



**Foundations of Evidence-Based Practice
NURS 7302
Fall 2025**

Scheduled Class Days and Times: Online

Instructor's Name: Gina Nickels-Nelson DNP, APRN, FNP-BC

Office: Virtual

Phone: (430) 367-2367

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.

Zoom Link: <https://uttyler.zoom.us/j/2293114842?pwd=dTQveBf2rQazetzJGQnn0AWK1ZIsEM.1>

Password: DNP 2025

Course Description: This course provides a comprehensive foundation for the integration of evidence into nursing practice to enhance healthcare quality and patient outcomes. Students will explore research methodologies, quality improvement frameworks, and models of evidence-based practice (EBP) to differentiate their roles in clinical decision-making. Emphasis is placed on systematic literature searching, critical appraisal of evidence, and synthesis of diverse sources to establish the significance of a practice problem. Additionally, students will examine ethical considerations in research and EBP while evaluating the applicability of findings to practice change and continuous quality improvement.

Prerequisites: Admission to the DNP program

Corequisites: NURS 7301

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Differentiate the appropriate use of quality improvement, evidence-based practice, and research methodologies in healthcare decision-making. (AACN 4.1, 4.2)
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the research process and its role in evaluating and translating evidence into practice. (AACN 4.1, 4.2)
3. Apply systematic search strategies to identify and synthesize diverse sources of evidence to support a practice problem. (AACN 4.1, 4.2)
4. Use evidence to establish the background, significance, and rationale for addressing a clinical or practice-based problem. (AACN 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 5.1)
5. Identify potential ethical concerns related to quality improvement, evidence-based practice, and research methodologies. (AACN 4.3, 9.1)
6. Evaluate the applicability of research findings for practice change and continuous quality improvement. (AACN 4.1, 4.2, 5.1)

Required Textbooks & Resources:

- 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
- Dunlap, J. J. & Waldrop, J. B. (2026). *Leading evidence-based practice and quality improvement initiatives in advanced nursing practice. A competency based approach.* (1st ed.). Cognella. ISBN: 9798823344623
- Polit, D. F., & Beck, C.T. (2021). *Essentials of nursing research: Appraising evidence for nursing practice* (10th ed.). Wolters Kluwer. ISBN-13: 978-1975141851
- 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

In all clinical courses, students are required to maintain an active Exaat subscription.

Assignments and Weights/Percentage/Point Values:

Criteria for Evaluation:	Percentage of Grade
Participation	5%
Professionalism	3%
Discussion Boards	10%
Application Exercises	25%
Significance and Background Papers	40%
Nature of the Problem Presentation Video	10%
CITI Training Certificate	7%
Total	100%

DNP Project Hours Requirement:

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.

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) 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.

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

Assignment Resubmission Policy: To support mastery learning and academic success, students are permitted to resubmit any assignment on which they initially earned less than 80%, under the following conditions:

- One-time Resubmission: Students may resubmit each eligible assignment only once.
- Grade Cap: The maximum grade that can be earned on any resubmitted assignment is 80%, regardless of the quality of the resubmission.
- Exclusions: This policy does not apply to assignments in which the original grade was below 80% due to late submission penalties applied in accordance with the course's Late Policy.
- Submission Deadline: Resubmitted work must be submitted within 7 days of receiving the original grade and feedback, unless otherwise approved by the instructor.

Students are strongly encouraged to review instructor feedback carefully and consult with the instructor as needed before resubmitting work.

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.**

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

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.

Late Assignments and Missed Tests - Attestation Required for this Course

As future Nurse Practitioners (or nursing leaders), professionalism, accountability, and time management are critical skills that directly impact patient care and your success in this field. Meeting deadlines and adhering to schedules are essential not only for academic integrity but also for the expectations in clinical practice.

Please ensure that all assignments are submitted on time and all exams/quizzes are taken as scheduled. Failure to do so may result in penalties, including deductions or ineligibility to submit past-due work.

Please confirm that you have received this notice and acknowledge your understanding of these expectations. If you have any concerns or need assistance, please reach out proactively.

You are required to attest to receipt of this notification

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.

Grading Criteria and Assignment Details:

Detailed information, including grading rubrics, will be provided in Canvas.

Participation (5%): Active engagement is an essential component of this course. Your participation grade will be based on attendance and/or viewing of orientation and webinar sessions, completion and submission of required surveys, and thoughtful reflections on course content.

Professionalism (3%): Professionalism is a core academic expectation in the DNP program. Professionalism reflects a student's readiness to function as a clinical scholar, leader, and advocate within complex health systems. It will be expected that all students act in a professional manner throughout the semester.

Application Exercises (25%): These exercises provide an opportunity to apply learned concepts to real-world scenarios. You will integrate knowledge from course readings and discussions to demonstrate critical thinking and practical application of evidence-based principles.

Significance Paper (20%): In this assignment, you will conduct a synthesis of external evidence to establish the significance of your identified practice problem for your DNP Scholarly Project. The paper should clearly define the magnitude and impact of the issue based on relevant literature and clinical evidence.

Background Paper (20%): This paper builds on your significance paper by synthesizing external evidence to provide a comprehensive background of your identified practice problem. You will describe the problem, examine contributing factors, and provide an overview of existing interventions related to your DNP Scholarly Project topic.

Nature of the Problem Presentation Video (10%): In this assignment, you will develop a PowerPoint presentation that integrates all components of Chapter 1 of your DNP Scholarly Project Proposal. You will then record and submit a video presentation of your findings, effectively communicating the problem's nature, significance, and background.

CITI Training Certificate (7%): This requirement ensures that you demonstrate competency in research ethics. You will complete the CITI Training to validate your understanding of the ethical considerations related to conducting research, evidence-based practice (EBP), and quality improvement (QI) projects.

Please Note: Detailed information along with grading rubrics for course assignments will be provided in

Canvas.

Important Course Dates:

- Orientation: 9/4/24 from 7-9pm for 6301 and 6302, Zoom Link will be in the course Modules section
- Census Date: 9/10/25
- Holidays: Labor Day- 9/1/25, Thanksgiving- 11/24/25-11/28/25
- Last Date to Withdraw: 11/4/25
- Last Day of Course: 12/13/25, you will need to be done before this, check Canvas for this date
- Grades are due 12/16/25

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

NURS 7302 COURSE CALENDAR Fall 2024

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

Dr Nickels-Nelson Zoom Link:

<https://uttyler.zoom.us/j/2293114842?pwd=dTQveBf2rQazetzJGQnn0AWK1ZIsEM.1>

Password: DNP2025

Week Begins	Wk #	Topic/Activities	Assignment/Due Dates
Mon. 9/1	1	Module 1: Course Orientation & QI, EBP & Research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review <u>Getting Started</u> & <u>Module 1</u> in Canvas Review syllabus & course calendar Review assigned readings & podcast Orientation Zoom 9/3 1930-2030 Zoom Link: will be noted in Canvas 	Due 9/7/25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduate Affirmation Forms Discussion Board: Introduce yourself Attestation: Late and Missing Assignments Discussion Board: EBP & Quality Improvement
Mon. 9/8	2	Module 2: Literature Searching <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review assigned readings & tutorials Literature Searching Orientation/Webinar with Librarian: Thursday, Sept 11 at 7pm via Zoom 	Due 9/14/25 Attend or watch Library Webinar (Non-Graded) DNP Practice Hours Attestation Form Census Day- 9/10/25
Mon. 9/15	3		Due 9/21/25: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Literature Searching Exercise
Mon 9/22	4	Module 3: The Research Process and its Role in EBP Review assigned readings and Videos	Due 9/28/25:
Mon. 9/29	5		Due 10/5/25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How to Read a Research Article #1
Mon. 10/6	6		Due 10/12/25 How to Read a Research Article #2
Mon. 10/13	7		Due 10/19/25 How to Read a Research Article #3 DB: How to Read a Research Article- What did you Learn?
Mon 10/20	8	Module 5: Ethical Concerns in QI, EBP and Research	Due 10/26/25 Ethical Considerations in EBP CITI Training Certificate
Mon 10/27	9	Module 6: Significance & Background of the Problem Module 6: Significance & Background of the Problem Review readings and videos for the module THANKSGIVING BREAK (Week 13)	Due 11/2/25 DB: What did you Learn from the Data Science Lab?
Mon 11/3	10		Due 11/9/25 Significance Paper
Mon. 11/10	11		Due 11/16/25
Mon 11/17	12		Due 11/23/25 Background Paper
Mon 11/24	13		Due 11/30/25
Mon	14		Due 12/7/25

Week Begins	Wk #	Topic/Activities	Assignment/Due Dates
12/1			Nature of the Problem Video
Mon 12/8	15		Due 12/13/25 Reflections on Research and EBP

Please note that all assignments must be submitted by 11:59 PM Central Time on the due date listed.

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

School of Nursing Policies and Additional Information:

https://www.utt Tyler.edu/nursing/college/student_guide_and_policies.php

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

NURS 6302 COURSE CALENDAR Fall 2025

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

Coming Soon!