

DNP Capstone Course Descriptions and Objectives

NURS 90001 – DNP Capstone Internship

This is the first of four sequential courses focusing on the development, implementation and analysis of a scholarly Capstone project. A community/agency assessment results in mutually (community agency and faculty) agreed upon Capstone project goals.

CREDITS/HOURS: 3 credits, 105 practicum hours

EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION: The first Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Capstone project course includes a practicum immersion in which students, under the supervision of a community agency mentor and course faculty, conduct an in-depth assessment of an agency and its community population. This assessment, coupled with contextual evidence, leads to the identification of potential projects to enhance service delivery within the community agency that will likely improve the quality of health care services for populations at risk. Emphasis is placed on leadership skills with intraprofessional and interprofessional teams to create change in health care and complex healthcare delivery systems.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

By the conclusion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify the elements of a scholarly, evidence-based Capstone project.
2. Assess health issues that affect the health of populations served by a specified community-based agency.
3. Evaluate care delivery models and/or strategies (community assessment and institutional analysis) using concepts related to community, environmental and occupational health, and cultural and socioeconomic dimensions of health.
4. Collaborate effectively with a community-based agency to identify and assess health issues affecting the agency's clients.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of the needs presented by diverse organizational cultures and populations, including patients and providers.
6. Outline a realistic plan for developing and implementing a scholarly project within a four-semester timeline.

NURS 90002 – DNP Capstone Proposal Development

This is the second of four sequential courses focusing on the development, implementation and analysis of a scholarly Capstone project. Students finalize plans for Capstone projects that demonstrate synthesis of their development in advanced practice nursing and guide the design and development of a project directed at practice change, system changes, or aggregate health improvements.

CREDITS/HOURS: 3 credits, 105 practicum hours

EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION: The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Capstone project is a scholarly experience that demonstrates an advanced level of evidence-based practice, implemented under the guidance of a faculty and a community mentor. Each DNP student is guided in developing the proposal for his/her Capstone projects to include: Goals/objectives, review of literature, community assessment, institutional analysis, project framework, methods and an evaluation plan. Students defend their proposals to their appropriate Capstone project committees and seek Institutional Review Board approval to conduct the project from the community agency and CUNY. In addition, students continue with their DNP Residencies. The Capstone project will use evidence either to improve clinical outcomes for a group of patients or to close the gap between evidence and its application in practice and policy.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon successful completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Identify necessary resources, including appropriate mentors and potential sources for funding/support, for completion of a scholarly project.
2. Synthesize knowledge of a clinically related problem or situation, obtained through systematic data collection of the scientific literature and community/agency sources.
3. Demonstrate integration of analytic ability, writing skills and clinical expertise in developing a scholarly project proposal.
4. Develop and evaluate new practice approaches based on theories from nursing and other disciplines.
5. Apply principles for protection of human subjects, including federal, CUNY and Hunter College policies.
6. Demonstrate the capacity to engage in thoughtful and constructive peer review of colleagues' work.
7. Synthesize a scholarly proposal through effective oral and visual presentations.

NURS 90003 – DNP Capstone Implementation

Students implement capstone projects that demonstrate synthesis of their development in advanced practice nursing that lay the groundwork for future practice development.

CREDITS/HOURS: 3 credits, 210 practicum hours

EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION: Each DNP student will implement a capstone project that demonstrates synthesis of development toward practice of nursing at the DNP level that lays the groundwork for future practice development. The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) capstone project is a scholarly experience that demonstrates an advanced level of evidence-based practice, implemented under the guidance of a faculty and agency mentor. The capstone project will use evidence either to improve clinical outcomes for a group of patients or to close the gap between evidence and its application in practice and policy.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon successful completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Organize resources to facilitate successful completion of project
2. Identify challenges and barriers to successful completion of project
3. Evaluate the work of others in a thoughtful and constructive manner
4. Following DNP committee and IRB approvals, implement the protocol outlined in the proposal
5. Document all practice hours related to implementing the capstone project
6. Conduct a systematic data collection process as outlined in the proposal
7. Examine own experiences of the implementation process through self-reflection
8. Visually and orally present a cogent synthesis of the capstone project progress

NURS 90004 – DNP Capstone Evaluation & Dissemination

This is the last of four sequential courses focusing on the analysis of a scholarly Capstone project. Students evaluate the Capstone project specific to a population of interest and prepare a journal manuscript summarizing their findings.

CREDITS/HOURS: 3 credits, 80 practicum hours

EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION: In the final Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Capstone project course, students complete the implementation of their approved scholarly project for translating evidence into practice. Under the supervision of a faculty mentor, the student conducts an evaluation of the data to assess the impact on health care processes and/or staff or patient outcomes. The student will write the final project report as a journal manuscript as well as visually and orally present a cogent synthesis of the Capstone project to DNP faculty.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon successful completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Evaluate care delivery models and/or strategies using concepts related to community, environmental and occupational health, and cultural and socioeconomic dimensions of health.
2. Demonstrate advanced levels of clinical judgment, systems thinking, and accountability in evaluating evidence-based care to improve patient outcomes.
3. Evaluate the implications of findings, form conclusions and identify implications of findings for changes in practice.
4. Plan effective dissemination of project findings through presentation at professional conferences.
5. Demonstrate competence in scholarly writing in synthesizing project findings.