. Post timeline to Blackboard after meeting.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/15/15</td>
<td>Personal objectives</td>
<td>1. Email objectives to Chair. 2. Obtain Chair’s required approval. 3. Revise as appropriate and submit to Blackboard.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Receive peer feedback in the discussion board. A small group faculty leader will email feedback to student and Chair.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Email Section III draft to chair</td>
<td></td>
<td>Email at least six weeks before Scholarly Project Proposal presentation. Multiple revisions may be necessary. Allow Chair two weeks to return draft with comments and edits.</td>
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<td>Revise Section III from the Chair’s suggestions/edits and continue to improve Sections I and II</td>
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<td>Date</td>
<td>Task</td>
<td>Details</td>
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<td>7/24</td>
<td>Integrate academic achievements and evidence of meeting the DNP Essentials in portfolio.</td>
<td>Share portfolio to Chair and small group faculty leader on Box.com; approval is not required by Chair. <a href="https://vanderbilt.app.box.com/login">https://vanderbilt.app.box.com/login</a></td>
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<td>7/24</td>
<td>Submit to Blackboard:</td>
<td>Progression to N440 is contingent upon successful completion of the N430 course requirements. IRB approval is not required to complete this course.</td>
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<td>- Graded Scholarly Project Proposal Paper</td>
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<td>- Scholarly Project Proposal PowerPoint</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Scholarly Project Proposal Oral Presentation Evaluation Tool (PDF)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>- Scholarly Project Proposal Paper Evaluation Tool</td>
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<td>- Scholarly Project Proposal Evaluation Form (PDF)</td>
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<td>- IRB application</td>
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</table>

*Italicized dates are required due dates for course. All other dates are a suggested timeline for the course at the discretion of the Committee Chair.*

**Unless otherwise noted, assignments should be submitted to the Assignment tab in Blackboard.**

***Please note that this timeline does not include Discussion Board II and the small group Skype for Business (Lync) meeting. They are required assignments for the course but do not pertain to your proposal.***

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Student:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Printed Name</th>
<th>Electronic Signature</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Committee Chair:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Printed Name</th>
<th>Electronic Signature</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</table>
Scholarly Project Evaluation Tools

- Written proposal
- Oral presentation of proposal
- Final written paper
- Final oral presentation
Elements of Evaluation Tool

- Writing scholarship/APA format
- Oral presentation
- Problem/Background / Purpose
- Literature synthesis
- Theory/Framework
- Methodology
- Data analysis
- Results/Findings
- Discussion
- Impact on practice
- Dissemination and future implications
## DNP Scholarly Project Proposal Paper Evaluation Tool

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRITERIA</th>
<th>EXCELLENT = 100-94</th>
<th>SATISFACTORY = 93-87</th>
<th>MARGINAL = 86-80***</th>
<th>UNACCEPTABLE = 0</th>
<th>SCORE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. APA format</td>
<td>• APA format correct.</td>
<td>• APA format with some errors.</td>
<td>• APA format with frequent errors.</td>
<td>• APA format is not used.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• References correct.</td>
<td>• References with some errors.</td>
<td>• References with frequent errors.</td>
<td>• References not cited.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Appendices correct.</td>
<td>• Appendices with some errors.</td>
<td>• Appendices with frequent errors.</td>
<td>• Appendices not used.</td>
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<td>• Title page</td>
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<td>• IRB approval</td>
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<td>• Data collection instruments</td>
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<td>• Letters of support</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Theoretical model</td>
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<td>• Concept map</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Appropriate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comments:</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Writing Scholarship</td>
<td>• Professional written communication.</td>
<td>• Some errors in written communication.</td>
<td>• Frequent errors in written communication.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Correct grammar is used.</td>
<td>• Some errors in grammar.</td>
<td>• Frequent errors in grammar.</td>
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<td>Comments:</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Introduction</td>
<td>Introduction clearly stated and discussed.</td>
<td>Introduction stated with some discussion.</td>
<td>Introduction stated with minimal discussion.</td>
<td>Introduction not included.</td>
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<td>Comments:</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Problem Statement</td>
<td>Problem clearly stated and discussed.</td>
<td>Problem stated with some discussion.</td>
<td>Problem stated with minimal discussion.</td>
<td>Problem statement not included.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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<table>
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<th>UNACCEPTABLE = 0</th>
<th>SCORE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14. Data Analysis</td>
<td>• Plan for data analysis appropriate to methodology.</td>
<td>• Plan for data analysis adequately described.</td>
<td>• Plan for data analysis inappropriate to methodology.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Plan for data analysis comprehensively described.</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Plan for data analysis poorly described.</td>
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Comments:

| 15. Resources Needed/ Budget Justification | Resources needed for project comprehensively identified and proposed budget included. | Resources needed for project identified and proposed budget included. | Resources needed for project and proposed budget incomplete. | Resources needed for project and budget not included. |       |

Comments:

**AVERAGE** | 0.00

**Committee Chair:**

Once signature is inserted, the form will be locked and no additional changes can be made.

***All criteria must meet the Marginal level or higher and a score at least a B-/2.7/80% for a student to progress.***

All final course grades of X.5 or higher will be rounded to the next highest whole number (example: 89.5 would become 90, A-).
A grade of X.49 would not round up (89.49 would remain a B+).
Scholarly Project Forms

- Scholarly Project Committee Appointment Request Form
- Scholarly Project Proposal Evaluation
- Scholarly Project Presentation Evaluation

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY School of Nursing
Doctor or Nursing Practice Program

**FORM 1 of 3**

**SCHOLARLY PROJECT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT REQUEST**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Student:</th>
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**Proposed Scholarly Project Topic:**

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**COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP COMPOSITION:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee Chairperson:</th>
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<tr>
<td>(Name)</td>
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<th>Committee Member:</th>
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<td>(Name)</td>
<td>(Signature)</td>
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</table>

**APPROVAL:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mavis Schorn</td>
<td>(Name)</td>
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<tr>
<th>DNP Program Director:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Terri Allison Donaldson</td>
<td>(Name)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** This Signature locks the file and must be done last.
DNP SCHOLARLY PROJECT PROPOSAL

Student: 
(First)  (Last)

Date:  
Time:  

Proposed Scholarly Project Topic: 

EVALUATION:  
Approved  
Approved (with minor recommendations)  
Not Approved

Remarks: 

Dissemination Plan:  
Scholarly Paper  or Journal Article  AND Slide Presentation  or Poster Presentation

Student:  
(Signature)

Committee:  
Committee Chair:  
(Name)  (Signature)

Committee Member:  
(Name)  (Signature)

Committee Member:  
(if applicable)  
(Name)  (Signature)

Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs:  
Mavis Schorn  

DNP Program Affairs:  
Terri Allison Donaldson  

NOTE: This Signature locks the file and must be done last
DNP SCHOLARLY PROJECT FINAL PRESENTATION EVALUATION

Student: ___________________________  ___________________________
(First)  (Last)

Date: ________________  Time: ________________

Proposed Scholarly Project Title:


EVALUATION:  Approved □  Approved (with minor recommendations) □  Not Approved □

Remarks:


Student: ___________________________
(Signature)

Committee:

Committee Chair:
(First) ___________________________  (Last) ___________________________
(Name)  (Signature)

Committee Member:
(First) ___________________________  (Last) ___________________________
(Name)  (Signature)

Committee Member:
(if applicable)
(First) ___________________________  (Last) ___________________________
(Name)  (Signature)

Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs:
Mavis Schorn  (Signature)
Scholarly Writing Support

- Assist with editing project proposals and papers/articles to help improve scholarly writing

- Address:
  - Writing style
  - Congruence between sections of the paper
  - Flow
  - Conciseness and completeness

- Emphasize: Clear articulation of thought process
Biostatistician:

- Development of the proposal (measurement of outcomes)
- Data analysis

- Approval of statistical assistance must first come by Committee Chair and initiated by the student
- All communication is via email and includes the student and committee members
Dissemination: The Key is Options

Oral
- PowerPoint
- Poster

Written
- Journal Article
- Paper

OR
AND
Guides for Dissemination

- Committee Chair, Members, Small Group Faculty Leader
- Scholarly Paper: *Scholarly Project Paper/Journal Evaluation Tool*
- Journal Article: Peer reviewed journal’s *Author Guidelines*
- Podium Presentation: *Final Scholarly Project Presentation Guidelines*
- Poster Presentation: *Scholarly Project Poster Booklet*
Outcomes

- 2014: 21 students with incomplete grade contracts
- 2015: 2 students with incomplete grade contracts
- Successes and limitations
- Lessons learned
  - Clear expectations and communication
  - Iterative process
Lessons Learned: Keys for Scholarly Project Excellence

Students
- Communicate
- Expectations
- ASK questions
- Timeline development
- Time management
- Organized and accountable
- Anticipate
- Dedication

Faculty
- Communicate
- Email responses must include committee members and course faculty leader
- Ongoing involvement
- Feedback
Questions ?
Contact Information

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Vanderbilt University
School of Nursing
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Nashville, TN 37240 USA
Karen.a.hande@vanderbilt.edu
615-875-8713