DNP Final Project Outline

The final project document should be about 40 pages in length excluding references, tables, figures, charts, graphs, and appendices. Use Times New Roman size 11 font, one inch margins around the page, and APA 6th edition guidelines for references, tables, figures, charts, and graphs. Please review the guidelines for writing form and style, as well.

The sections of the completed Final Project Document Report are listed below:

- Cover page
- Acknowledgements (optional)
- Dedication (optional)
- Abstract – 250 words
- Section One: Nature of the Problem
    - Introduction to the problem
    - Purpose of Project
- Section Two: Review of the Literature
    - Clinical practice problem statement
    - Evaluation/Summary of the evidence from the literature
    - Critical appraisal of the evidence
    - Presentation of theoretical basis
    - Utility/Feasibility
    - Recommendations summary
- Tables
    - Evaluation (all literature)
    - Level of evidence
    - Outcomes
- Section Three: Methods
    - Recommendations of practice change
    - Plan for implementation of EBP practice change
- Section Four: Findings
    - Results/Outcomes
    - Discussion/Conclusions
    - Limitations
- Section Five: Recommendations and Implications for Practice
    - Project summary
    - Implications for nursing practice and to the DNP Essentials
    - Identify methods for dissemination
- References Appendices

The following major headings serve as suggestions to organize your Final Project Document. The final organization of the DNP project document is determined in collaboration with the faculty advisor and committee.

Section One: Nature of the Problem

1. Introduction to the problem

Provide an overview of the problem including; evidence to support the significance, rationale for addressing, and relevance to nursing. Include references as appropriate to support the overview. Provide a short description of the events or situation that led you to the problem you plan to address, i.e. what was your clinical inquiry?

2. Purpose of project
1. This is a broad reflection of the focus of your project.
2. Purpose has logical flow from introduction to the problem.
3. Include population of interest, setting, and potential intervention(s).
4. Project Objectives

Section Two: Review of the Literature
1. Clinical practice problem statement

The Clinical Practice Problem is to be formulated and stated using the PICO(T) format of Population, Intervention, Comparison, Outcome, Timeline.

2. Evaluation/Summary of the evidence from the literature
1. Develop and implement an exhaustive search process
2. Describe in a narrative format the following items:

   a) Literature search method.

   b) Selection criteria.

   c) Publication years included in search.

3. Synthesize the evidence that supports the project utilizing appropriate synthesis table(s) followed by a narrative synthesis including the following items; strength of the body of evidence, quality of the body of evidence, generalizability of the body of evidence to answer your inquiry, feasibility of implementing the evidence in the proposed setting.

   a) Review current research and other related literature.
   b) Complete an *Evaluation/Summary* Table to summarize the literature.
   c) If guidelines exist, rate the guidelines using the *Appraisal of Guidelines for Research and Evaluation II (AGREE II) Instrument*
4. Review each article using Critical Appraisal Tools.
5. There must be adequate evidence to support the proposed problem and the subsequent proposed recommendation for practice change.

6. If applicable evaluation/summary of any internal (Organizational) evidence. Examples may include:

    a) QI Data;

    b) Quality Metrics (HCAPS, core measures, NDNQI).

3. Critical appraisal of the evidence

This is an essential step of the evidence-based practice project that moves the analysis beyond a mere review of evidence; you are appraising the quality and the strength of the evidence to answer your clinical question.

1. Synthesize the evidence that supports the project utilizing appropriate synthesis table(s) followed by a narrative synthesis including the following items; strength of the body of evidence, quality of the body of evidence, generalizability of the body of evidence to answer your inquiry, feasibility of implementing the evidence in the proposed

2. Interventions should then be evaluated for Effectiveness as related to Scholarly Examinationples of rating systems are provided in Evaluation of the Level of Effectiveness. Record on *Summary of Effectiveness Table*.

3. Utilize a Synthesis Table followed by a narrative Synthesis would include steps such as:

    a) Synthesize the body of evidence assembled to answer the clinical question including a synthesis of;

    b) the strength of the body of evidence;

    c) the body of evidence related to outcomes of interest;

    d) the body of evidence related to practice change recommendations;

    e) the body of evidence related to implementation strategies, etc.

4. Presentation of theoretical basis

Theoretical base for investigation of the clinical problem or implementation of the intervention is provided. This may include a conceptual framework; mid-range theory to guide the formulation of the intervention; theoretical framework for implementation (i.e., change theory, EBP models).

1. Presentation would include:

    a) Providing theoretical basis for the investigation of the problem (conceptual framework, etc.).

    b) Providing an EBP model that will guide the project (Iowa, Rosswurm and Larabee, etc.).

    c) Providing a description of how the project fits the organizational nursing department's theory of practice, or the organizational strategic plan or mission statement.

5. Utility/Feasibility
1. Complete a critique of applicability of your proposed intervention/implementation.

2. Determine the clinical feasibility and usefulness of your proposed intervention/implementation.

   a) Feasibility goes beyond cost. Other considerations are time involvement, adequate resources; training needs if applicable, space needs, institutional interest and commitment, etc.

3. Analyze the benefits and risks of use of intervention/implementation.

4. Complete a cost analysis and resources needed to implement change including:

   a) A budget.

   b) Education plan if applicable.

   c) Timeline.

   d) Including but not limited to i.e. personnel, operational, equipment.

6. Recommendations summary
1. Statement of the recommendations

2. Reference(s) in support of the recommendations

3. Identification of key stakeholders

4. Strategies to engage

5. Identification of potential barriers

6. Strategies to address

Tables
- Evaluation (all literature)

- Level of evidence

- Outcomes

Section Three: Methods

1. Recommendations for implementation of practice change

Use the synthesis tables of evidence to develop the practice change plan. In narrative form, state the practice change plan developed from the evidence- based recommendations.

2. Plan for implementation of the EBP practice change

This is where you will lay out – in detail – your implementation strategy. What do you propose as effective strategies to promote behavior change and implementation of evidence? How will it be carried out in the allotted time? What is the role of your clinical agency?

1. Identify specific evidence-based practice model for implementation/dissemination of the project (e.g., Iowa, Rogers, Johns Hopkins, ACE Star) with supporting statements related to selection of particular model

2. Sample/Practice Setting/Clinical Context Description/Patient Preferences/Values

   a) Identify and describe the sample and Approximately what size is the patient population you will be using? (Type of facility, number of beds, setting where the project will be implemented, type of patients seen in this setting, rational for selecting this setting).

   b) How does this patient population and unit/department/setting compare with those described in the literature?

   c) Describe the process in the selection of a particular unit/department/setting (as needed). Include a copy of your educational/information process or procedure and/or materials e. flyers, educational materials, new EBP protocols in the appendix (also needed for IRB approval, if applicable).

   d) Identify the patient population including preferences and overall values.

3. Identify the organization's readiness for change.

   a) Include a summary of the organization's readiness for change and for EBP.

4. Construct a summary of the plan for implementation of the EBP practice change according to the guidelines established by DiCenso, Guyatt, & Ciliska, 2005 and Melnyk & Fineout- Overholt, 2011 including:

   a. Potential barriers.

      i. Plan/strategy to address.

   b. Potential facilitators.

      i. Plan/strategy to engage

5. Measurement methods/tools

   a) Outcome measurement: What indicators will you use to measure the success of implementing the innovation/change? Consider outcome measures such as "patient outcomes, patient satisfaction, provider satisfaction, access to care, resource allocation, and organization performance indicators" (Melnyk & Fineout-Overholt, 2011, 226 – 237). Goode (2000) includes other outcomes: "…benchmarking data; cost effective analysis; quality improvement and risk data; international, national, and local standards; infection control data" (p. 223).

b) Describe the instrument/measurements to be used to measure your variables/outcome measures (directly or as a proxy measure; how scored; limitations) and describe why this instrument/measure is appropriate.

c) If using an established tool, identify the reliability and validity Describe what populations this tool has been used in and how that is different/similar to the population you plan to use it on. Provide an electronic copy of the instrument and permission for use (if not public domain) in your appendix.

6. Data collection process and logistics

a) Identify who will collect data and how they will be If more than one person is collecting data, discuss how you will determine inter-rater reliability.

b) Describe the process of data collection (e.g. access to data, privacy provision, administration of the tool, any anticipated barriers to data collection).

c) Identify the time frame for data collection (e.g., before you implement the change, how long you will wait before you re-measure.

7. Plan for data analysis

a) If using quantitative data, describe how statistical procedures or other procedures will be utilized and why they are appropriate (what level of data will the tool yield)?

b) If using qualitative approach, describe the qualitative process that will be used to analyze the data.

c) Describe the how you will prepare the data for analysis (i.e., who will enter data? Into what computer? Will there be double entry of data to insure no mistakes?, who will transcribe narrative?, How have these individuals been trained?, who is the statistical consultant for the project if needed?).

8. Practice model use analysis

a) Describe how you followed the steps/model for using an evidence based practice model for implementation/dissemination of the project (e.g., Iowa, Rogers, Johns Hopkins, ACE Star)

9. Proposed budget, time, and resources plan

a) Provide a budget This will help you think through the resources needed. If you plan on applying for a grant. Think about who will finance each aspect of the project. If you are the only financial support, you will have to manage the project accordingly. If you plan on a grant application, include details.

b) Provide a timeline for implementation of the plan (2-semester grid). This might change as you progress with the Usually every step takes longer than you anticipate. Be prepared to alter your plans if needed.

c) Identify resources available and/or needed (e.g., information technology, data bases, personnel, statistician, settings).

d) Identify deficiencies and how to alleviate those to achieve this plan (what you do not have and how you might get it; skills you may need to develop; consultants you may need to secure).

Section Four: Findings
1. Results/Outcomes

Should be organized and linked to the problem statement, purpose project objectives, and evaluation plan. Include specific details as to how your project was evaluated:

- What was the evidence-based measures that were applied to the evaluation plan?
- What evidence-based measures/instruments were used for each objective or proposed outcome?
- What method of analysis was used for each objective and/or outcome?

2. Discussion/Conclusions

Describe the extent to which the objectives and/or project outcomes were achieved.

3. Limitations

Include recommendations related to identified facilitators/barriers and unintended consequences.

Describe one or two methods of dissemination of the results of your project including:

1. A statement on why these venues were selected and are the best/most impactful.
2. A description of who you would want to reach as your audience and why.

Section Five: Recommendations and implications for practice
1. Project Summary
2. Implications for practice
  1. Discuss the recommendations and implications in relation to practice and project site

     a) Discuss implications in relationship to DNP Essentials and practice.

     b) Discuss the relationship for the site at which the project was conducted may include: Should the project be continued, reduced, phased out, or expanded? Place your recommendation within the framework of the organization's strategic plan and be sure to recommend who needs to be involved in or responsible for future phases. Next, write recommendations regarding the possible application of this project in other settings.

3. Identify methods for dissemination

1. Describe one or two methods of dissemination of the results of our project including:

    a) A statement on why these venues were selected and are the best/most impactful.

    b) A description of who you would want to reach as your audience and why.