The Ohio State University College of Nursing
DNP EBP/QI Project Outline

The following DNP Final Project guidelines serve as general recommendations for organizing the Final Project document. It is recommended students use the most recent APA Edition guidelines for references, tables, figures, charts, and graphs. However, the specific format and content requirements of the Final Project Document are determined by the advisor and committee in collaboration with the student. For example, **certain elements in the 5 sections of the general outline <u>may or may not</u> be applicable to the student's project**, or the advisor and committee may recommend other adjustments to the sequencing and content of the outline as appropriate as matched to the individual project. Please note the entire project once completed **should range from 20-30 pages at the maximum** plus references and appendices. The paper should include a cover page with a 12 word or less title and a 250-word abstract. A table of contents is optional.

Section 1: Problem Identification & Recommended Best Evidence-Based Practice

a. Statement of the Problem/Issue

Provide concise statement identifying the problem/issue, why this problem/issue is important to address, and how this aligns with the strategic priorities of the organization where the project will be executed. Include specific information such as:
- How long has it been a problem/issue?
- What are the data that show evidence of the problem?
  - Are these reported by and/or connected to CMS, NDNQI, and/or AHRQ national benchmarks?
  - Anecdotal reports related to the problem/issue ?
- Who has been affected?
- What has been the resulting impact?
- What are the safety and quality issues?
- What has been the financial impact? (if any)?

b. Organizational assessment of the problem/readiness for change

Discuss the current impact of the issue on the organization, setting and/or population and organizational readiness for change (see the DNP Project Final Flowsheet for specific approval processes)

Provide internal evidence such as:
- Current policies and/or practices around the issue
- Owner of the relevant data
- Process for accessing the relevant data
- Existing processes for practice change and approvals needed within the organization/setting
- Internal champion/leader supporting the needed practice change
- Organizational culture for EBP, quality improvement and change

c. Background and significance of the problem/issue

Summarize what the literature says about the history and state of the problem/issue.

d.	PICO(t) and Search Strategy	Problem/population; intervention of concern; comparison treatment or group, outcomes, and timeframe (if applicable)

PICOT question— Provide searchable question in PICOT format, highlighting the key words within the sentence (utilize PICOT templates in existing resources such as the Melnyk & Fineout-Overholt 4th ed textbook)

Outline sources of literature (electronic databases utilized, sources where clinical practice guidelines are housed, point-of-care resources (i.e. Clinical Key and Up-To-Date), gray literature, etc.)

Search strategies used (key words, MeSH, Subject heading, title searching, etc.)
- Modified PRISMA diagram to identify and map out search history
  - PRISMA 2020 Flow Diagram http://www.prisma-statement.org/PRISMAStatement/FlowDiagram.aspx

e. Literature Review

Once all articles/evidence is retrieved, student reviews each article using their own system to highlight and note. This process prepares students for the critical appraisal and synthesis of the body of evidence.

f. Critical appraisal and synthesis of literature review (tables)

Identify the levels of evidence hierarchy used to evaluate the literature within the body of evidence

Identify critical appraisal tools used to appraise the evidence (i.e. Hopkins, Joanna Briggs Institute, Fuld Institute critical appraisal tools, etc.)
Narrative should include:
- Written description of the characteristics of the body of evidence, (e.g. number of articles at various levels and quality ratings)
- A synthesis of findings with references to the following tables that should be included as appendices:
  - Evaluation/summary table
  - Levels of Evidence table
  - Outcome's synthesis tables (multiple synthesis tables may be needed)

g. Recommendations

Based on both internal and external evidence, state the recommended practice change (if a change is indicated)

If organization is already engaging in the best practices according to the literature review recommendation, then utilize QI processes/methodologies to evaluate processes and structures around engagement of best practice to explore whether processes and structures are preventing attainment of best outcomes.

Section 2: Project Planning

a. Project Purpose Statement — State purpose of project (one to two sentences)

b. Project Objectives — State intended, realistic goals/outcomes of project using established method (e.g. SMART* criteria **S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**ttainable, **R**elevant, **T**imely).

c. Framework/Models to Drive Process — Identify framework/model and strategies to guide the project based on findings from the organizational assessment with rationale (e.g. EBP model, QI framework, Change model)

NOTE: use models/strategies already being utilized by the organization (when and where applicable). Graphics of the model(s) utilized may be included (with permission).

d. Population/Setting/ Participants — Describe project participants or population and setting. Also describe any other elements that are central to where the change will occur such as current organizational climate, leadership support/engagement, administrative support, access to needed resources, etc.

e. Key Stakeholders — Identify agencies, departments, committees, units, and/or individuals needed to complete the project and/or to be affected by project, and strategies to gain buy-in, support and sustainability. Describe key stakeholders' involvement

f. Patient Preferences/Values — Describe plan for integrating patient/family engagement and preferences, and how diversity is addressed (as applicable).

g. Clinician/Clinical Expertise — Consider clinician experiences and necessary education/training clinicians will need. Describe how clinical expertise will be acknowledged and integrated into the project

h. Outcome Measures and Data Analysis Plan — Summarize plan for evaluating the effectiveness of the practice change. Identify:

- applicable process and outcomes data to be collected/tracked
- owners of the data and how to access it
- plans for accessing PHI and/or de-identifying data
- tools/instruments selected to collect data
- methods for analyzing/interpreting the data (e.g. statistical data control charts, Run Charts or Pareto Charts). Students can refer to Statistical Support Instructions

NOTE: When possible, use organizational data already being collected by the organization and tools/instruments and methods for analyzing/interpreting data already being used by the organization where the project is occurring.

i.	Potential Financial Implications	Identify potential return on investment (ROI) and/or value on investment (VOI)
j.	Timeline	Establish a realistic timeline for project completion. Create a visual illustrating timeline
k.	Resources Needed	Identify all resources (e.g. indirect and direct) needed to complete the project
l.	Review Approvals Needed	Identify and obtain the required review and approval needed for implementation (e.g. institution, community agency, OSU CON Human Subject Determination Form)
		Students should refer to the [DNP Project Preliminary Feasibility Checklist](#)

Section 3: Implementation Plan

a.	Implementation Framework/Model	Describe what implementation models/frameworks guided the project implementation process; including those already being used by the project organization
b.	Implementation Strategies: Specifics below in I -V.	Plan what strategies broadly are needed to implement the practice change or project intervention/assessment.
	I. Education/Training	Describe educational strategies needed for staff, clinicians, patients, and/or other key stakeholders to successfully implement the practice change or project intervention/assessment
	II. Communication	Describe all communication plans for informing all key stakeholders about the practice change or project intervention/assessment from inception to completion
	III. Leadership/Engagement/Identify Champions	Describe what leaders are engaged and facilitating success of the practice change or project intervention/assessment from inception to completion, as well as how they are engaged
	IV. Information Systems Implications (if applicable)	Describe all relevant information system (IS) needs for the project and plans for engaging the IS owners and support for any documentation system data needed or data system changes recommended
		Describe any project policies, processes, procedures, protocols and/or SOPs that will be revised for this

| | | V. | Standardization of policies, processes and procedures, protocols (SOPs) | project and the organizational support obtained for the revisions |

| | | Describe any possible anticipated barriers to project implementation and success |

c. Possible Anticipated Barriers | Describe plans to mitigate and/or manage any anticipated barriers

d. Barriers Management Plan

<u>Note:</u> All of the above should be included if appropriate for your professional exam in a written paper format. IF for the final DNP project theadvisor and student have agreed upon a manuscript option, please follow the selected journal author guidelines and be prepared to discuss Sections 4 & 5 (see items below) in your oral final defense.

Section 4: Results or Findings (Advisor and student decide on term) & Discussion

a. Project Implementation Description — Provide a brief summary of what was done/completed

Describe the practice change that was actually implemented, and the actual setting of implementation. Include any deviations from project plan

Describe all implementation strategies and processes actually used, including deviations from the original plan

Track any adaptations/changes from the project plan (see Section 2) and discuss causes and necessary adjustments made in response to deviations

Describe all data collected at pre-implementation (baseline) and post-intervention to evaluate effectiveness of practice change

Describe unexpected barriers encountered and how this was managed

b. Results/Findings

Report data around project outcomes utilizing methods/terms familiar to the organization

Report evaluation of the effectiveness of the practice change and extent to which the desired outcome(s) were achieved

Capture and report ROI* and/or VOI*

c. Interpretation/Discussion/Implications — Discussion in narrative meaning of the findings and implications to the organization, healthcare, and nursing

d. Sustainability Plan

Identify key personnel and processes necessary to sustain implementation of change

		Describe how the change is or can be hardwired into the system (e.g. EHR* modification, recommendations for organizational policies/procedure changes, resource allocation, etc.)
		Suggest key indicators that should be monitored continuously
e.	Actual Financial Implications (ROI)	Suggest auditing and feedback as a key evidence-based implementation strategy
		Discuss any actual ROI incurred from the practice change/project or anticipated yet down the road

Section 5: Dissemination

a.	Internal	Describe dissemination plans to the organization, where the project was completed in a manner meaningful to the organization (e.g., executive report, poster, presentation at a meeting, poster with QR code to access details of project, etc.)
		Describe dissemination plans in the format recommended by the academic institution (i.e. poster, public presentation, etc.)
b.	External	Describe plans for final project write-up using established reporting guidelines (e.g. EPQA*, SQUIRE*)
		Describe plans for submission to a local, state or national conference poster or podium presentation; or journal manuscripts
c.	Other Scholarship	Describe plans to develop a website to display project, use personal or program social media, (e.g. Twitter, Facebook), and/or blog to share project information
d.	Reflection on AACN DNP Essentials	Reflect on the AACN DNP Essentials relevant to your project and how the DNP project have helped you to meet specific Essentials domains and competencies.

*DNP, doctor of nursing practice; **PICO**, Population, Intervention, Comparison, Outcome; **CMS**, Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services; **NDNQI**, National Dataset of Nursing Quality Indicators; **AHRQ**, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality; **SMART**, specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, timely; **IRB**, Institutional Review Board; **EHR**, Electronic Health Record; **ROI**, Return on Investment; **VOI**, Value of Investment; **EPQA**, Evidence-Based Practice Process Quality Assessment Guidelines; **SQUIRE,** Standards for Quality Improvement Reporting Excellence;.

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