Nuts and Bolts of the DNP Scholarly Project Journey

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Welcome Clinical Scholars!

• Agenda

• Core dimensions of Clinical Scholarship
  – Linking to the Curriculum
  – Linking to the DNP Scholarly Project
  – Linking to Program Outcomes
  – Linking to DNP Degree!
The DNP Clinical Scholar

• Near universe recognition of the clinical scholar skill set inherent in the DNP Degree
  – Evidence generators for improvement
  – Translation specialists
  – Evaluator (for sustainability)
  – Dissemination
  – Business acumen
Scholar & Scholarship

- Clinical Scholar

- A practice-based clinician that is educated to navigate the complex health care system.

- Clinical Scholarship

- ...an approach to clinical practice that integrates intellectual curiosity and scholarly inquiry....

- Source: NONPF
Scholarship

- Follows the Boyer Model

Discovery
Integration
Application
Teaching
Building Scholarship through The DNP Tool Kit

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The DNP Tool Kit

- Various tools
- 1. The Essentials
- 2. The curriculum
- 3. A scholarly project
- 4. A project mentor
AACN’s DNP Essentials

I. Scientific underpinnings for practice
II. Systems leadership for quality
III. Evidence-based practice
IV. Informatics
V. Health care policy
VI. Interprofessional collaboration
VII. Population health
VIII. Advanced nursing practice

Source: AACN (abbreviated language)
## The DNP Curriculum*

Each course links to an Essential

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Summer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CGN 5306 (Biostats)</td>
<td>CGN 8070 (Vuln. Pop)</td>
<td>CGN 8020 (Leader Quality)</td>
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<tr>
<td>CGN 8030 (EBP)</td>
<td>CGN 8010 (Philosophy)</td>
<td>CGN 8080 (Care Deliv)</td>
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<td>CGN 8040 (Informatics)</td>
<td>CGN 8050 (Policy)</td>
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<td>CGN 8060 (Collaboration)</td>
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<td>CGN 8001 (Ed 1)</td>
<td>CGN 8002 (Educ # 2)</td>
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Each course contributes to the Scholarly Project

*Titles are abbreviated in this slide
Fall Year 1

- Courses
  - CGN 5306 (Biostats)
  - CGN 8030 (EBP)

- Tools
  - Stats Concepts
  - Stats Software
  - AORN Evidence Tool
  - Reflection

Phases:
A discovery of science and evidence
The beginning of collaboration
The beginning of written scholarship
Milestones: Fall Year 1

- Recognize breadth of the *Essentials*
- Understand data
- Master literature retrieval & appraisal
- Begin linkages to
  - Prospectus
  - Program outcomes
- Begin mentor/Project Chair partnership
Spring Year 1

- Courses
  - CGN 8070 (Vuln Pop)
  - CGN 8010 (Philosophy)

- Tools
  - Vulnerability Assessments
  - Theory, Frameworks

Phases:
An appreciation of theory
Continuing collaboration/mentorship
Milestones: Spring Year 1

• Continue linkages to
  – Prospectus
  – Program outcomes

• Build upon mentor/Project Chair partnership
  – Clinical immersion with mentor
Summer Year 1

- Courses
  - CGN 8020 (Quality)
  - CGN 8080 (Care Deliv)

- Tools
  - Improvement
  - Measuring
  - Leadership

Phases
- Tangible tools for improvement
- Leadership awareness
- Systems thinking
- Continuing collaboration with mentor
Milestones: Summer Year 1

• Improvement tools
• Continue linkages to
  – Prospectus
  – Program outcomes
• Build upon mentor/Project Chair partnership
  – Clinical immersion with mentor
• Project life cycle with mentor
Fall Year 2

- Courses
  - CGN 8040 (Info)
  - CGN 8060 (Collabor)

- Tools
  - Large Data Set
  - Interprofessional recognition

Phases
- Moving to independence
  - Tangible work products
  - Building other scholarly works
  - Continuing collaboration
Milestones: Fall Year 2

• Finalize Prospectus (as needed)
• Launch Independent Project
• Build upon mentor/Project Chair partnership
  – Clinical immersion with mentors continues
Spring Year 2

- **Courses**
  - CGN 8050 (Policy)
  - CGN 8090 (Project I)

- **Tools**
  - Advocacy

**Phases**

**Ownership**

Tangible work products

Translation Evidence to practice

Continuing collaboration
Milestones: Spring Year 2

• Finalize Prospectus (as needed)
• Independent Project continues
• Build upon mentor/Project Chair partnership
  – Clinical immersion with mentor continues
• Celebrate with Commencement exercises
Summer Year 2

- Courses
  - CGN 8090 (Practice)

- Tools
  - Testing the skills
  - Presentations

Phase
Dissemination!
  Scholarly works
Closure
Launching Life long learning
Milestones: Summer Year 2

• Wrap up!
  – A scholarly project
  – A synthesis of the practice hours

• Celebrate
The DNP Scholarly Project

- A synthesis of the student’s work
- Mastery of the DNP Essentials
- Scholarship
- Expertise in the care of vulnerable populations
- DNP Program outcomes

The Student is the Driver of the Process.
Details

• CGN operationalizes the DNP Project as

  – A project that emerges from clinical practice based on the broad paradigm of scholarship that narrows the evidence to practice gap.

  – One that targets a practice problem for improvement.....
Student’s Work

• An investigation/demonstration of scholarship and critical judgment in the theoretical and methodological approaches to the translation of nursing knowledge for practice impacting the care of vulnerable populations.
Vulnerable Population

- DNPs are expected to influence the current health care system and improve outcome measures in a selected vulnerable population.
Approach

• Problem identification
• Identification of Evidence
• Implementation of Evidence
• Evaluation of Improvement
• Dissemination
• Reflection
DNP Project Team

- The DNP Student
- The DNP Scholarly Project Chair
- The DNP Mentor
DNP Scholarly Project Chair
DNP Practice Mentor

• A practice-based individual that has expertise with the population and setting.
Utilize the Mentor
DNP Project Hours
Practice Hours

• AACN standards indicate that a minimum of 1,000 hours is needed for DNP completion
  – All courses have opportunities for practice

• A minimum of 500 hours is achieved post masters
Practice Hours

• Use practice hours to develop expertise in a topic under the mentor’s guidance

• Document practice hours in accordance with CGN practices (more details later)

• Make sure forms are in place!
DNP Program Outcomes

• The College of Graduate Nursing has adopted 9 DNP program outcomes (July 2016). These outcomes represent achievable measures that CGN Faculty members believe DNP students should obtain prior to completion of the degree.

• Page 5 of DNP handbook
Suggested Pre Reading

- Helps create the *DNP Identity*
- Provides a deep dive into each of the essentials.
- Utilize often in your writings.

Suggested Pre Reading

• Provides the foundation for DNP projects.

• A full circle approach to translational science.

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Forms

• Practice Dissertation Topic & Committee
  – What is the topic? Who is on the committee?
• Advancement to Candidacy
  – After prospectus or 8080
• IRB approval/Exemption
• Dissertation Dissemination Verification
• Request for Diploma Release

All Forms are in the CGN Student Center
The Best Project.....

- ....Is a DONE project.

  - Yours will be among the BEST
Practice Hours

• No student has ever failed to reach the minimum.
Upon Completion

• At completion, you will have:
  – Practice hours/documentation that reflect activities that support the Essentials
  – A completed practice dissertation
  – An abstract
  – A paper trail
Pearls from the Faculty

• Just breathe
• Plan accordingly
• Small stuff sometimes doesn’t matter
• Have fun!
• It ain’t rocket science
Group Questions