UT Tyler | SCHOOL OF NURSING

Foundations of Evidence-based Practice

NURS 6302

Summer 2025

Scheduled Class Days and Times: Online

Instructor's Name: Gina Nickels-Nelson DNP, APRN, FNP-BC
Office: Virtual
Phone: (802) 829-9722
Email: gnickelsnelson@uttyler.edu
Virtual Office Hours: Weekly virtual office hours are available, with opportunities for one-on-one appointments upon request. Additional days and times can be arranged to accommodate your schedule. To schedule a one-on-one appointment, please email the faculty. The Microsoft Teams link and schedule for weekly office hours will be provided in Canvas.

Course Description: This foundational course is designed to prepare students for translating evidence into nursing practice. This course includes research principles, models of evidence-based practice (EBP), systematic literature searching, and appraisal of evidence to establish the background and significance of a practice problem.

Prerequisite: Admission to the DNP program

Corequisite: NURS 6301

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
1. Differentiate appropriate use of quality improvement, evidence-based practice, and research methodologies. (AACN, 4.1)
2. Demonstrate an understanding of elements of the research process (AACN, 4.1)
3. Apply knowledge of the research process to evaluate evidence to facilitate the translation of evidence into practice (AACN, 4.1)
4. Implement search strategies using diverse sources of evidence to support a practice problem of interest. (AACN, 4.1 & 4.2)
5. Use evidence to support the background and significance of a practice problem. (AACN, 4.1, 4.2)
6. Identify areas of potential ethical concerns in quality improvement, evidence-based practice, and research (AACN, 4.3)

Required Textbooks & Software

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). ISBN-13: 978-1433832161, ISBN-10: 143383216X

Bradshaw, M. J., & Vitale, T. R. (2024). The DNP project workbook (2nd ed.). Springer Publishing LLC. ISBN: 978-0-8261-7483-3, eBook ISBN: ISBN: 978-0-8261-7483-3

Dang, D., Dearholt, S. L., Bissett, K., Ascenzi, J., & Whalen, M. (2022). *Johns Hopkins evidence-based practice for nurses and healthcare professionals: Model and guidelines* (4th ed.). Sigma Theta Tau International. ISBN-13: 978-1948057875, ISBN-10: 1948057875, Used or Rental is acceptable – no requirement to use online resources.

Polit, D. F., & Beck, C.T. (2021). *Essentials of nursing research: Appraising evidence for nursing practice* (10th ed.). Wolters Kluwer. ISBN-13: 978-1975141851

Schadewald, D. (2023). *Zaccagnini & White's core competencies for advanced practice nursing: A guide for DNPs* (5th ed.). Jones & Bartlett.

Sylvia, M. L., & Terhaar, M. F. (2023). *Clinical analytics and data management for the DNP* (3rd ed.). Springer. ISBN: 9780826163233, eBook ISBN: 9780826163240

Microsoft Office 2019 Word

Assignments and Weights/Percentage/Point Values

Assignments:	Percentage of Grade:
Participation	5
Quizzes	15
Application Exercises	15
Significance Paper	20
Background Paper	20
Nature of the Problem Presentation Video	20
CITI Training Certificate	5
Total	**100%**

DNP Project Hours Requirement: To successfully pass this course, students must complete and document a minimum of **50 DNP project hours** in Exxat. Proper and timely documentation in Exxat is mandatory and will be monitored for compliance.

Grading Scale: Specific guidelines and grading criteria for all assignments are in the Modules. Final grades for the course will be determined based upon the following point assignments:

A - 90-100
B - 80-89
C - 70-79
D - 60-69
F - Below 60

Grades will not be rounded when calculating the average (79.5 is not rounded to 80, and 89.5 is not rounded to 90). Students are required to achieve an average of 80% (B) or higher to complete the course successfully.

Although the university policy allows 60 days for grade appeals, the School of Nursing follows a stricter timeline of 10 days to facilitate students' timely progression through the curriculum. In the case of extenuating circumstances, please consult the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs for guidance.

Late Policy: 5% will be deducted each day an assignment is past due unless prior arrangements have been made with your course faculty. Extenuating circumstances may apply.

Academic Integrity: Cheating of any kind, as defined in Section 8 of the UT Tyler Manual of Policies and Procedures (MOPP) for Student Affairs (https://www.uttyler.edu/mopp/), will not be tolerated. Consequences may include:

- reprimand
- exam failure
- course failure
- expulsion from the Nursing program
- expulsion from the University
- other consequences as assigned

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in this course:

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code.

Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased.

Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

For this course, AI is permitted only for specific assignments or situations, and appropriate acknowledgment is required. During some class assignments, we may leverage AI tools to support your learning, allow you to explore how AI tools can be used, and/or better understand their benefits and limitations. Learning how to use AI is an emerging skill, and we will work through the limitations of these evolving systems together. However, AI will be limited to assignments where AI is a critical component of the learning activity. I will always indicate when and where the use of AI tools for this course is appropriate.

DNP Practice Hours

To successfully pass this course, students must complete and document a minimum of **50 DNP Practice Hours in Exxat**. Proper and timely documentation in Exxat is mandatory and will be monitored for compliance.

Students who are applying approved post-baccalaureate clinical/practice hours to the DNP program are permitted to apply a portion of those hours to satisfy up to 50% of the required hours for this course, provided that these hours meet the program's criteria and are properly verified.

Within the first two weeks of the course, students must complete the DNP Practice Hours Plan Attestation form specifying the number of hours they plan to apply to this course. The attestation form must also include a statement of the total number of post-baccalaureate clinical/practice hours approved through the Clinical Hour Verification Request process, the number of hours applied to previous courses, and the remaining balance of hours available to be applied toward future courses. Failure to complete and submit the attestation form within the required timeframe may result in ineligibility to apply post-baccalaureate hours to the course.

Practice hours must be logged in Exxat within 7 days of completing the activity. Failure to log hours within this timeframe will result in the hours being disqualified for credit, and the activity will need to be repeated to count toward the required hours.

Failure to complete the required hours for the course or to accurately document them in Exxat will result in an incomplete or course failure, as meeting the hour requirement is essential for progression in the program. Students are responsible for ensuring that all hours are properly logged and verified within the designated timeframe.

Exam and homework materials, questions, and problems are the intellectual property of faculty, UT Tyler, or publishers.
- These materials may not be distributed without permission.
- Distributing or uploading them to online resources destroys the integrity of the assignment and the course, allowing others an unfair advantage by letting them view the materials.

- Uploading these materials to online resources is a violation of UT Tyler's academic misconduct policies and may result in formal conduct charges.
- Sanctions for uploading or otherwise divulging the contents of these materials can include:
- a reduced or failing grade on an assignment
- a reduced or failing grade for the course
- removal from the Nursing program
- removal from UT Tyler

Repeating a Course: Students repeating this course may not use previously submitted assignments nor utilize the same patients for an assignment. Submitting the same or slightly modified assignments from previous semesters is considered self-plagiarism and is subject to academic discipline, including failing the assignment or the course.

Attendance and Make-up Policy: Attendance/participation is expected. Make-up for exams, quizzes, assignments, and missed clinical time is at the instructor's discretion.

Graded Course Requirements Information: Detailed information along with grading rubrics will be provided in Canvas.

Participation (5%): Your attendance/viewing of orientation and/or webinar sessions, completion and submission of surveys, and reflections on the course will be used to calculate the participation portion of the course grade.

Quizzes (15%): These module assessments will give you an opportunity to check your understanding of the assigned content from the textbook.

Application Exercises (15%): These assessments will give you an opportunity to apply the knowledge you've gained from the assigned content from the textbook.

Significance Paper (%): For this paper, you will find and synthesize the external evidence to support the significance (magnitude & impact) of the practice problem you've identified as the topic of your DNP Scholarly Project.

Background Paper (20%): For this paper, you will find and synthesize the external evidence to support the background (description, related factors, overview of interventions) of the practice problem you've identified as the topic of your DNP Scholarly Project.

Nature of the Problem Presentation Video (20%): For this presentation, you will develop a PowerPoint presentation incorporating all of the elements that will form Chapter 1 of your DNP Scholarly Project Proposal and create a video to present the information.

CITI Training Certificate (5%): You will demonstrate your knowledge of the ethical considerations required when conducting research studies or EBP/QI projects.

Important Course Dates:

- Orientation: 5/6/25, 8-9 PM, Teams Link will be in the course Modules section
- Census Date: 5/19/25
- Holidays: Memorial Day 5/26/25   Juneteeth 6/19/25 July 4th 7/4/25
- Last Date to Withdraw: 7/8/25

Last Day of Course: 8/9/25 (Saturday), you will need to be done before this, check Canvas for this date

Calendar of Topics, Readings, and Due Dates: Details about readings and assignments will be provided in Canvas.

NURS 6302 COURSE CALENDAR Summer 2025

All times listed on the schedule and in Canvas are for Central Time and subject to change.

Week Begins	Wk #	Topic/Activities	Assignment/Due Dates
Mon 5/5	1	**Module 1**: **Welcome & Course Orientation and What are QI, EBP, & Research, and Why do I Care?** • Review Getting Started & Module 1 in Canvas • Review syllabus & course calendar • Review assigned readings, podcast, & lecture • **Orientation Teams Meeting: 5/6/25 from 2000-2100** • **Teams Link: will be in the Modules section of the course and in the Announcements**	**Due 5/11/25:** • Course Orientation Live/Video • Profile Photo Instructions • Graduate Affirmation Forms • Round Table Discussion: Introduce yourself • **Module 1 Quiz: QI vs EBP vs Research** • **Module 1 Quiz: Understanding Plagiarism**
Mon 5/12	2	**Module 2**: **Literature Searching** • Review assigned readings & tutorials • **Literature Searching Orientation - TBD** • Watch video: Supporting Significance & Background	**Due 5/18/25** • Literature Searching video survey • Significance & Background video survey • DNP Practice Hours Attestation • **Module 2 Quiz: Literature Searching**
Mon 5/19	3	**Module 3: Understanding the Research Process and Its Role in EBP** • Review assigned readings • Watch video: Research Process	**Due 5/25/25** • Round Table Discussion: Research Process and Its Role in EBP • **Module 3 Quiz: Research Process** • Research Process video survey ==Census Day 5/19/25==
Mon 5/26	4	**Module 4**: **Basic Evidence Appraisal** • Review assigned readings • Watch video: Evidence Appraisal	**Due 6/1/25:** • Application Exercise #1 (Ch 3) • Evidence Appraisal video survey

Mon 6/2	**5**		**Due 6/8/25:** • Application Exercise #2 (Ch 8)
Mon 6/9	**6**		**Due 6/15/25:** • Application Exercise #3 (Ch 10) • **Module 4 Quiz: Research Process Appraisal**
Mon 6/16	**7**		**Due 6/22/25:** • Application Exercise #4 (Ch 12) • DNP Practice Hours Attestation • **Module 4 Quiz: Interpretation & Evaluation of Research & Systematic Reviews**
Mon 6/23	**8**	**Module 5**: **Significance & Background of Practice Problem** • Review assigned readings • Work on papers • Watch video: PowerPoint Presentation Basics	**Due 6/29/25:** • Nothing due, work on papers
Mon 6/30	**9**		**Due 7/6/25:** • Significance Paper
Mon 7/7	**10**		**Due 7/13/25:** • PowerPoint video survey Last Day to Withdraw 7/8/25
Mon 7/14	**11**	**Module 6**: **Significance & Background of Practice Problem** • Continued	**Due 7/20/25:** • Background Paper • Clinical Attestation Hours
Mon 7/21	**12**	**Module 6: Ethical concerns in QI, EBP, and Research** • Review assigned readings Watch video: Ethical Concerns	**Due 7/27/25:** • Nature of the Problem Presentation Video • Ethical Concerns video survey
Mon 7/28	**13**	**Module 6**: **Significance & Background of Practice Problem** • Continued	**Due 8/3/25:** • **Module 6 Quiz: Ethical Concerns** CITI Training Certificate
Mon 8/4	**14**	• **Module 7: Course Wrap-Up**	Due 8/9/25 Complete Course Evaluations DNP Practice Hours Attestation
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		Another course done!	

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Mon 6/2	**5**		**Due 6/8/25:** • Application Exercise #2 (Ch 8)
Mon 6/9	**6**		**Due 6/15/25:** • Application Exercise #3 (Ch 10) • **Module 4 Quiz: Research Process Appraisal**
Mon 6/16	**7**		**Due 6/22/25:** • Application Exercise #4 (Ch 12) • DNP Practice Hours Attestation • **Module 4 Quiz: Interpretation & Evaluation of Research & Systematic Reviews**
Mon 6/23	**8**	**Module 5**: **Significance & Background of Practice Problem** • Review assigned readings • Work on papers • Watch video: PowerPoint Presentation Basics	**Due 6/29/25:** • Nothing due, work on papers
Mon 6/30	**9**		**Due 7/6/25:** • Significance Paper
Mon 7/7	**10**		**Due 7/13/25:** • PowerPoint video survey Last Day to Withdraw 7/8/25
Mon 7/14	**11**	**Module 6**: **Significance & Background of Practice Problem** • Continued	**Due 7/20/25:** • Background Paper • Clinical Attestation Hours
Mon 7/21	**12**	**Module 6: Ethical concerns in QI, EBP, and Research** • Review assigned readings Watch video: Ethical Concerns	**Due 7/27/25:** • Nature of the Problem Presentation Video • Ethical Concerns video survey
Mon 7/28	**13**	**Module 6**: **Significance & Background of Practice Problem** • Continued	**Due 8/3/25:** • **Module 6 Quiz: Ethical Concerns** CITI Training Certificate
Mon 8/4	**14**	• **Module 7: Course Wrap-Up**	Due 8/9/25 Complete Course Evaluations DNP Practice Hours Attestation
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		Another course done!	

School of Nursing Policies and Additional Information:
https://www.uttyler.edu/nursing/college/student_guide_and_policies.php

Student Resources and University Policies are provided in Canvas (in the Syllabus Module).