WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

School of Nursing

DNP STUDENT HANDBOOK
2018-2019

The Baccalaureate, Masters, and Doctoral Nursing programs are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, 655 K Street, NW, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20001, (202) 887-6791. (http://www.ccneaccreditation.org).

Note: Policies stated within this document relate to any student enrolled in the DNP program in the 2018-2019 academic year.

Revised December 5, 2018

DNP Program Purpose

The DNP faculty believes that the purpose of graduate education is to prepare the advanced practice nurse for specialization in nursing. The program further develops expertise in advanced nursing practice that demands increased accountability, proficiency, and leadership. The WKU DNP curriculum is designed to prepare nurses who can function in the advanced practice roles as either nurse practitioners or nurse executives. Nurses entering the Post-MSN DNP program will gain knowledge and skills to positively impact health care systems through evidenced-based practice, health policy, technological innovations, interprofessional collaboration, and leadership. BSN to DNP students will gain competencies in their new roles integrating evidence-based practice, health policy, technological innovations, interprofessional collaboration, and leadership.

The SON faculty believes that students are active, self-directed adult learners who are committed to and are accountable for integrity of academic accomplishments, professional practice and self-assessment. The DNP program is built upon beliefs related to adult education theory. The faculty provides resources and guidance to increase the student's competencies and skills as a doctorally prepared nurse scholar and leader.

Program Outcomes

The expected outcomes of graduates of the DNP program are to:
- Critically appraise theoretical concepts and knowledge from nursing and other disciplines and integrate this evidence in developing, implementing, and evaluating best practices for improved health outcomes.
- Develop, integrate, and evaluate evidence-based health care innovations while considering cultural, economic, ethical, legal, political, and technological issues across diverse health systems and models.
- Use and evaluate information systems and technology to improve clinical decision making, and health outcomes.
- Demonstrate leadership in the critical analysis and application of economic, ethical, political, and social components of health care policy.
- Demonstrate interprofessional collaboration and leadership skills to improve patient and population health outcomes.
- Analyze and apply advanced nursing practice concepts of clinical prevention and health promotion to improve health outcomes in relevant populations.
- Apply the relevant advanced practice role to improve patient health outcomes and health care systems.

Curriculum Progression

The DNP program is built upon The Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Nursing Practice (American Association of College of Nursing, 2006), the National Organization for Nurse Practitioner Faculty (NONPF) Core Competencies for Nurse Practitioners (2012), and the ANA Nursing Administration Scope and Standard (2016). The BSN to DNP Program includes two specialty tracks, the Family Nurse Practitioner and the Nurse Executive.

Post-MSN option degree requirements are:

NURS 601	Orientation to Doctor of Nursing Practice	2
NURS 620	Biostatistics for Healthcare Professionals	3
NURS 630	Advanced Epidemiology	3
NURS 700 **or** LEAD 500	Healthcare Leadership and Organizational Theory Effective Leadership Studies	3
NURS 701	Leadership in Health Policy	3
NURS 712	Evidenced-Based Practice	3
NURS 714	Economic and Financial Influences in Healthcare Systems	3
NURS 740	Technology in Healthcare	3
NURS 750	Program Development and Evaluation in Healthcare	3
NURS 755	Quality Improvement in Healthcare	3
NURS 765	Institutional Review Board Process in Nursing	1
NURS 780	Clinical Practicum	6
Total Hours		36

BSN-DNP Family Nurse Practitioner option degree requirements are:

	Graduate Statistics Course	3
NURS 500	Advanced Physiological and Pathophysiological Concepts	4
NURS 503	Advanced Health Assessment	2
NURS 504	Theoretical Foundations of Professional Nursing	3
NURS 505	Advanced Health Assessment Clinical	1
NURS 508	Advanced Issues in Professional Nursing	1
NURS 509	Practice Management for Advanced Practice Nurses	1
NURS 510	Graduate Nursing Research	3
NURS 515	Advanced Pharmacology	4
NURS 546	Primary Care of the Infant, Child, and Adolescent	3
NURS 547	Primary Care of the Infant, Child and Adolescent Clinical	2
NURS 548	Primary Care of the Adult	3
NURS 549	Primary Care of the Adult Clinical	2
NURS 554	Primary Care Internship	5
NURS 601	Orientation to Doctor of Nursing Practice	2
NURS 605	Leadership in Nursing Practice	3
NURS 620	Biostatistics for Healthcare Professionals	3
NURS 630	Advanced Epidemiology	3
NURS 700 **or** LEAD 500	Healthcare Leadership and Organizational Theory Effective Leadership Studies	3
NURS 701	Leadership in Health Policy	3
NURS 712	Evidenced-Based Practice	3
NURS 714	Economic and Financial Influences in Healthcare Systems	3
NURS 740	Technology in Healthcare	3
NURS 750	Program Development and Evaluation in Healthcare	3

NURS 755	Quality Improvement in Healthcare	3
NURS 765	Institutional Review Board Process in Nursing	1
NURS 780	Clinical Practicum	6
Total Hours		76

BSN-DNP Nurse Executive option degree requirements are:

	Graduate Statistics Course	3
NURS 504	Theoretical Foundations of Professional Nursing	3
NURS 510	Graduate Nursing Research	3
NURS 528	Leadership and Management in Nursing Administration	3
NURS 601	Orientation to Doctor of Nursing Practice	2
NURS 605	Leadership in Nursing Practice	3
NURS 620	Biostatistics for Healthcare Professionals	3
NURS 630	Advanced Epidemiology	3
NURS 700 **or** LEAD 500	Healthcare Leadership and Organizational Theory Effective Leadership Studies	3
NURS 701	Leadership in Health Policy	3
NURS 712	Evidenced-Based Practice	3
NURS 714	Economic and Financial Influences in Healthcare Systems	3
NURS 740	Technology in Healthcare	3
NURS 750	Program Development and Evaluation in Healthcare	3
NURS 755	Quality Improvement in Healthcare	3
NURS 765	Institutional Review Board Process in Nursing	1
NURS 780	Clinical Practicum	6
LEAD 525	Leadership Ethics	3
LEAD 540	Leading Teams	3
BA 510	Advanced Organizational Behavior	3
COMM 581	Applied Organizational Communication	3
Total Hours		63

Policies

General Policies related to admission, progression, and graduation can be found in the WKU Graduate Catalog found on the Graduate School website (www.wku.edu/graduate). Program specific policies follow. Program specific forms can be found on the DNP Program Blackboard site.

Admission Criteria and Process

Admission to the Graduate School at WKU is a two-step process first requiring that the applicant submit an application with fee and official copies of all higher education course work and degrees to the Graduate School. The application must be submitted online. Following receipt of these materials, the SON Graduate Program is notified of the student's acceptance to WKU and a recommendation form requesting approval for official admission to the major is sent to the Graduate Coordinator. Additional requirements for admission to the DNP program include:

- Have an earned BSN or MSN, with a specialty in nursing administration or nurse practitioner, from a CCNE or NLNAC accredited nursing program.
- GPA – 3.25 cumulative in BSN or MSN. Students with a GPA of less than this GPA may

submit GRE scores and request admission. Students must score at or above the university minimum posted on the Graduate School website.

- Submit three professional references on form provided to applicant.
- Provide a written goal statement.
- Submit a resume or CV highlighting past education, relevant clinical experience scholarly endeavors and professional service (BSN to DNP students must document one year of full time experience as a registered nurse prior to enrolling in a clinical course).
- Professional license & clinical clock hours–
  a. MSN to DNP –
     i. NPs must have current and unencumbered RN and APRN licensure in the state of residence in which clinical experiences will be completed.
     ii. Nurse Administrators must have a current and unencumbered RN license in the state of residence where clinical experiences will be completed.
     iii. Completed verification of post-baccalaureate practice hours form. (Applicants who cannot demonstrate a minimum of 500 clinical clock hours in graduate program will be expected to complete clinical course work beyond the proposed curriculum.)
     iv. Completion of a graduate level statistics course within past 5 years.
  b. BSN to DNP – current and unencumbered RN license in Kentucky or compact state.

Following receipt of all admission requirements, the application is initially reviewed by the DNP Coordinator and approved by the SON Graduate Committee. An admission interview will be conducted by faculty familiar with the interview format and questions developed by the SON Graduate Committee. The interview questions include a review of the student's goals; validation of any questions identified following initial review of the applicants admission materials; a discussion of the students plan for success in the program; research interests and possible funding for the program. Additionally the student's initial questions are answered related to the process and resources.

DNP Program Progression

Progression in the DNP Program requires the student to earn a minimum cumulative overall GPA of 3.0 in graduate nursing courses (courses with an NURS prefix) and a minimum overall GPA of 3.0 in the DNP degree courses. A grade of "B" or higher is required in all specialty courses. Students may repeat one specialty course one time in the DNP course curriculum.

The DNP specialty courses include: NURS 601, 620, 630, 700, 701, 712, 714, 740, 750, 755, 765, 780. The FNP specialty courses are (BSN to DNP Program): NURS 500, 503, 505, 508, 509, 515, 546, 547, 548, 549, 554. The Nurse Executive specialty courses are (BSN to DNP Program): NURS 528, LEAD 525 & 540, BA 510, COMM 581. In specialty courses which have co-requisite didactic and clinical courses, a grade of "B" or higher must be earned in the didactic course and a pass must be earned in the clinical course. If a "B" and/or a pass (contingent on course type) is not earned both the didactic course and the clinical course must be repeated. DNP students may repeat up to nine (9) hours and may repeat each course only one time. In the clinical family nurse practitioner specialty courses including NURS 503, NURS 546, and NURS 548 a student must earn a minimum of 80% on tests and quizzes prior to adding any additional points earned on papers, projects, and SOAP notes to the final grade. Further, a minimum of a B must be earned in these courses to progress to the next sequential course. If you request and receive an incomplete grade in a course, you must complete the requirements and have the incomplete removed and changed to a letter grade of A or B in order to progress in the DNP Program unless you receive prior approval from your advisor.

Dismissal from the Program
Students will be dismissed from the program due to the following circumstances:
1. A second occurrence of a failure to earn a B in a specialty course.
2. Failure to earn a "B" on a second attempt in NURS 510.
3. A second occurrence of academic probation.
4. Failure to remove a grade of incomplete according to the Graduate Catalog policy.
5. Failure to meet professional standards and SON policies as follows but not limited to:
   - Academic dishonesty
   - Incivility to patients, preceptors, staff, peers, or faculty.
   - Violation of clinical policies
   - Failure to follow HIPAA policies.
   - Failure to follow professional Scope and Standards of Practice.
   - Any violation of the social media policy (see SON Handbook).
   - Failure to notify faculty of actual or potential situations that could result in actions on the student's RN license.

FNP Certification: BSN to DNP Program
Graduates of the BSN-DNP degree program who have completed all the requirements for the degree with a concentration as a Family Nurse Practitioner are eligible to sit for the family nurse practitioner certification examinations. Information about nationally recognized certification exams and those for which individual students are eligible can be found at the following websites: *American Nurses Credentialing Center*, or the *American Academy of Nurse Practitioners*, and *The National Certification Corporation*. All nurse practitioner students must complete a portion of their clinical experience with a nurse practitioner of their population focus.

Preceptor Qualifications, Evaluation and Orientation
Preceptor Qualifications
Preceptor qualifications are assessed by program faculty including preceptors' clinical experience, licensure validation, and clinical faculty experience. Preceptors must meet the following qualifications:
   - The preceptor who is an APRN shall have at least one year of clinical experience in the role and population focus for which the student is preparing.
   - A physician or PA who serves as a preceptor shall have at least one year of clinical experience and shall practice in the same or similar population focus for which the student is preparing.
   - A preceptor shall not precept more than two students at a time.

Selection of preceptors is a collaboration among faculty, preceptor, and student; faculty endeavor to place students with appropriate and qualified preceptors in or near their county of residence. Documentation of clinical faculty review of preceptor qualifications is completed through the Medatrax Clinical Tracking System with the approval of a preceptor request.

Preceptor Evaluation
Preceptors formally evaluate the student at midterm and at the end of the semester/clinical experience. Informal evaluation of the student is maintained through direct communication between preceptor and the clinical course faculty. Preceptors in NURS 505, Advanced Health Assessment, only complete an end of semester evaluation as the clinical experience only requires 60 hours. Course faculty complete an evaluation of the student during their onsite visit to the clinical site. During each clinical experience the preceptor and clinical site are evaluated by the student through Medatrax in each clinical course.

Preceptor Orientation

The WKU SON has a written plan for orienting preceptors. The Preceptor Orientation Packet is located in Medatrax, printed by the student, and given to the preceptor. NONPF resources are made available to the preceptor and preceptors are encouraged to utilize the resources. All preceptors sign the preceptor orientation packet indicating completion of the orientation.

Preceptor Guidelines

Purpose: The preceptorship is an organized and planned educational program in which preceptors facilitate the integration of nursing students into their role responsibilities in the practice setting. The purpose for utilization of a preceptor is to guide and enhance the practice activities and learning experiences for students.

Accountability and Responsibility: Ultimate responsibility and accountability for Nursing education rest with Western Kentucky University's School of Nursing and the faculty. Faculty is responsible for the application, integration, and enhancement of the theoretical constructs of each program's curriculum as it relates to the student's clinical experiences. Faculty is responsible and accountable for the control, direction, delegation, supervision and evaluation of these experiences.

Role expectations of faculty:
1. Contact appropriate administrator and solicit name(s) of recommended preceptors(s).
2. Provide written confirmation of selected preceptors(s) prior to beginning clinical.
3. Provide an orientation program for preceptors, including course and clinical objectives, clinical experiences, and student evaluation criteria.
4. Be available to preceptors and students via telephone, email and/or paper.
5. Make on-site visits to coordinate, supervise, and evaluate student performance and learning experiences.
6. Make on-site visits within 24-48 hours if warranted.

Role expectations of preceptors:
1. Provide a copy of resume including documentation of current licensure/certification.
2. Be willing to serve as a preceptor, recognizing the time commitment required.
3. Receive orientation to the preceptor role.
4. Collaborate with Nursing faculty on student learning experiences.
5. Orient student to the clinical agency or institution and its policies and procedures.
6. Provide guidance for student achievement of learning objectives.
7. Supervise student performance as it relates to learning objectives.
8. Provide ongoing evaluation of student's progress and performance.
9. Meet with faculty to provide feedback regarding student performance and progress.
10. Inform faculty of unacceptable or problematic student behavior in a timely manner after behavior.
11. Complete and discuss with the student an evaluation at the end of the rotation.

Role expectations of students:
1. Meet with preceptors to share expectations, learning needs, and plan dates and time for clinical experiences.
2. Be prepared/punctual for clinical and schedule make-up with preceptors.
3. Seek-feedback regarding clinical performance from preceptors and faculty.
4. Coordinate site visits with faculty and preceptors, including date and time.
5. Conduct themselves in a professional manner and dress appropriately (business professional attire unless otherwise directed).
6. Document achievement of clinical objectives by keeping a log or journal.

7. Evaluate effectiveness of preceptor at the end of the clinical experiences.
8. Adhere to the policies of the WKU SON and the clinical agency.

Qualifications of Preceptors: Clinical preceptors for the BSN to DNP student may be nurse practitioners, physicians or other graduate prepared faculty who meet the licensing and/or certification requirement in the state in which they are practicing. Nurse practitioners in the preceptor role must be MSN prepared with a minimum of one year experience.

Web-based Resources: The National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties has developed vignettes to assist in nurse practitioner (NP) preceptor orientation and giving feedback to NP students. These vignettes are filmed in the acute care setting, but are situations common to precepting students in any setting. Vignettes are accessible at http://www.nonpf.org/?page=Preceptor_Vignettes
- Precepting the Primary Care NP Student
- Working with the Overly Confident NP Student
- Working with the Overly Sensitive NP Student

Clinical Practicum Requirements

All DNP students are responsible for compliance with the School of Nursing general policies. Clinical Hours: In order to achieve the DNP competencies, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) states that DNP programs should provide a minimum of 1,000 hours of supervised clinical practice post-baccalaureate. Practice experiences should be designed to help students achieve specific learning objectives related to the DNP Essentials and specialty competencies. These experiences should be designed to provide systematic opportunities for feedback and reflection. Experiences include in-depth work with experts from nursing as well as other disciplines and provide opportunities for meaningful student engagement within practice environments.

BSN to DNP students should be aware that the FNP concentration requires 600 supervised clinical hours within their post-baccalaureate education to qualify for certification testing.

Time Limit on Degree

The Graduate School at WKU requires that a student enrolled in a doctoral program will have ten years to complete all requirements including the clinical project. This time begins with the first class required in the program of study. Requests for extensions must be approved by the SON Graduate Committee, the WKU SON Director and the Graduate School Dean or his/her designee.

Doctor of Nursing Practice Program - Leave of Absence Policy

Students considering a leave of absence must discuss their plans with their academic advisor, prior to making a formal request. Students are also strongly encouraged to discuss this with the student loan or financial aid office as it may affect loan deferment. In addition to avoiding the need to reapply, leave of absence allows for priority registration. Students may request a leave of absence from the Doctor of Nursing Practice program in certain circumstances, for example the birth of a child, illness of a family member, etc. Students must (1) submit the request for leave in writing, (2) have it approved by their faculty academic advisor and then (3) approved by the program coordinator for the DNP program. Request for leave must be made prior to the beginning of the semester leave is requested. No more than two consecutive and four total semesters in leave of absence status may be requested. Students who do not enroll in courses for more than one semester must submit a new application to the Graduate School and be readmitted to the program by the DNP Coordinator. The student may be required to submit an updated Graduate School Program of Study if curriculum changes occur resulting in the omission of courses from the WKU Graduate Catalog.

Financial Support for Research

Limited University financial support is available from the Graduate School. Information on

applying for this support is available at the Graduate School website. Funding may be received for the following:

- Graduate Student Research Grants: Funding up to $750 is available for students conducting research.
- Research Grant Calendar: Submission dates for research grant proposals and interview dates for selected applicant.
- Travel Award: Conferences and Research: Funding is available for graduate students to attend professional meetings and conferences and to support research project travel.

Additional resources for funding:

- Other external organizations.
- Members of Kappa Theta Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International may be eligible to apply for small research grants of $250. Additional information may be obtained from the Kappa Theta President. Contact information can be obtained at the School of Nursing website on the Kappa Theta Chapter of STTI web page.
- Faculty advisors are also a resource related to locating grant opportunities.

DNP Faculty Advisors

Faculty advisors are assigned to DNP students upon admission to the program. They provide academic guidance and mentoring for their DNP advisees. The advisor meets regularly with their advisees to assist students with clinical, scholarly and professional development as related to the DNP program. Faculty advisors do not need to be experts in the student's area of interest. Rather, they serve as facilitators and they guide the student's progress in the program. The advisor is responsible for assisting advisees when identifying an appropriate clinical mentor and an additional faculty member for the student's committee. The committee member and clinical mentor are selected early in the program of study. A copy of the Graduate School Program of Study and any subsequent revised plans are kept on file in WKU's TopNet Electronic Imaged Documents, Student Program Documents. Students are advised to keep copies of all forms submitted and approved. Student advisees are expected to work with their faculty advisor and the program director when developing the advisee's Graduate School Program of Study plan and selecting their committee member and clinical mentor.

Project Chair and Committee

Advisor. The student is responsible for meeting with the assigned advisor each semester during the DNP program. The DNP Project Proposal Request Form is completed by the end of NURS 712 and sent to the advisor. This is after a systematic review of the proposed project is completed and reviewed by the advisor.

Project Committee. The project committee is made up of the student, the WKU faculty advisor who serves as the student advisee's committee chair and a WKU faculty member approved as a doctoral committee member. The committee members work together closely throughout the student's program of study.

Faculty Project Committee Chair. The faculty committee member is an appointed member of the committee who has practice, content or methodology expertise in the advisees' area of interest and in particular in the student's DNP project focus. The faculty member assists the advisor and advisees on matters related to the student's DNP project. Within the structure of the committee, the faculty member also provides insight on matters that pertain to the project during course work. For example, the faculty member provides input on the chapters developed as part of the project.

Clinical mentor. Clinical mentors are experts in the students focus area, willing to assist in clinical coaching and agree to collaborate with the advisor. Clinical mentors serve in the role of consultant. They have an ongoing relationship with students throughout the program, contributing especially to the student's development as a leader in the student's area of practice or executive management. Clinical mentors may be selected from among a variety of disciplines, thereby building

upon the DNP program objective to enhance the student's interdisciplinary experience. It is preferable for the clinical mentor to be doctorally prepared in their discipline. The clinical mentor form should be completed by the student and forwarded to their advisor for approval.

DNP Project Electronic Portfolio and Publishable Manuscript Option

1. DNP students admitted in Summer 2015 and thereafter will complete a DNP project which includes an electronic portfolio and one publishable manuscript.
2. DNP students admitted prior to Summer 2015 will have the option of completing a DNP project and technical report or a DNP project, portfolio addressing each of the eight AACN DNP essentials, and one manuscript option. Students should confer with his or her advisor to determine the appropriate option for the student and the faculty advisor must approve the option.

DNP Portfolio

The DNP Portfolio will be electronic through the organizational DNP site. All bolded headings found in the DNP Portfolio section should have separate folders in the electronic portfolio.

Introductory Documents
Portfolio Requirements:
1. Goal Statement submitted with admission application.
2. CV submitted with application.

Folder One: Essential I Scientific Underpinnings for Practice
1. *Integrate nursing science with knowledge from ethics, the biophysical, psychosocial, analytical, and organizational sciences as the basis for the highest level of nursing practice.*
2. *Use science-based theories and concepts to:*
   - *determine the nature and significance of health and health care delivery phenomena;*
   - *describe the actions and advanced strategies to enhance, alleviate, and ameliorate health and health care delivery phenomena as appropriate;*
   - *evaluate outcomes.*
3. *Develop and evaluate new practice approaches based on nursing theories and theories from other disciplines.*

Portfolio Requirements:
1. NURS 620 DNP Project Statistical Plan, graded with revisions if recommended by advisor.
2. NURS 630 Epidemiology Project Assessment, graded with revisions if recommended by advisor.
3. Student chosen exemplar: Students will add an assignment, presentation, paper or advisor approved activity that demonstrates competency in Essential I. The exemplar must be in addition to the portfolio requirements.
4. Scholarly description of completed course activities, DNP project, and the relationship to DNP Essential I and the WKU program outcomes.

Folder Two: Essential II Organizational and Systems Leadership for Quality Improvement and Systems Thinking
1. *Develop and evaluate care delivery approaches that meet current and future needs of patient populations based on scientific findings in nursing and other clinical sciences, as well as organizational, political, and economic sciences.*
2. *Ensure accountability for quality of health care and patient safety for populations with whom they work.*
   a. *Use advanced communication skills/processes to lead quality improvement and patient safety initiatives in health care systems.*
   b. *Employ principles of business, finance, economics, and health policy to develop and implement effective plans for practice-level and/or system-wide practice initiatives that will improve the quality of care delivery.*

    c. *Develop and/or monitor budgets for practice initiatives.*
    d. *Analyze the cost-effectiveness of practice initiatives accounting for risk and improvement of health care outcomes.*
    e. *Demonstrate sensitivity to diverse organizational cultures and populations, including patients and providers.*
3. *Develop and/or evaluate effective strategies for managing the ethical dilemmas inherent in patient care, the health care organization, and research.*

Portfolio Requirements:
1. NURS 700 Leadership Philosophy, graded with revisions if recommended by advisor.
2. NURS 714 Cost-Benefit Analysis Paper, graded with revisions if recommended by advisor.
3. Student chosen exemplar: Students will add an assignment, presentation, paper or advisor approved activity that demonstrates competency in Essential II. The exemplar must be in addition to the portfolio requirements.
4. Scholarly description of completed course activities, DNP project, and the relationship to DNP Essential II and the WKU program outcomes.

Folder Three: Essential III Clinical Scholarship and Analytical Methods for Evidence-Based Practice
1. *Use analytic methods to critically appraise existing literature and other evidence to determine and implement the best evidence for practice.*
2. *Design and implement processes to evaluate outcomes of practice, practice patterns, and systems of care within a practice setting, health care organization, or community against national benchmarks to determine variances in practice outcomes and population trends.*
3. *Design, direct, and evaluate quality improvement methodologies to promote safe, timely, effective, efficient, equitable, and patient-centered care.*
4. *Apply relevant findings to develop practice guidelines and improve practice and the practice environment.*
5. *Use information technology and research methods appropriately to:*
   - *collect appropriate and accurate data to generate evidence for nursing practice*
   - *inform and guide the design of databases that generate meaningful evidence for nursing practice*
   - *analyze data from practice*
   - *design evidence-based interventions*
   - *predict and analyze outcomes*
   - *examine patterns of behavior and outcomes*
   - *identify gaps in evidence for practice*
6. *Function as a practice specialist/consultant in collaborative knowledge-generating research.*
7. *Disseminate findings from evidence-based practice and research to improve healthcare outcomes.*

Portfolio Requirements:
1. NURS 712 Systematic Review or Integrative Review, graded with revisions if recommended by advisor.
2. Student chosen exemplar: Students will add an assignment, presentation, paper or advisor approved activity that demonstrates competency in Essential III. The exemplar must be in addition to the portfolio requirements.
3. Scholarly description of completed course activities, the DNP project, and the relationship to DNP Essential III and the WKU program outcomes.

Folder Four: Essential IV Information Systems/Technology and Patient Care Technology for the Improvement and Transformation of Health Care

1. *Design, select, use, and evaluate programs that evaluate and monitor outcomes of care, care systems, and quality improvement including consumer use of healthcare information systems.*
2. *Analyze and communicate critical elements necessary to the selection, use and evaluation of health care information systems and patient care technology.*
3. *Demonstrate the conceptual ability and technical skills to develop and execute an evaluation plan involving data extraction from practice information systems and databases.*
4. *Provide leadership in the evaluation and resolution of ethical and legal issues within healthcare systems relating to the use of information, information technology, communication networks, and patient care technology.*
5. *Evaluate consumer health information sources for accuracy, timeliness, and appropriateness.*

Portfolio Requirements:
1. NURS 740 Technology Evaluation, graded with revisions if recommended by advisor.
2. Student chosen exemplar: Students will add an assignment, presentation, paper or advisor approved activity that demonstrates competency in Essential IV. The exemplar must be in addition to the portfolio requirements.
3. Scholarly description of completed course activities, the DNP project, and the relationship to DNP Essential IV and the WKU program outcomes.

Folder Five: Essential V Health Care Policy for Advocacy in Health Care

1. *Critically analyze health policy proposals, health policies, and related issues from the perspective of consumers, nursing, other health professions, and other stakeholders in policy and public forums.*
2. *Demonstrate leadership in the development and implementation of institutional, local, state, federal, and/or international health policy.*
3. *Influence policy makers through active participation on committees, boards, or task forces at the institutional, local, state, regional, national, and/or international levels to improve health care delivery and outcomes.*
4. *Educate others, including policy makers at all levels, regarding nursing, health policy, and patient care outcomes.*
5. *Advocate for the nursing profession within the policy and healthcare communities.*
6. *Develop, evaluate, and provide leadership for health care policy that shapes health care financing, regulation, and delivery.*
7. *Advocate for social justice, equity, and ethical policies within all healthcare arenas.*

Portfolio Requirements:
1. NURS 701 Health Policy Gap Analysis, graded with revisions if recommended by advisor.
2. Student chosen exemplar: Students will add an assignment, presentation, paper or advisor approved activity that demonstrates competency in Essential V. The exemplar must be in addition to the portfolio requirements.
3. Scholarly description of completed course activities, the DNP project, and the relationship to DNP Essential V and the WKU program outcomes.

Folder Six: Essential VI Interprofessional Collaboration for Improving Patient and Population Health Outcomes

1. *Employ effective communication and collaborative skills in the development and implementation of practice models, peer review, practice guidelines, health policy, standards of care, and/or other scholarly products.*
2. *Lead interprofessional teams in the analysis of complex practice and organizational issues.*

3. *Employ consultative and leadership skills with intraprofessional and interprofessional teams to create change in health care and complex healthcare delivery systems.*

Portfolio Requirements:
1. NURS 755 Quality Improvement Plan, graded with revisions if recommended by advisor.
2. Student chosen exemplar: Students will add an assignment, presentation, paper or advisor approved activity that demonstrates competency in Essential VI. The exemplar must be in addition to the portfolio requirements.
3. Scholarly description of completed course activities, the DNP project, and the relationship to DNP Essential VI and the WKU program outcomes.

Folder Seven: Essential VII Clinical Prevention and Population Health for Improving the Nation's Health
1. *Analyze epidemiological, biostatistical, environmental, and other appropriate scientific data related to individual, aggregate, and population health.*
2. *Synthesize concepts, including psychosocial dimensions and cultural diversity, related to clinical prevention and population health in developing, implementing, and evaluating interventions to address health promotion/disease prevention efforts, improve health status/access patterns, and/or address gaps in care of individuals, aggregates, or populations.*
3. *Evaluate care delivery models and/or strategies using concepts related to community, environmental and occupational health, and cultural and socioeconomic dimensions of health.*

Portfolio Requirements:
1. BSN to DNP (only) NURS 605: Population-Based Program Proposal
2. NURS 750 DNP Program Evaluation Proposal, graded with revisions if recommended by advisor.
3. Student chosen exemplar: Students will add an assignment, presentation, paper or advisor approved activity that demonstrates competency in Essential VII. The exemplar must be in addition to the portfolio requirements.
4. Scholarly description of completed course activities, the DNP project, and the relationship to DNP Essential VII and the WKU program outcomes.

Folder Eight: Essential VIII Advanced Nursing Practice
1. *Conduct a comprehensive and systematic assessment of health and illness parameters in complex situations, incorporating diverse and culturally sensitive approaches.*
2. *Design, implement, and evaluate therapeutic interventions based on nursing science and other sciences.*
3. *Develop and sustain therapeutic relationships and partnerships with patients (individual, family or group) and other professionals to facilitate optimal care and patient outcomes.*
4. *Demonstrate advanced levels of clinical judgment, systems thinking, and accountability in designing, delivering, and evaluating evidence-based care to improve patient outcomes.*
5. *Guide, mentor, and support other nurses to achieve excellence in nursing practice.*
6. *Educate and guide individuals and groups through complex health and situational transitions.*
7. *Use conceptual and analytical skills in evaluating the links among practice, organizational, population, fiscal, and policy issues.*

Portfolio Requirements:
BSN- DNP
1. Advanced Physical Examination Checklist
2. Cumulative Medatrax Time Log
3. Clinical hours log from NURS 740, NURS 750, and NURS 780.

4. Student chosen exemplar: Students will add an assignment, presentation, paper or advisor approved activity that demonstrates competency in Essential VIII. The exemplar must be in addition to the portfolio requirements.
5. Scholarly description of completed course activities, the DNP project, and the relationship to DNP Essential VIII and the WKU program outcomes.

MSN-DNP
1. Clinical hours log from NURS 740, NURS 750, and NURS 780.
2. Student chosen exemplar: Students will add an assignment, presentation, paper or advisor approved activity that demonstrates competency in Essential VIII. The exemplar must be in addition to the portfolio requirements.
3. Scholarly description of completed course activities, the DNP project, and the relationship to DNP Essential VIII and the WKU program outcomes.

Summary Documents
1. IRB Application
2. Current CV
3. Oral Defense PowerPoint presentation
4. Publishable Manuscript

Dissemination of DNP Project

All students will disseminate their project through a poster, podium presentation, scholarly article or advisor chosen venue. Podium and poster presentations must be approved by the advisor. Students should utilize the posted guidelines for podium and poster presentations. If a journal article is chosen, the selected journal must be approved by the faculty advisor. Students should utilize the journal guidelines for authors specified in the selected journal to develop a scholarly manuscript. The journal guidelines will specify length and format of the manuscript. The publishable manuscript must be submitted for publication; however, acceptance of the manuscript for publication is not a requirement of NURS 780 or graduation from the DNP program. NURS 780 culminates in an oral defense and dissemination of your project.

Please discuss with your advisor:
- Authorship (first and second author)
- Corresponding author

Final DNP Defense
1. Following approval from the DNP Project Committee, the student will notify their advisor to schedule the DNP final defense. The student will coordinate his/her availability and the availability of the clinical mentor.
2. The clinical mentor may choose to be present or participate by conference call.
3. The room will be reserved for a 2-hour block of time and should have computer, proxima, and conference call capabilities.
4. Announcements of the defense including the student's name, date, and location will be generated through the DNP Blackboard site and SON list serve.

Participation in Graduation Ceremony
In order to participate in the graduation ceremony held in May, DNP students must complete all course work and DNP project no later than the dates posted on the Registrar's website. Earlier submission is strongly recommended.