

Strategies for DNP Project Advisors

Note: These are suggestions and can be adapted to meet the individual needs of advisees and advisors.

Communication

- Students will be instructed to initiate communication with their advisor at the start of the fall semester
- Schedule routine meetings based on individualized needs and preferences of the advisee and advisor
- Plan face-to-face meetings once a semester or every other semester based on individualized needs and preferences of the advisee and advisor (e.g., group meetings; or one-on-one meetings during Intensives)
- Be accessible and flexible; notify advisee during times when availability will be limited.

Site Visits

- Conduct a site visit with advisees at least once during the DNP program (this may not be feasible in some cases)

General Topics for Advisee/Advisor Meetings

- **DNP Project Guidelines:** Review current DNP Project Guidelines with advisee at the start of each semester. (Refer to *TTUHSC DNP Project Guidelines 05.20.2016*)
- **Timeline for Semester Deliverables:** Collaborate with advisee to create a timeline at the start of each semester based on DNP Project related assignments, assignments that require Advisor feedback, and clinical activities related to the DNP Project
- **DNP Project and Course Assignments:** Help advisees to navigate, link and leverage course assignments with DNP Project development
- **DNP Project Expert:** Help students identify national and international DNP Project experts within topic of interest. (Refer to handout *DNP Project Experts*).
- **Obtaining Clinical Hours:** Discuss opportunities to earn and document practice/clinical hours; provide support with writing clinical objectives (Refer to handout *Documentation and Guidelines for DNP Courses with Clinical Hours Requirements*)
- **Literature Review:** Discuss key words for literature review, categories to include in the literature review, and how to expand and develop literature review to ensure an overview of the state of the science for the DNP Project topic.
- **DNP Project Design:** Discuss and determine the type of project design (e.g., quality improvement, program development/evaluation, research)
- **Support Services Required:** Help advisee to obtain needed support (e.g., TTUHSC Writing Center website at <http://ttuhsc.uwc.ttu.edu/>; writing coach). Refer students to DNP program handouts: *Writing Resources for DNP Students*; *IRB Tips and Resources for DNP Students*; *TTUHSC Clinical Research Institute Support for DNP Students*; *Clinical Research Institute*; *Documentation and Guidelines for DNP Courses with Clinical Hours Requirements*)

- **Ethical Considerations and Required Approvals:** Discuss and identify ethical considerations and required approvals related to the project (examples: IRB, QI, EBP, letters of support).
- **IRB Process (if required):** Advise student to begin IRB process by end of the 3rd semester, if project requires IRB review; review and refer advisee to handout - *IRB Tips and Resources for DNP Students*. Contact the Associate Dean of Research for the SON with advisee IRB questions (do not contact the IRB directly or have student contact the IRB).
- **Data Analysis:** Help student identify support for data analysis (see *IRB Tips for DNP Students*) by the end of the second semester

Other Suggestions

- Keep dated notes from meetings with advisee; include advisor and advisee deliverables for next meeting.
- Facilitate communication about DNP Project activities with course faculty
- Seek input as needed from other DNP advisors
- Seek input as needed from course faculty for DNP Project related courses.
- Consider including course faculty in DNP Project related courses when giving email feedback to advisees.
- Use group sessions to prepare students for DNP Project activities in the next semester.
- Emphasize steady progress to encourage success.

***Key Timeline for DNP Project Development** (full-time student)

First Semester – Summer

DNP Project Related Course: N6200 Role Transition I

- Identify topic of interest, faculty review and have an opportunity to identify students they would like to be assigned as Advisors.
- Advisor assignments made by end of summer semester

Second Semester – Fall

DNP Project Related Course: N6330 Evidence Based Inquiry I

- Students make initial contact with Advisor and agree upon communication methods
- Discuss advisee's preliminary DNP project and components of the proposal including introduction, background, significance, problem statement, aim, purpose(s), literature synthesis, and design.
- Discuss/identify potential DNP Project experts

Third Semester – Spring

DNP Project Related Course: N6244 Advanced Practice Development

- In collaboration with Advisor, plan clinical/practice activities to further investigate, develop and advance DNP Project
- Continue to advance literature review and synthesis
- Identify and engage with DNP Project experts
- Continue to develop and refine proposal based on clinical experiences and input from DNP Project expert and faculty Advisor
- Begin process to obtain required approvals including IRB application if required

Fourth Semester – Summer

DNP Project Related Course: N6201 Role Transition II

- Continue to develop and refine proposal based on clinical experiences and input from DNP Project expert and faculty Advisor
- Develop an Executive Summary for review and approval by the DNP Council
- Continue and/or finalize process to obtain required approvals including IRB application if required

Fifth Semester – Fall

DNP Project Related Course: N7332 Evidence Based Inquiry II

- Finalize proposal based on feedback from DNP Project expert and faculty Advisor
- Finalize required approvals including IRB approval if required
- Implement project
- Identify plans for dissemination including journal for manuscript submission

Sixth Semester – Spring

DNP Project Related Course: N7350 DNP Project Seminar and Practice Immersion

- Finalize project
- Develop formal presentation and manuscript for submission to identified journal

*Additional detail about DNP Project semester activities is provided in the *TTUHSC DNP Project Guidelines 05.20.2016*.