

DNP Course Descriptions

Philosophical and Theoretical Basis for Clinical Scholarship and Practice

This course addresses the philosophical and theoretical underpinnings for clinical scholarship and practice. DNP students will use these theories, models and frameworks to develop advanced skills in exploring and critiquing evidence, identifying relevant data, analyzing research reports and programs to synthesize and translate the evidence for clinical practice. The theories and models discussed will provide a foundation for the DNP student's clinical scholarly project.

Research Design and Statistical Analysis for Advanced Practice Nursing

The role of research in evidence based practice is addressed. This course presents the research process from inception through data analysis. Concepts include the role of research in practice, identification of a research question, conducting a literature review, quantitative and qualitative research designs, ethics in clinical research, issues in sampling and data collection, and data analysis with applied statistics.

Clinical Epidemiology and Genomics for Advanced Practice Nursing

The focus of this course is on the role of the advanced practice nurse in improving the community's health outcomes. An integration of epidemiological principles, population health issues, and advanced nursing clinical concepts are presented to support decision making skills. Content includes the role of epidemiology and study designs, screening and disease prevention, epidemiology of chronic illnesses, culture, genetics, emergency preparedness and ethical and legal issues.

Clinical Leadership, Ethics, and Legalities for Role Development

Clinical leadership and role development are addressed. This course focuses on development of expertise in interprofessional collaboration across the health care team to create effective solutions and overcome complex issues related to health care delivery. Enhanced leadership and communication skills among various professionals in multiple disciplines are emphasized that involves populations of rural and under-served patients to create change. Focus will be on developing advanced leadership skills and understanding of complex ethical and legal issues as well as development and evaluation of potential solutions necessary for health care delivery in the DNP role.

Health Care Systems Policy and Financial Management

This course addresses the broad context of socio-economic, political, legal and power considerations in the development of state and national health policy with direct application to the role of the doctorate in nursing practice (DNP). Policy issues will be integrated as they influence advanced nursing practice using social justice theory. Critical analysis of health policy at the local, state and federal levels is seen as essential content along with the goal of developing leadership skills to influence policy. Focus will be on developing policy and advanced practice skills in financial management for health care coordination.

Improving Health Outcomes: Understanding Global Justice and Social Determinants

This course focuses on understanding the impact of global justice and social determinants on health outcomes. Healthy People 2020 address the social determinants of health and identifies

ways to create social and physical environments that promote good health for all. Students will explore how programs, practices, and policies affect the health of individuals, families and communities. Global justice (fairness) will be discussed to help students better understand our world and our responsibility in it. Planning for this course may include travel abroad to observe and learn about health care systems management from a global perspective.

Information Systems and Technology in Health Care

This course addresses the use of information systems and patient care technology to support the clinical decision making process and to improve the safety and quality of patient care and health care systems. Students will design a plan for using information systems and technology in the implementation and evaluation of an evidence-based practice change initiative.

Methods for Evidence Based Practice in Specialty Focused Practicum I

This course provides practice hours for the DNP study to apply the knowledge and skills learned in the program to a practice setting. The settings will depend on the student interest and career goals. The purpose of the practice work is to design, implement and evaluate observed change that will improve health outcomes for individuals, families, communities and populations. Students will also engage in active leadership to evaluate health policy, effectively communicate and collaborate with a variety of health professionals to implement change in health care delivery systems. Methodologies to improve quality and safe outcomes in patient-centered care situations will be designed, implemented, evaluated, and disseminated to advance the practice of nursing.

Methods for Evidence Based Practice in Specialty Focused Practicum II

This course builds on Practicum I and provides practice hours for the DNP study to apply the knowledge and skills learned in the program to a practice setting. The settings will depend on the student interest and career goals. The purpose of the practice work is to design, implement and evaluate observed change that will improve health outcomes for individuals, families, communities and populations. Students will also engage in active leadership to evaluate health policy, effectively communicate and collaborate with a variety of health professionals to implement change in health care delivery systems. Methodologies to improve quality and safe outcomes in patient-centered care situations will be designed, implemented, evaluated, and disseminated to advance the practice of nursing.

Methods for Evidence Based Practice in Specialty Focused Practicum III

This course builds on Practicum I and II and provides practice hours for the DNP study to apply the knowledge and skills learned in the program to a practice setting. The settings will depend on the student interest and career goals. The purpose of the practice work is to design, implement and evaluate observed change that will improve health outcomes for individuals, families, communities and populations. Students will also engage in active leadership to evaluate health policy, effectively communicate and collaborate with a variety of health professionals to implement change in health care delivery systems. Methodologies to improve quality and safe outcomes in patient-centered care situations will be designed, implemented, evaluated, and disseminated to advance the practice of nursing.

Clinical Scholarly Project

The knowledge-generating effort the DNP student completes is a practice focused project. It is an integrated and integral part of the practice experience which is embedded in all course work

throughout the entire program of study. The project purpose is to design and evaluate programs that change and enhance advanced nursing practice to improve the health of populations.

DNP Residency/Orientation

This course gives the student credit for orienting to the program each year to gain a thorough understanding of the expectations and outcomes of doctoral study. The students will also come to campus to meet each other, faculty and participate in scholarly discussions with experts to enhance the socialization into the advanced practice role at the doctoral level.