Outcomes
7. Clinical Prevention and Population Health for Improving the Nation's Health
8. Advanced Nursing Practice

The DNP Essentials should be reflected in and define the scope of the DNP Project.

The DNP Project should begin in the early stages of the program and continue throughout the program. This scholarly project must be a significant, evidence based contribution to existing nursing knowledge, nursing practice, and patient outcomes. Furthermore, the project provides the opportunity for students to translate knowledge into practice.

It is the intent of the faculty that students utilize various course learning activities as a means of facilitating progress toward the

patient safety. For example, students should not work 7 pm-7 am and then schedule practicum hours beginning at 9 am that morning.

Characteristics of DNP Projects

The DNP Project documents the outcomes of the student's doctoral education experience, providing a measurable medium for evaluating the master of and growth in knowledge and clinical expertise. The DNP Project should demonstrate a synthesis of all classroom and clinical learning experiences that together demonstrate the student's achievement of program competencies.

All DNP Projects should:

‹	Focus on a change that impacts healthcare outcomes either through direct or indirect care.
‹	Have systems (micro-, meso-, or macro- level) or population/aggregate focus.
‹	Demonstrate implementation in the appropriate arena or area of practice
‹	Include a plan for sustainability (e.g. financial, systems, or political realities, not only theoretical abstractions).
‹	Include an evaluation of processes and/or outcomes (formative or summative). DNP Projects should be designed so that processes and/or outcomes will be evaluated to guide practice and policy. Clinical significance is as important in guiding practice as statistical significance is in evaluating research.
‹	Provide a foundation for future practice scholarship

Types of DNP Projects

DNP Projects are related to advanced practice in the nursing specialty and are designed to benefit a group, population, or community rather than an individual patient. Projects evolve from an identifiable practice problem and are done in partnership with another entity, e.g., clinical agency, health department, education agency, government agency, or community group.

Types of DNP Projects that are acceptable include but are not limited to:

• Practice change initiatives
• Program evaluation
• Quality improvement initiatives (care processes, patient outcomes)
• Implementation and evaluation of evidence-based guidelines
• Health care policy analysis; develop, implement, evaluate, or revise policy
• The design and use of a database to retrieve information for decision-making, planning, and evaluation
• The design and evaluation of new models of care/practice models
• Designing and evaluating health care programs
• System change project
• Financial/cost and analyses to compare care models and potential cost savings
• Implementation and evaluation of innovative uses of technology to enhance/evaluate

DNP Project Team

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- Physical Examination
  Proof of Immunization (Hepatitis B, MMR, Varicella, Tdap, COVID-19)   Tuberculosis screening
  Current Influenza Vaccination
  Current Basic Life Support Certification
  Current Student Liability Insurance
  Criminal Background Check
  Drug Screen
  Proof of Health Insurance
  Completed Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) guidelines
  Completed Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act
  (HIPPA) guidelines
  Have an active, unencumbered nursing license in the state in which practicum hours will be completed
  Additional requirements specific to the site.

Preceptor Qualifications

For DNP students, you may not partner with a site or preceptor without the required approvals and documents on file prior to the practicum experience.

Once a clinical site and preceptor have been identified, you and the Coordinator of Clinical Placement will work together to obtain approval for the site and to ensure that all proper documentation is in place. Each practicum site requires its own set of paperwork.

When you fill out the DNP Navigation Form you will be required to provide the following about your preceptor:

1. Preceptor name (as it is on their license)
2. Preceptor contact information (email address, practice site name, practice site address, phone number)
3. Preceptor title and credentials
4. Preceptor degrees, licensure, and certification # (Doctoral degree required)
5. Preceptor years of experience
6. Preceptor CV
7. Name, title, and email address of the individual authorized to sign clinical affiliation agreements

Clinical Hours Guidelines/Requirements

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program requires the completion of 1,000 clinical hours. Up to 500 hours from an MSN program may be applied to those 1,000 hours.

These hours are completed under the supervision of UNA faculty members. The clinical hours represent a clinical immersion that occurs in the planning, implementation,

evaluation, and dissemination of the DNP Project. These are not precepted hours providing direct clinical care to clients as are typical in an advanced practice graduate program. Practice hours should contribute to the preparation of the DNP student to attain the outcomes delineated in the DNP Essentials.

These hours should include indirect care practice in the health care setting or related environments that broaden the experience of the student. Clinical hours may only be logged for activities that are associated with the following courses:

‹   NU 702 Health Care Informatics
‹   NU 706 EBP Design and Translation
‹   NU 720 Scientific Underpinnings
‹   NU 722 Health Policy and Politics
‹   NU 730 Leadership and Innovation in Population Health
‹   NU 734 Population Health I
‹   NU 736 Population Health II
‹   NU 740 Transformational Teaching Learning Resources, Strategies, and Evaluation I
‹   NU 742 Transformational Teaching Learning Resources, Strategies, and Evaluation II
‹   NU 750 Role of Technology and Simulation in Population Health
‹   NU 800 DNP I: Project Identification
‹   NU 802 DNP II: Project Development
‹   NU 804 DNP III: Project Implementation
‹   NU 806 DNP IV: Project Evaluation

DNP program practice experiences are designed to provide:
1.   Opportunities for integrating and synthesizing all of the *DNP Essentials* and role requirements necessary to demonstrate achievement of defined outcomes in an area of advanced nursing practice.
2.   Systematic opportunities for feedback and reflection.
3.   In-depth work/mentorship with experts in nursing, as well as other disciplines.
4.   Opportunities for meaningful student engagement within practice environments.
5.   Opportunities for building and assimilating knowledge for advanced nursing practice at a high level of complexity.
6.   Opportunities for further application, synthesis, and expansion of learning.
7.   Experience in the context of advanced nursing practice within which the final DNP Project is completed.

Hours Per Essential

Students are required to oI16f34h2.

Once all the required contracts and paperwork are completed and on file, you may still have additional facility requirements that must be completed. This could include training, orientations, and/or additional documentation.

Location for Practicum Experiences

‹ It is important to remember that the practicum gives personnel in the practicum facilities the opportunity to observe you as a potential employee. You might consider future employment goals when practicum sites are selected.
‹ The site may be at the facility/institution in which you are a current employee. You must function outside of your MSN role and work as a DNP student with your preceptor.
‹ These hours are not your normal work hours.

Practicum Application

A practicum application will be needed for each practicum location/preceptor. The application will need to be filled out completely prior to submitting it to the clinical documentation manager.

Site Agreements

A clinical affiliation agreement is required for all practicum sites. The clinical affiliation agreement must be signed by the authorized person from the facility being used and returned to the University of North Alabama Anderson College of Nursing and Health Professions for completion. The process of completing site agreements can take several weeks to months. The practicum application must be submitted at least 16 weeks prior to the start of the practicum course. All subsequent practicum applications must be submitted at least 16 weeks prior to the start of that practicum course.

Ethical Behavior

You are expected to present a professional demeanor, behavior, appearance, and communication at all times. You must comply with the policies in the Anderson College of Nursing and Health Professions Student Handbook which can be found here. You should practice within the American Nurses Association Code of Ethics. You must also agree to abide by all requirements, policies, and procedures of the practicum site. When at a clinical site, you are required to dress appropriately, wear your lab coat, and UNA name tag at all times. You should introduce yourself to each patient as a UNA DNP student. A positive, open, professional communication style, willingness and eagerness to learn, and the ability to accept and act on constructive feedback in clinical sites are paramount to a successful practicum learning experience.

Roles and Responsibilities

A successful practicum experience requires collaboration among course faculty, students, preceptors, practicum coordinators, and the University. Students, faculty, and preceptors must

Unsatisfactory Student Behaviors

<mark>The following are some examples of unsatisfactory and unacceptable behavior in the practicum setting. Preceptors should report any unsatisfactory behavior to the course instructor and/or program director immediately.</mark> These individuals can be reached by calling 256-765-4957.

- Failure to notify preceptor of inability to attend planned practicum experience
- Failure to notify preceptor of late attendance to the practicum experience
- Leaving the practicum experience early without the preceptor's approval
- Failure to be prepared for the practicum experience
- Failure to dress appropriately for the practicum experience; the student should follow the facility dress code
- Failure to possess needed equipment for the practicum experience
- Arriving at the practicum experience mentally dull due to illness, fatigue, or substance abuse
- Failure to follow practicum site policy, procedures, and guidelines
- Failure to perform procedures at the expected knowledge level
- Failure to be accountable for actions
- Violation of patient confidentiality
- Failure to keep the environment and patients safe
- Failure to meet moral and ethical standards
- Failure to protect self from contact with the body fluids of others
- Emotional instability
- Inappropriate use of social media
- ‡ Blatant medication errors
- Any situation where the client is put in danger