Dual Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program

Student Handbook

2017-2018

A Dual Program of the
University of North Carolina, Charlotte
and Western Carolina University

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9201 University City Blvd.
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https://nursing.uncc.edu/degree-programs/dnp-program

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Welcome to the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program

The faculty and staff at UNC Charlotte and Western Carolina University (WCU) welcome you to our collaborative dual degree Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program, a unique effort between UNC Charlotte and WCU. We are proud to offer our dual program to students interested in advancing their clinical practice, scholarship and leadership skills. Our DNP program is a practice-focused doctoral program designed to prepare Post Master’s Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) to lead innovation in nursing practice and healthcare.

The DNP program educates nurses prepared in advanced practice nursing roles (NP, CRNA, CNL, CNM and CNS) or health systems/organizational leadership to provide leadership in clinical inquiry, scholarship, policy, and innovation in health care. The DNP degree prepares graduates to analyze systems of care and provide transformational leadership to improve patient safety, quality of care, and implement evidence-based culturally competent care practices. Students are able to specialize in one of two areas: advanced clinical practice or systems/population practice. Translation of research findings into evidence-based practice is emphasized throughout the program, and broad goals of the program include the ability to interpret, analyze, and apply research findings to clinical and systems/population level practice settings, determine and measure system and population outcomes, manage information systems, and use appropriate technology for health and risk management and communication.

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) represents the highest level of preparation in nursing practice and leadership. The program, offered in a hybrid format, allows students the benefit of the strength of a combined faculty and an enhanced pedagogical instruction while experiencing both urban and rural health care perspectives. Students alternate semesters of participation on-site at UNC Charlotte and WCU as a means of implementing this unique approach.

We are committed in preparing competent and compassionate healthcare professionals who will achieve the DNP as the terminal degree in Nursing for practice, and this handbook serves as a guide to the program. Information in the handbook is specifically designed to make clear the curriculum requirements and progression criteria for the DNP program. It is our hope that you will find the handbook helpful as you progress through the program.

On behalf of the faculty, staff and administration, we wish you much success as you pursue your doctoral education with us through the Dual DNP Program at UNC Charlotte and WCU. Our goal is that you experience a supportive, innovative and rich learning environment as you complete your degree and educational journey.

Charlene Whitaker-Brown, DNP, MSN, FNP-C, CHFN
UNC Charlotte/WCU Dual Doctor of Nursing Practice
Program Coordinator, Clinical Assistant Professor
The School of Nursing, UNC Charlotte

Karen Lewis, DNP, FNP-BC
Director, Post Masters Doctor of Nursing Practice Program,
Assistant Professor
Western Carolina University

For general DNP program information: Contact Dr. Charlene Whitaker-Brown, Program Coordinator at UNC Charlotte, cdwhitak@uncc.edu or Dr. Karen Lewis, Program Director at WCU, kmlewis@email.wcu.edu.
General Information

Introduction

This student handbook is designed for graduate students enrolled in the dual degree Post-Masters Doctor of Nursing Practice Program at the University of North Carolina Charlotte and Western Carolina University. The dual DNP degree program provides Master’s prepared nurses with opportunities for practice-based doctoral education. The DNP program is taught by the graduate nursing faculty and advanced practice nurses and leaders from both universities and the community.

The DNP program has been developed to meet recommendations of the American Association of Colleges and Nurses (AACN), the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF), the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) and American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP).

The dual Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree offered by the UNC Charlotte and Western Carolina University prepares graduates to analyze systems of care and provide transformational leadership that will improve patient safety, quality of care, and implement evidence-based (translational) culturally competent care practices. Graduates from this program will be able to interpret and apply research findings to practice settings, determine and measure system and population outcomes, manage information systems and use appropriate technology for health and risk communication. DNP graduates will have the skills and abilities to substantially contribute to system reform to achieve goals articulated by the Institute of Medicine, the National Academy of Sciences, and the National Quality Forum.

The Philosophy, Mission, Core Values and Goals of the School of Nursing at UNC Charlotte can be found in the School of Nursing Student Handbook, http://nursing.uncc.edu/student-resources/student-handbooks

The Philosophy Mission, Core Values and Goals of the School of Nursing at Western Carolina University can be found in the School of Nursing Graduate Student Handbook.

Note: This handbook is incorporated into the UNCC School of Nursing Student Handbook located at http://nursing.uncc.edu/student-resources/student-handbooks

Program Outcomes

Upon completion of the DNP program, graduates will:

- Analyze and integrate evidence from nursing science with evidence from other relevant scientific disciplines to form a scientific foundation for advanced practice in nursing.
- Apply clinical scholarship, scientific evidence, and analytical methods to improve health care outcomes.
- Develop and evaluate systems to enhance safety and quality of health care.
• Advocate and participate in collaborative interdisciplinary efforts to improve health outcomes at the practice/organization, community, state and national levels.
• Engage in culturally competent and ethically sound advanced nursing practice.
• Demonstrate leadership in the improvement of patient outcomes and transformation of health care delivery.
• Directly manage complex health problems of clients or develop and implement organizational systems to facilitate access and navigation of the health care system.

Figure 1: Essential Elements of Analysis, Leadership, and Practice in the DNP Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Analysis</th>
<th>Leadership</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation of complex health problems</td>
<td>Knowledge of health care delivery systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnosis of problem</td>
<td>Advocacy for health policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence based practice</td>
<td>Communication skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Health indicators</td>
<td>Cultural competence and humility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social determinants of health</td>
<td>Ethics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Practice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advanced practice specialty knowledge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mastery of advanced practice specialty skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cognate knowledge relative to specialty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design and coordination of services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>System of care factors affecting patient outcomes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DNP Core Competencies**

Dual DNP Program Overview

The DNP Advisory/Oversight Committee is composed of the DNP Program Director/Coordinator, two additional elected DNP program faculty members from each school who are involved in practice, a DNP student representative from each School, and the Associate Directors of the Graduate Division from each school as Ex-officio members.

Responsibilities of the Advisory/Oversight Committee include:
1. Approvals of admission recommendations from each school.
2. Recommendations for changes to courses and curriculum.
   a. Advisory/Oversight Committee makes recommendations to WCU and UNCC curricula committees.
   b. Each school makes curricular changes per their internal approval processes.
3. Student progression through the program
   a. Dual DNP handbook with differences for each program noted in handbook.
   b. DNP Scholarly Project guided by DNP committee.
   c. Approvals of completed DNP Scholarly Projects.
4. Recommendations for graduation.
5. Other Program issues that may arise.

Each appointed DNP Coordinator/Director is directly responsible to the School of Nursing administration. The WCU Coordinator is directly responsible to the Director, School of Nursing at WCU and the UNC Charlotte Coordinator is directly responsible to the Associate Dean/Director, School of Nursing at UNC Charlotte. The DNP Coordinator/Director communicate with each other and are the leaders of the Advisory Committee. The Director of the School of Nursing at WCU and the Director of the School of Nursing at UNC Charlotte collaborate and ensure overall success of the Dual DNP Program.

Curricular issues identified by the DNP Advisory Committee (See Organizational Chart for DNP Program) are considered and changes approved through normal channels at each school. Students will be enrolled at the admitting university and will be subject to all policies of the admitting school and university.

DNP Program Contact Persons

UNC Charlotte:
- Dr. Charlene Whitaker-Brown (704-687-7964 / cdwhitak@uncc.edu) – UNC Charlotte/WCU Dual Doctor of Nursing Practice Program Coordinator
- Dr. David Langford (704-687-7967/ dtlangfo@uncc.edu) - Interim Associate Director, Graduate Division
- Dr. Dena Evans (704-687-7974/ devans37@uncc.edu) – Interim Director, UNCC School of Nursing
Western Carolina University:
- Dr. Karen Lewis (828-654-6502 / kmlewis@email.wcu.edu) – DNP Program Director
- Dr. Ramona Whichello (828-654-6514/ rwhichello@email.wcu.edu) – Interim Associate Director, School of Nursing

Organization Chart for Dual DNP Program

Curriculum Plan
The Doctor of Nursing Practice program requires 42 post-master’s graduate semester credit hours and completion of a total of 1000 clinical hours (including 500 hours in the same clinical practice specialty from the MSN program). Starting in the fall of 2016, the Dual DNP Program began offering a full time and part time schedule. Applicants who completed fewer than 500 hours in their MSN program and do not hold an approved national certification will be expected to complete additional clinical hours in order to achieve the total of 1000 for the DNP program. Approved national certifications include:

- AACN or AANP National certification as a Nurse Practitioner in specialty
- NBCRNA as a Nurse Anesthetist
- AONE Certification in Executive Nursing Practice (CENP)
- ANCC Nurse Executive-Advanced
- ANCC Clinical Nurse Specialist in specialty
- CNC as a Clinical Nurse Leader
We are still reviewing national nurse educator certifications that will meet the clinical hour requirement. Nurse educator students will be advised by the program coordinator/director at the student’s home university upon admission.

All students will be required to complete the curriculum that includes a sequence of courses as listed in the plan of study that follows.
## Doctorate of Nursing Practice Program—UNCC/WCU

**PROGRAM OF STUDY: Dual DNP Post Masters Admission**  (42 Semester Hours)

### FULL-TIME YEAR ONE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FALL Semester @ UNCC (8)</th>
<th>SPRING Semester @ WCU (8)</th>
<th>SUMMER Semester @ UNCC (9)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• <strong>NUDN 8140/NSG 814</strong> Foundations and Applications of Evidence Based Practice (3)</td>
<td>• <strong>NSG 818/NUDN 8145</strong> Leadership and Project Planning (3)</td>
<td>• <strong>NUDN 6202/NSG 802</strong> Community Epidemiology (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• <strong>NUDN 8150/NSG 815</strong> Healthcare Program Evaluation and Quality (3)</td>
<td>• <strong>NSG 817/NUDN 8147</strong> Applied Biostatistics (3)</td>
<td>• <strong>NUDN 8160/NSG 816</strong> Global Health &amp; Social Justice (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• <strong>NUDN 8441 or NSG 883</strong> Clinical Residency and Project Development I (2) <strong>TAUGHT AT EACH UNIVERSITY</strong> (Individual projects directed by faculty at each school)</td>
<td>• <strong>NSG 884 or NUDN 8442</strong> Clinical Residency and Project Development II (2) <strong>TAUGHT AT EACH UNIVERSITY</strong> (Individual projects directed by faculty at each school)</td>
<td>• Elective (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Face to face ORIENTATION @ UNCC</strong></td>
<td>Elective taken at either university</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### FULL-TIME YEAR TWO

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FALL Semester @ WCU (9)</th>
<th>SPRING Semester @ UNCC (8)</th>
<th>SUMMER Semester</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• <strong>NSG 822/NUDN 8220</strong> Health Care Policy and Ethics (3)</td>
<td>• <strong>NUDN 8260 /NSG 826</strong> Leadership, and Healthcare Systems (3)</td>
<td>Summer to complete elective and/or finish project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• <strong>NSG 823/NUDN 8230</strong> Economic &amp; Financial Aspects of Healthcare System (3)</td>
<td>• <strong>NUDN 8270/NSG 827</strong> Technology for Communication and Transforming Healthcare (3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• <strong>NSG 885 or NUDN 8443</strong> Clinical Residency and Project Development III (3) <strong>TAUGHT AT EACH UNIVERSITY</strong> (Individual projects directed by faculty at each school)</td>
<td>• <strong>NUDN 8444 or NSG 886</strong> Clinical Residency and Project Development IV (2) <strong>TAUGHT AT EACH UNIVERSITY</strong> (Individual projects directed by faculty at each school)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Project Presentation (face to face/public presentation with Project Committee)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Didactic Courses taken by all students at UNCC Charlotte during Academic Year (12):
- Foundations and Applications of Evidence Based Practice (3)
- Healthcare Program Evaluation and Quality (3)
- Leadership, and Healthcare Systems (3)
- Communication for Technology and Transforming Healthcare (3)

Didactic Courses taken by all students at WCU during Academic Year (12):
- Leadership and Project Planning (3)
- Applied Biostatistics (3)
- Health Care Policy and Ethics (3)
- Economic & Financial Aspects of Healthcare System (3)

Didactic Courses taken by all students at UNC Charlotte during Summer (6):
- Community Epidemiology (3)
- Global Health & Social Justice (3)

Courses taken by only students at admitting campus (9)
# Doctorate of Nursing Practice Program—UNCC/WCU

## PROGRAM OF STUDY: Dual DNP Post Masters Admission  (42 Semester Hours)

### PART-TIME YEAR 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FALL Semester @ UNCC (6)</th>
<th>SPRING Semester @ WCU (6)</th>
<th>SUMMER Semester @ UNCC (3)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• NUDN 8140/NSG 814 Foundations and Applications of Evidence Based Practice (3)</td>
<td>• NSG 818/NUDN 8145 Leadership and Project Planning (3)</td>
<td>• NUDN 8202/NSG 802 Community Epidemiology (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• NUDN 8150/NSG 815 Healthcare Program Evaluation and Quality (3)</td>
<td>• NSG 817/NUDN8147 Applied Biostatistics (3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>

IMMERSION/ORIENTATION AT UNCC – 4 DAYS

IMMERSION/ORIENTATION AT WCU – 3 DAYS

### PART-TIME YEAR 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FALL Semester @ WCU (6)</th>
<th>SPRING Semester @ UNCC (6)</th>
<th>SUMMER Semester @ UNCC (3)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• NUDN 8441 or NSG 883 Clinical Residency and Project Development I (2) TAUGHT AT EACH UNIVERSITY (Individual projects directed by faculty at each school)</td>
<td>• NSG 884 or NUDN 8442 Clinical Residency and Project Development II (2) TAUGHT AT EACH UNIVERSITY (Individual projects directed by faculty at each school)</td>
<td>• NUDN 8160/NSG 816 Global Health &amp; Social Justice (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• NSG 823/NUDN 8230 Economic &amp; Financial Aspects of Healthcare System (3)</td>
<td>• NUDN 8260/NSG 826 Leadership and Healthcare Systems (3)</td>
<td>• Elective (3) (taken at either university)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IMMERSION/ORIENTATION AT WCU – 3 DAYS

PROJECT TOPIC APPROVAL PROPOSAL AT HOME UNIVERSITY

### PART-TIME YEAR 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FALL Semester @ WCU (6)</th>
<th>SPRING Semester @ UNCC (5)</th>
<th>SUMMER Semester</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• NSG 822/NUDN 8220 Health Care Policy &amp; Ethics (3)</td>
<td>• NUDN 8270/NSG 827 Technology for Communication and Transforming Healthcare (3)</td>
<td>Completion of elective and/or finish project if needed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• NSG 885 or NUDN 8443 Clinical Residency and Project Development III (3) TAUGHT AT EACH UNIVERSITY (Individual projects directed by faculty at each school)</td>
<td>• NUDN 8444 or NSG886 Clinical Residency and Project Development IV (2) TAUGHT AT EACH UNIVERSITY (Individual projects directed by faculty at each school)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IMMERSION/ORIENTATION AT WCU – 1 DAY

IMPLEMENTATION DEBRIEF AT HOME UNIVERSITY

IMMERSION/ORIENTATION AT UNCC – 1 DAY

PROJECT PRESENTATION FINAL DEFENSE AT HOME UNIVERSITY (Public Presentation with Project Committee)

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**Didactic Courses taken by all students at UNC Charlotte during Academic Year (12):**
- Foundations and Applications of Evidence Based Practice (3)
- Healthcare Program Evaluation and Quality (3)
- Leadership, and Healthcare Systems (3)
- Communication for Technology and Transforming Healthcare (3)

**Didactic Courses taken by all students at WCU during Academic Year (12):**
- Leadership and Project Planning (3)
- Applied Biostatistics (3)
- Health Care Policy and Ethics (3)
- Economic & Financial Aspects of Healthcare System (3)

**Didactic Courses taken by all students at UNC Charlotte during Summer (6):**
- Community Epidemiology (3)
- Global Health & Social Justice (3)

**Clinical Residency Courses taken by students at their admitting campus (9):**
**Student Enrollment Status**

Full time enrollment status for the DNP program at UNC Charlotte School of Nursing is defined as taking a minimum of 9 semester credits for fall and spring semester and 6 semester credits for summer semester, except when fewer credits are needed for graduation.

Full time enrollment status for the DNP program at WCU SON is defined as taking a minimum of 9 credits for the fall and spring semester and 5 credits for summer semester.

The program of study for full time students is a minimum of 2 years (5 semesters). The program of study for part time students is a minimum of 3 years (8 semesters).

**Student Advisement**

Each student will be assigned an advisor on admission by his or her respective university. The advisor is to mentor the student and provide advice and academic support as needed to complete the program of study plan. The courses are designed to be taken in a sequence to support the terminal DNP Scholarly Project. It is important not to deviate from the plan of study. Any deviation from the plan of study may prolong graduation from the program. Plans of study should be reviewed with your academic advisor every semester to ensure accurate enrollment in courses. The academic advising process is determined by each school.
Overview of Clinical Residency Requirement & Scholarly Project Development Process

Overview

The Clinical Residency requirement and Scholarly Project development are inextricably connected and completed in four courses titled, Clinical Residency and Project Development I, II, III & IV. Students meet the requirements for both components in the four Clinical Residency and Project Development courses and through Scholarly Project Committee approval of the completed Scholarly Project presentation.

Student learning opportunities during each Clinical Residency and Project Development course are designed to enrich the student’s knowledge and practical skill foundations in areas that will facilitate development and completion of the DNP Scholarly Project.

A. **Course Requirements for Clinical Residency:**

The clinical residency component of each clinical residency and project development course is comprised of four components: clinical hours, clinical learning contract, reflective journal, and scholarly activities. A brief description of each component follows.

1. **Clinical Hours**

   The clinical hours are completed during the four residency course sequence and are designed to facilitate student clinical learning specific to the student’s primary area of interest and consistent with the DNP Essentials and specialty competencies. These experiences include in-depth work with experts in nursing as well as other disciplines and systematically provide for meaningful student engagement within practice environments for feedback and reflection. Student learning opportunities are designed to enrich the student’s knowledge and practical skill foundations in areas that will facilitate achievement of the DNP Scholarly Project. The following list offers examples of possible clinical opportunities and potential directions for the Scholarly Project related to evidence-based practice change or outcome enhancement:
   1. Work to change practice based on the evidence in your institution.
   2. Provide clinical leadership (i.e. advance practice committee in your institution, State or National level).
   3. Learn a new skill or procedure (precepted experience) that will enhance your ability to translate evidence into practice.
For Post-Masters DNP students, a minimum of 500 academically supervised hours will be required in the DNP Scholarly Project and Clinical residency courses. Students may choose their own clinical sites including their current work environment if their clinical role is an expanded role different from their employment role. Proficiency may be acquired through a variety of methods (case studies, practice contact hours, completing specified procedures, demonstrating experiential competencies, or a combination of these elements) and according to the agreed upon Learning Contract created in the Clinical Residency courses with the course faculty and clinical expert. Clinical learning contracts will be approved by course faculty in the Clinical Residency and Project Development courses I, II, III & IV.

Students who have not earned 500 clinical hours upon entry in the program and who do not hold an approved national certification will have an option to earn additional clinical hours through a clinical elective course offered at each respective university.

2. Clinical Learning Contract

Each student will develop an individualized DNP Learning Contract in collaboration with the course faculty and clinical expert during each residency course. Students are also expected to develop a professional portfolio. The development and maintenance of a professional electronic portfolio reflects students’ self-responsibility in their own learning, actively constructing how competencies are met, under faculty guidance, teaching and mentoring. The portfolio will include residency learning contracts, DNP Scholarly Project Committee form, scholarly activities assigned throughout the curriculum, CV, scholarly project and submitted manuscript.

The purpose of the clinical learning contract in each residency course is to increase the student’s exposure to and involvement in doctoral level clinical practice under the direction of a clinical expert. The student is responsible for identifying and proposing a collaborative arrangement with a clinical preceptor who has practice expertise or works in a clinical setting of interest. Student approval must be obtained, affiliation agreements, developed, and clinical requirements fulfilled according to the requirements of the student’s respective home university and School of Nursing policies prior to beginning a clinical residency experience. Input from the clinical expert is important as the contract is developed. The student and clinical expert must establish mutually agreed upon objectives and evaluation criteria. The specific objectives, requirements and evaluation criteria will depend on the practice focus in which the student is participating, the student’s level of education and the student’s educational needs. The clinical learning contract will be approved by course coordinators in Clinical Residency and Project Development courses I, II, III & IV. Clinical hours will be documented in the Learning Contact and uploaded to the electronic portfolio. A brief description of how the objectives were met at the end of the residency should be included.
3. **Reflective Learning:**
   All students will participate in reflective learning as a means of integrating clinical leadership and inquiry into previous or current practice. Students will synthesize what has been learned and reflect upon how the course content was integrated into their practice.

   Formal, professional reflection allows the student to integrate ethics, health policy, collaboration and health information technology. This allows them to synthesize what has been learned. Students will reflect back on clinical cases, common diagnoses, and population concerns and discuss how ethics were considered, how informatics was used with team members, patients and families, how health policy and politics were considered, and how health disparities were impacted in those situations. Students will outline how they used their leadership skills in those situations, demonstrating what was learned about their work, their strengths, and what more they could bring to the situation. These reflective narratives will be embedded in course discussions, and may be uploaded into the on-line portfolio as a part of their course requirements.

4. **Scholarly Activities**

   Students participate in multiple academic and scholarly activities. For example, students are expected to attend conferences, seminars, journal club, grand rounds, morbidity and mortality meetings, patient conferences, practice based lectures, interdisciplinary committees, quality improvement committees and any other opportunities available at their site. Each student is expected to post a minimum of at least ten scholarly activities during residency. In addition, students are required to be involved and contribute to interdisciplinary initiatives. The scholarly activities should support the objectives in the Learning Contract. Scholarly and competency-related activities are to be uploaded into the on-line portfolio.

   Students must submit documentation of fulfillment of DNP competencies in the electronic DNP student portfolio for each clinical residency and project development course, including documentation of practice hours, clinical contracts, and other activities related to DNP competencies.

B. **Requirements and Process for DNP Scholarly Project Development & Completion**

   The DNP Scholarly Project is a project that brings together the practice and scholarship aspects of the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree. It is designed to address complex practice issues that affect groups of patients, health care organizations, or health care systems utilizing informatics, technology, and in-depth knowledge of the clinical and behavioral sciences. The clinical scholarship required in the DNP Scholarly Project reflects mastery and competency in the student’s area of expertise.
Development of the DNP Scholarly Project is facilitated through each of the Clinical Residency courses. The actual DNP project is evaluated by the Scholarly Project Committee and culminates in a scholarly presentation and article submitted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. Students may choose to work in private practices, clinics, inpatient units, hospital systems, and other institutions and communities in the assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation of outcomes of the DNP Scholarly project.

The student, the practice setting, and the student’s DNP Scholarly Project Committee must jointly agree upon the scholarly initiative. The student must complete any required IRB approvals prior to implementing the project. A brief description of the Clinical Residency course activities facilitating the DNP Scholarly Project follows.

- **Clinical Residency and Project Development I:** Course content focuses on the following:
  - Development of Topic
  - Establishment of PICOT question
  - Needs Assessment
  - Abbreviated Review of Literature

- **Clinical Residency and Project Development II:** Course content focuses on the following:
  - Developing a proposal
  - IRB Process – CITI Training
  - Comprehensive Review of Literature

- **Clinical Residency and Project Development III:** Course content focuses on the following:
  - Steps for project implementation
  - Documenting outcomes of DNP Scholarly Project.
  - DNP role development

- **Clinical Residency and Project Development IV:** Course content focuses on the following:
  - Steps for writing the final project
  - Strategies and processes for disseminating information including steps in preparing a manuscript and public presentations

C. **Sites for Clinical Residency/Project Development**

Students are responsible for securing a site for their Clinical Residency and DNP Project development. A current site of employment or another site may be utilized when the project
identified is not within the current job duties. The site must be approved by the faculty teaching the Clinical Residency and Project Development I course and DNP Coordinator/Director. Once the site is approved the student is responsible for submitting the appropriate paperwork to their admitting university. It is estimated that 3-6 months may be required to secure the appropriate contractual agreement to use the site for the DNP Scholarly Project; therefore, students are encouraged to begin securing a site in the first semester of the program. Students may not begin their project until a site agreement has been signed.
DNP Scholarly Project Process and Timeline

DNP Scholarly Project and Committee

The DNP Scholarly project begins with the selection of the committee guiding the project. Selection of the committee chair occurs early in the first semester of the program. Additional members will be selected by the end of the first semester. The DNP Scholarly Project Committee monitors the progression of the student through the project process. The student and committee will meet at least once during each semester, either at the on-campus immersions, via electronic media formats such as Skype, GoToMeeting, or other distance formats agreed upon by the Chair, committee members, and student.

The DNP Scholarly Project is guided by the DNP Scholarly Project Committee. The student is responsible for:

- Choosing the committee members with input from his/her chair during the initial semester of enrollment.
- The composition of the DNP Scholarly Project committee is expected to include a minimum of one doctoral prepared (PhD, DNP, MD or any other doctoral prepared individual) regular faculty member with graduate status from either the UNC Charlotte or WCU School of Nursing, and a clinical expert from the practice area. The chair must come from the student’s admitting university. UNC Charlotte requires one additional faculty member that is appointed by the graduate school.
- The student is responsible for completing the DNP Scholarly Project Committee Form (Appendix A).

The Committee is responsible for:

- Guiding the student through the project planning, implementation, and evaluation.
- Determining the successful completion of the project requirements. Failure to successfully present the DNP scholarly project more than twice will result in termination from the program.

Steps and Timeline for Project Completion and Work with Committee:

Each semester students are expected to work with their committee to reach certain milestones in completing their Scholarly Project in order to graduate on time. The milestones are as follows:

- First Semester
  - Selection of committee chair
  - Selection of Committee members (submission to graduate school)
  - Topic approval by chair and committee (submission to graduate school)
- Second Semester
• Presentation of scholarly project proposal

Third Semester
  o IRB preparation and submission

Fourth semester
  o Project Implementation

Fifth Semester
  o Presentation of Scholarly Project
  o Submission of Scholarly Project to Graduate School (check academic calendar of home institution to see submission deadlines)

Explanation of the steps:

1. Topic Approval: Students make an oral and written presentation to the DNP Scholarly Project Committee for approval and feasibility of their topic. Student must provide a power point presentation describing the key components of the project proposal at the end of the first semester (Appendix C). If a student fails to pass the oral presentation, the committee and the student will develop a remediation plan.

2. Presentation and approval of project proposal: Students submit a written proposal to their committee in advance of an oral presentation. Students make a formal presentation to their committee of their scholarly project proposal (Appendix D). A student is allowed a second attempt to present their proposal to the committee if they are unsuccessful the first time. Failing the proposal presentation on the second attempt will result in dismissal from the program.

3. IRB approval: The student works with their chair to secure IRB approval from the appropriate institutions. Typically IRB approval at the institution where the project will occur is the first step followed by approval at the admitting university.

4. Presentation and Approval of Scholarly Project: Students submit their written project to their committee in advance of an oral presentation. Students make a formal public presentation to their committee and invited guests of their scholarly project proposal (Appendix E). The process for scheduling and announcing the presentation will vary by campus. A student is allowed a second attempt to present their proposal to the committee if they are unsuccessful the first time. Failing the proposal presentation on the second attempt will result in dismissal from the program.

1. Write the final scholarly project following the outline in Appendix B (Guidelines for DNP Scholarly Project Manuscript)
2. Schedule the public presentation of the scholarly project to the Committee and invited guests at least 3 weeks prior to the deadline for final submission to the Graduate School. Check the campus academic calendar for deadlines.
3. Provide evidence of submission of a manuscript for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.
Institutional Review Board (IRB)
Research conducted at UNC Charlotte and WCU is subject to a wide range of federal and state policies established to ensure ethical conduct in research. The Institutional Review Board (IRB) ensures respect, fairness and safety in human subjects’ research. All DNP Scholarly Projects must be submitted to the IRB at the clinical site as well as the student’s home university for review and approval prior to beginning any project. Specific instructions for each university IRB are:

2. WCU - [http://www.wcu.edu/learn/research/Research-Compliance/Human-Subjects-Research/index.asp](http://www.wcu.edu/learn/research/Research-Compliance/Human-Subjects-Research/index.asp)

Sites for the DNP Scholarly Project
Students are responsible for securing a site for their DNP Scholarly Project. A current site of employment or another site may be utilized when the project identified is not within the current job duties. The project and implementation site is formally approved by the DNP Scholarly Project Committee. The student is responsible for submitting the appropriate paperwork to their admitting university.

Degree Completion and Graduation
To graduate from the DNP program the student must successfully complete the coursework, meet the clinical hour requirement, and implement and present a scholarly project.

Use of Degree Credentials
There is no degree credential for doctoral candidacy. Although sometimes used, the DNP(c) designation is not an accepted convention to indicate doctoral candidacy. A doctoral candidate should continue to use the degree initials that have been earned. It is appropriate to state that one is a doctoral candidate in text form, e.g., in the biographical information that accompanies a published article. It is acceptable to use the DNP credentials only after one has successfully completed the degree.

Time Limits for Degree Completion
All graduation requirements must be completed within 8 years from enrollment in the first course as outlined in the University Graduate Catalog of the student’s admitting university.

Amount of Transfer Credit Accepted
DNP students may transfer up to 6 graduate semester credit hours (with a grade of B or better) with approval of the DNP Program Director and the universities Graduate Schools.
Financial Aid
Contact the respective admitting institution’s financial aid office for information:

UNCC:  https://finaid.uncc.edu/

Grades Required
A student must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 in all course work taken in the program. A student who accumulates two grades of C or any grade of U will automatically be terminated from the DNP program.

Graduate students are expected “to achieve a commendable or satisfactory grade (A or B) in all coursework attempted for graduate credit.” Graduate students who receive less than a B are subject to academic suspension and/or termination.

The DNP program's academic suspension policy is as follows:
- 1 grade of C or 1 grade of U

The DNP program’s academic termination policy is as follows:
- 2 grades of C or 1 grade of U

Grading and Appeal Policies
Please refer to each university’s Graduate Catalog for a complete description of grading and appeal policies as it relates to the admitting university.

WCU:  http://catalog.wcu.edu/index.php

Grading Scale:  The following scale will be used for grading all nursing course-related activities and deriving the final course grade.

A 90-100
B 80-89
C 70-79 (Only allowed one C)
U or F ≤ 69

Student Complaints
Student issues or complaints regarding the program that are not related to grades, should be taken to the Program Coordinator/Director at the students’ admitting university. Issues that cannot be resolved at the level of the Program Coordinator/Director will be taken to the Chief Nursing Administrator of the Dual DNP Program.
Dual DNP Program Instructional Technology Requirements

Appendix F presents the minimum instructional technology requirements adopted by both universities for this program. In order to be successful in completing the DNP courses in traditional and in hybrid instructional formats, students need solid, basic set of computer skills. The skills needed include, but are not limited to:

- Basic skills in using a word processor and perform tasks such as cutting and pasting and creating presentations in presentation software
- Saving your files in several different formats and locations
- Uploading files in online applications
- Downloading and installing software
- Internets skills should include, using email and file attachments, using your browser effectively, making bookmarks, chatting and using search functions. This is a Hybrid program. A computer with the software and hardware listed on the IT form are required to attend this program. It is highly recommended that you have a laptop with the listed requirements on the IT form and bring it to orientation and classes.

Each student is expected to have Internet access and access to a laptop computer with web cam and microphone capability and the following software:

- Microsoft Office (Word, PowerPoint, Excel)
- SPSS
- Adobe Reader (free download at http://get.adobe.com/reader)
- Endnote

Clinical and Health Requirements

All students are expected to maintain currency with regard to the home university and School of Nursing policies regarding health status, immunizations, criminal background check, drug screening, and professional liability insurance. These requirements must be fulfilled in order to participate in nursing program activities and the DNP clinical residency. Refer to the specific requirements for the university and School of Nursing at your admitting institution.

UNCC:

University: http://studenthealth.uncc.edu/immunizations/immunizations-requirement
School of Nursing: http://nursing.uncc.edu/student-resources/clinical-agency-mandates
School of Nursing Student Handbook: http://nursing.uncc.edu/student-resources/student-handbooks

WCU:

University: http://www.wcu.edu/experience/health-and-wellness/health-services/immunization-information/index.aspx
School of Nursing: https://www.wcu.edu/learn/departments-schools-colleges/HHS/nursing/student-services/ClinicalHealthRequirements.aspx
# Tentative Schedule for On-Campus Immersions

## Full Time

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Fall Semester</th>
<th>Spring Semester</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4 day orientation and immersion on the UNC Charlotte campus (1st week of classes)</td>
<td>3 day immersion at WCU Biltmore Park, Asheville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>One day at the end of the semester at home University for Topic Approval presentations</td>
<td>One day at the end of the semester at UNCC in Charlotte for Project Proposal presentations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Fall Semester</th>
<th>Spring Semester</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 day immersion at WCU Biltmore Park, Asheville</td>
<td>3 day immersion at UNCC in Charlotte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>One day at the end of the semester at home University for Immersion Debriefing</td>
<td>Participation in Research Day at home University (UNCC &amp; WCU)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Doctoral Defense scheduled by student and Committee Chair at home University</td>
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</table>

## Part Time

<table>
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<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Fall Semester</th>
<th>Spring Semester</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4 day orientation and immersion on the UNC Charlotte campus (1st week of classes)</td>
<td>3 day immersion at WCU Biltmore Park, Asheville</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Fall Semester</th>
<th>Spring Semester</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 day immersion at WCU Biltmore Park</td>
<td>3 day immersion at UNCC in Charlotte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>One day at the end of the semester at home University for Topic Approval presentations</td>
<td>One day at the end of the semester at UNCC in Charlotte for Project Proposal presentations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Fall Semester</th>
<th>Spring Semester</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 day immersion at WCU Biltmore Park</td>
<td>1 day immersion at UNCC in Charlotte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Implementation debrief at home University</td>
<td>Project presentation at University Research Day and final Defense at home University</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** Students are required to attend immersions at the beginning of the semester and a presentation day at the end of the respective semester. Immersion is not held during the Summer semester.

****Students will follow the policies of the university where they are admitted. For specific policies not addressed in this handbook, please refer to the student’s respective admitting university’s handbooks. In the event there are differences in policy between the institutions, students will follow the policy and procedures of the admitting institution.
WCU Clinical Scholarly Project Committee Form: Appendix A

(Form available at: DNP Homepage)

Appointment of Doctoral Project Committee

Name (print): ___________________________  92#: __________________
Degree/Major: ___________________________
Address: ______________________________________
E-mail: ______________________________________
Tentative Project Topic: ______________________

DNP Project Committee:

Chair:
(Print Name, Sign, and Date)

Member:
(Print Name, Sign, and Date)

Member:
(Print Name, Sign, and Date)

Member:
(Print Name, Sign, and Date)

APPROVED:

DNP Program Director:
(Print Name, Sign, and Date)

Graduate Nursing Program Director: __________________________
(Print Name, Sign, and Date)

STUDENT APPROVAL: I agree to the above information and hereby grant Western Carolina University a limited, non-exclusive, royalty-free license to reproduce my project, in whole or in part, in electronic form or paper form and make available to the general public at no charge.

DNP Candidate Signature: __________________________ D ate: ____________

July 2013
Appointment of Doctoral Dissertation Committee or DNP Scholarly Project Committee

Student Name: ____________________________  800 #: ____________________________

Degree/Major: ____________________________

Proposed Topic: ____________________________

Signature: ____________________________  Date: ____________________________

☐ I am revising my committee
☐ The Graduate School may select the Graduate Faculty Representative for my committee

Dissertation Committee or DNP Scholarly Project Committee Signatures:

Chair
Name: ____________________________  Signature: ____________________________

Member
Name: ____________________________  Signature: ____________________________

Member
Name: ____________________________  Signature: ____________________________

Member
Name: ____________________________  Signature: ____________________________

Member
Name: ____________________________  Signature: ____________________________

Graduate Faculty Representative
Name: ____________________________  Signature: ____________________________

Graduate Program Director
Name: ____________________________  Signature: ____________________________

*Committee members must hold a faculty appointment in the Graduate School

July 2016

GS Approval: ____________________________  Date: ____________________________
UNC Charlotte/WCU Dual DNP Program
Guidelines for DNP Scholarly Project (Appendix B)

The final written product for the DNP Scholarly Project is a manuscript that will be submitted for publication. The student will follow the author guidelines of the journal when writing the manuscript including formatting instructions.

- University Signature Page
- Title Page
- Acknowledgements
- Abstract
- Introduction/Background
- Problem Statement
- Purpose of the Project
- Clinical Question
- Literature Review
- Conceptual/ Theoretical Framework
- Project Design
  - Methodology
    - Subjects
    - Setting
    - Tools/Measures
    - Intervention and Data Collection
- Project Analysis (including translation and impact on practice, fiscal impact)
- Project Findings/Results
- Significance or Implications
- Recommendations (Maintaining/Sustaining the Change)
- References
- Appendices
**UNC Charlotte/WCU Dual DNP Program**  
**Clinical Scholarly Project Topic Approval: Appendix C**

**Student Name:**  
**Project Title:**

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<td>Description of given population</td>
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<td>Epidemiological data support</td>
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<td>significance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Political environment for practice change</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brief review of evidence to support project problem</td>
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<td>Problem/change clearly identified in PICOT format</td>
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<tr>
<td>Problem appropriate for DNP project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scope of proposed change realistic and appropriate</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Site Identified to implement project</td>
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Evaluation of DNP Topic Proposal: _____Approved as Presented  _____Approved with Recommendations  _____Not Approved  
Additional Comments:

Chair Signature:  
Date:

Committee Member Signature:  
Date:

Committee Member Signature:  
Date:

cc: _____Student File  
_____DNP Program Coordinator/Director  
_____Associate Director of Graduate Division
UNC Charlotte/WCU Dual DNP Program  
Clinical Scholarly Project Proposal Defense Form: Appendix D

Student Name:  
Project Title:  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT COMPONENT</th>
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<td>Introduction</td>
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<td>Comments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Background of the problem</td>
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<tr>
<td>Problem statement – PICOT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scope of proposed change realistic and appropriate</td>
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<td>Conceptual Framework/Theory:</td>
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<td>Comments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Described, evident and applicable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evidence of Synthesis</td>
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<td>Comments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research and evidence of the clinical issue supported/influenced clinical project</td>
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<td>Environmental Context</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>Comments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Need, feasibility and sustainability clearly presented</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Benchmarks and supporting data provided</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Outcomes</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>Comments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short and long term objectives/outcomes outlined</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Objectives/outcomes stated in feasible and measurable terms</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation measures linked to objectives/outcomes and conceptual framework</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Methods/Implementation Plan</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>Comments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appropriate for objectives/outcomes</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Clear rationale for actions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Setting and group clearly identified</td>
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<td>Tools/measures described</td>
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<td>WRITTEN PROPOSAL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resources/supports and risks/threats noted</td>
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<td>Marketing plan developed</td>
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<td>Appropriate evaluation plan</td>
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<td><strong>Timeframe for Completion</strong></td>
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<td><strong>S</strong> Comments</td>
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<td>Reasonable and complete</td>
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<td><strong>Necessary Supports (Finances and Resources)</strong></td>
<td><strong>S</strong> Comments</td>
<td><strong>S</strong> Comments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appropriate to meet objectives/outcomes</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provides rationale for resources, revenues, and expenditures</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Describes appropriate funding sources</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Site/Facilitator</strong></td>
<td><strong>S</strong> Comments</td>
<td><strong>S</strong> Comments</td>
</tr>
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<td>Site is appropriate for project</td>
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<td>n/a</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resources to support project available</td>
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<td><strong>Writing and Organization</strong></td>
<td><strong>S</strong> Comments</td>
<td><strong>S</strong> Comments</td>
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<tr>
<td>APA format followed appropriately; clear writing; copyrights obtained as appropriate</td>
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<td>n/a</td>
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</table>

Evaluation of Proposal:    _____Approved as Presented     _____Approved with Recommendations    _____Not Approved

Additional Comments:

Chair Signature:            Date: 
Committee member Signature: Date: 
Committee member Signature: Date: 

cc: _____Student File
    _____DNP Program Coordinator/Director
    _____Associate Director of Graduate Division

Approval Status Legend: S=Satisfactory; U=Unsatisfactory; NR=Needs Revision; NA=Not Applicable

Rev. 6/28/12
Proposal Defense Report for Dissertation/Master's Thesis

Student Name: ___________________________  800#: ___________________________

Degree/Major: ___________________________

Date Proposal Defended:  Month __________  Day __________ Year __________

Topic: ___________________________

Proposal Defense: [ ] Passed  [ ] Failed

ARE HUMAN SUBJECTS INVOLVED?  A "human subject" is any living individual about whom an investigator conducting research obtains data through intervention (physical procedure or manipulation), interaction (interviews, questionnaires, surveys), or other interpersonal communication.

[ ] Yes  [ ] No  (If Yes, attach approval by the UNC Charlotte Human Subjects Committee)

IS ANIMAL RESEARCH INVOLVED?

[ ] Yes  [ ] No  (If Yes, attach approval by the UNC Charlotte Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee)

DOES RESEARCH INVOLVE RECOMBINANT DNA?

[ ] Yes  [ ] No  (If Yes, attach approval by the UNC Charlotte Institutional Biosafety Committee)

Committee Signatures:

Required

Chair:
Name: ___________________________  Signature/Date: ___________________________

Graduate Program Director:
Name: ___________________________  Signature/Date: ___________________________

Optional

Committee Member
Name: ___________________________  Signature/Date: ___________________________

Committee Member
Name: ___________________________  Signature/Date: ___________________________

Graduate Faculty Representative
Name: ___________________________  Signature/Date: ___________________________

*Master's Thesis students must submit the Appointment of Master's Thesis Committee form in addition to this form

This form should be completed by the committee chair.

After all required signatures have been obtained, submit this form to the Graduate School, Cato Hall.

Oct 2016

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UNC Charlotte/WCU Dual DNP Program
Clinical Scholarly Project Final Defense Form: Appendix E

Student Name: 
Project Title: 

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT COMPONENT</th>
<th>ORAL PRESENTATION</th>
<th>WRITTEN DOCUMENT</th>
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<td></td>
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<td>Introduction</td>
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<td>S Comments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Background of the problem</td>
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<tr>
<td>Problem statement - PICOT</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Context for the impact of the DNP Scholarly Project</td>
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<td>Conceptual Framework/Theory:</td>
<td>S Comments</td>
<td>S</td>
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<tr>
<td>Described, evident and applicable</td>
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<td>Tools/measures described and linked to measures and objectives</td>
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<td>Data collection described</td>
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<tr>
<td>Methods of analysis clearly described for each measurement including appropriate statistical tests</td>
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<td>Time Frame</td>
<td>S Comments</td>
<td>S</td>
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<td>Completed within projected time frame</td>
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<td>Findings</td>
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<tr>
<td>PROJECT COMPONENT</td>
<td>ORAL PRESENTATION</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linked to problem statement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Described the extent to which the objectives were achieved</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discuss interpretation of results and appropriate statistical analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost savings</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scope of Project</strong></td>
<td>S</td>
<td>Comments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Describe locally, nationally, and internationally impact</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recommendations/Implications addressed for problem statement, supporting organization, key stakeholders, and other settings.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Impact of Project</strong></td>
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<td>Comments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discuss dissemination plan (local, regional &amp; national)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Describe next steps</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discuss how current regulations/policies influence the next steps</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Project Synthesis</strong></td>
<td>S</td>
<td>Comments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence candidate demonstrated practice inquiry skills including appraising and translating evidence into practice within the project</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Evidence of candidate’s ability to lead DNP scholarly project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ability of candidate to articulate state of current knowledge as it relates to advanced practice nursing in the health care system</td>
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<td><strong>Writing and Organization</strong></td>
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<td>Comments</td>
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<tr>
<td>APA format followed appropriately; clear writing; copyrights obtained as appropriate</td>
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Evaluation of Proposal:  _____Approved as Presented  _____Approved with Recommendations  _____Not Approved

Additional Comments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chair Signature:</th>
<th>Date:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Date:</td>
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<td>Date:</td>
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<td>Committee Member Signature:</td>
<td>Date:</td>
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</table>

cc:  _____Student File
     _____DNP Program Coordinator/Director
     _____Associate Director of Graduate Division

**Approval Status Legend:** S=Satisfactory; U=Unsatisfactory; NR=Needs Revision; NA=Not Applicable

Rev. 6/28/12
Final Defense Report

Original signatures required. Please print and sign.

Name: ___________________________  800 #: ___________________________

Degree/Major: ______________________________

Defense Date: Month ________ Day ________ Year ________

Official Title: ______________________________

The above named student has: (check one)  ☐ Passed  ☐ Failed

☐ Project  ☐ Thesis  ☐ Scholarly Project  ☐ Dissertation

Student Signature

Name: ___________________________  Signature/ Date: ___________________________

Committee Signatures (All committee members must be active members of the Graduate Faculty):

Chair
Name: ___________________________  Signature/ Date: ___________________________

Member
Name: ___________________________  Signature/ Date: ___________________________

Member
Name: ___________________________  Signature/ Date: ___________________________

Member
Name: ___________________________  Signature/ Date: ___________________________

Member
Name: ___________________________  Signature/ Date: ___________________________

Graduate Faculty Representative (Doctoral Only)
Name: ___________________________  Signature/ Date: ___________________________

Graduate Program Director
Name: ___________________________  Signature/ Date: ___________________________

Please submit this form to the Graduate School the day after your defense. The title entered above is the official title of your dissertation or scholarly project and cannot be changed after submission of this form.

November 2015
DISSEMINATION ACTIVITY AGREEMENT

As a requirement for successful completion of DNP Clinical Scholarly Project, I agree that I will submit for an approved dissemination activity prior to graduation from the DNP program.

Authors are on the first submission of the article/presentation will be:
1. Student Investigator
2. Committee Chair
3. Other Committee members (in alphabetical order).

If the dissemination activity submission is not accepted, the committee chair and committee member(s) may submit the project results as an article or presentation with authorship and order of authors to be determined at the discretion of the Project Chair. Sequence of authorship and contact author will be assigned according to the amount of substantive contribution to the manuscript by each respective author for subsequent publication or presentation. The contact author for first submission of the article/presentation will be the committee chair unless otherwise negotiated. No author shall impede the publication or presentation of results without due reason and justification. Planned use of research findings/results in future publications or projects must be discussed among authors before graduation of student investigators. It is understood that student members will maintain current contact information with the committee chair and MS(N) program.

DNP Student Signature________________________________________________________________

Printed Name__________________________________________                                    ____________

Date

Committee Chair Signature_____________________________________________________________

Printed Name__________________________________________                                  ____________

Date

Clinical Expert/Committee Member(s) Signature ___________________________________________

Printed Name(s)__________________________________________________________________________

Date

Submit signed original copy to the Associate Director of Graduate Nursing Programs, and one copy to Chair and each committee member. Keep a copy for your own records.
DNP Project Checklist: Appendix G

Student Name: __________________________     Committee Members: _____________________________

- [ ] Signed Clinical Learning Contract
- [ ] Signed Doctoral Committee Appointment Form
- [ ] Signed Dissemination Agreement
- [ ] Completed Clinical Residency I
- [ ] Completed Clinical Residency II
- [ ] Completed Clinical Residency III
- [ ] Completed Clinical Residency IV
- [ ] Completed IRB Proposal      [ ] Submitted IRB Proposal      [ ] Approved IRB Proposal
- [ ] Scheduled First Committee Meeting     [ ] Completed First Committee Meeting

<table>
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<th>Draft of Topic Approval</th>
<th>To Chair</th>
<th>To Committee</th>
<th>Submitted</th>
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<td>Final Draft of Topic Approval</td>
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- [ ] Signed Approval Page
Learning Contract: Clinical Residency and Project Development  I  II  III  IV

Name: ________________________________________________________________

Project Chair: __________________________________________________________

Course Faculty: __________________________________________________________

Title of Scholarly Clinical Project: _________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Site or Sites for Implementation of Clinical Hours: __________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Name of Clinical Expert and Their Credentials (if used): ______________________

________________________________________________________________________

Clinical Practicum: Total of 540 Clinical Hours Divided over 4 Clinical Residency Courses

Please describe how you plan to meet the 540 clinical hour requirement and discuss how these objectives help you accomplish the course and DNP program objectives:

- Analyze and integrate evidence from nursing science with evidence from other relevant scientific disciplines to form a scientific foundation for advanced practice in nursing.
- Apply clinical scholarship, scientific evidence, and analytical methods to improve health care outcomes.
- Develop and evaluate systems to enhance safety and quality of health care.
- Advocate and participate in collaborative interdisciplinary efforts to improve health outcomes at the practice/organization, community, state and national levels.
- Engage in culturally competent and ethically sound advanced nursing practice.
- Demonstrate leadership in the improvement of patient outcomes and transformation of health care delivery.
- Manage directly the complex problems of clients/populations and systems to facilitate access and navigation of the health care system to improve health outcomes.
To be completed by student:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Clinical Learning Objectives</th>
<th>Clinical Learning Strategies, Activities, and Resources</th>
<th>Measurable Outcomes:</th>
<th>Evaluation:</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>1. Deliverables</td>
<td>1. Achievement of Deliverables</td>
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<td>2. Means for evaluating</td>
<td>2. Fulfillment of objective</td>
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<td>3. Recommended next steps</td>
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<td>(Review/reflect/revise)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>*Include Number of hours engaged in Clinical activity</td>
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|                             |                                                       |                      |                          |
|                             |                                                       |                      |                          |
| Student Signature: ______________________________ | Date: __________________________ |
| DNP Committee Chair Signature: __________________ | Date: __________________________ |
| Clinical Expert Signature: ________________________ | Date: __________________________ |
| Faculty Course Coordinator: ______________________ | Date: __________________________ |

**CONTRACT REVIEWED AND APPROVED:** (typed or electronic signature is acceptable)

**EVALUATION: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES WERE MET**

STUDENT: ______________________________

COMMITTEE CHAIR: ______________________________

CLINICAL EXPERT: ______________________________

DATE: ______________________________

Approval DNP Program Coordinator

___Yes   ___No

Verified Agency Affiliation Agreement

___Yes   ___No
UNCC and WCU School of Nursing  
DNP Residency/Scholarly Project Hourly Log: Appendix I

Student Name: ____________________________________  
Committee Chair: ____________________________________

Committee Chair Signature: ____________________________

Course Name and Number: ____________________________  
Clinical Expert: _____________________________________

Clinical Expert Signature: ____________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Hours (Start and Stop)</th>
<th>Cumulative Hours</th>
<th>Description of Scholarly Activities: Record all activities taken to meet course objectives and analysis of progress toward goals</th>
<th>Identify the DNP Essential that applies to your scholarly activity</th>
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<td>Total Hours</td>
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</table>

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Appendix J: (Fillable PDF available at: http://graduateschool.uncc.edu/current-students/forms)

Approval of Remote Committee Participation

Defense Date: Month ___________ Day ______ Year ______

Student Name: ___________________________ 800 #: ___________________________

Student Email Address: ___________________________

Check One:  
☐ Project Proposal Defense  ☐ Thesis Proposal Defense
☐ Project Final Defense  ☐ Thesis Final Defense
☐ Scholarly Project Proposal Defense  ☐ Dissertation Proposal Defense
☐ Scholarly Project Final Defense  ☐ Dissertation Final Defense

Graduate School policy permits one member of a student’s committee to be connected from a distant site for required project committee meetings if the below conditions are met. This form must be submitted to the Graduate School at least two weeks prior to the scheduled proposal defense.

1. Advance written agreement of the student and all committee members has been obtained.
2. Any visual aids or other materials have been distributed in advance to the remote member.
3. The remote member participates in the entire and complete conduct of the meeting through either video conferencing (preferred) or audio conferencing.
4. The Chair of the Dissertation/Scholarly Project/Thesis Committee has accepted responsibility for the oversight of any logistical arrangements necessary.
5. Any costs associated with remote participation are not the responsibility of the Graduate School and must be arranged in advance.

We, the undersigned, are aware that one member of this committee will be participating remotely in this meeting and agree to this remote participation. We do hereby verify that all of the above conditions have been or will be met for the committee meeting checked.

Student:
Name: ___________________________ Signature/Date: ___________________________

Chair:
Name: ___________________________ Signature/Date: ___________________________

Remote Member:
Name: ___________________________ Signature/Date: ___________________________

Graduate Faculty Representative:
Name: ___________________________ Signature/Date: ___________________________

Name of Department Underwriting Costs: ___________________________

February 2016