



**Capstone
NURS 5382
Spring 2026**

Scheduled Class Days and Times: Online

Please check Canvas during the first week of class for potential syllabus updates

Instructor Name: J. Michelle Nelson, PhD, RN, CNE, ACUE
Office Location: Online
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Best way to contact: Canvas Inbox

Office Hours:

Virtual hours: Tuesday 7:30pm -9:30pm CST; Saturday 8:00-9:00 PM CST; other times by appointment (including evening or weekend)

- <https://uttyler.zoom.us/j/7356692825>
- I'll be waiting in the virtual room at this link (please wait in the waiting room, and I'll let you in as soon as I am done with the previous student-text me if you want to let me know you are waiting 281-433-0382)

Course Description: Students will synthesize evidence for a clinical problem and develop an evidence-based project, building on work in prior core and clinical courses. This project will comprise evidence-based best practice innovations that will actualize the nursing advanced practice role in educational, administrative, and clinical environments to impact the health of individuals or populations. This course is designed to fall within the final two semesters of the MSN program.

Prerequisites: NURS 5301 and 5302 and at least one program specialty course.

Student Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Identify a clinical or practice problem and complete an appropriate literature review and synthesis of the available evidence to address the problem.
2. Integrate research evidence, evidence-based theory, ethical considerations, clinical expertise, and patient values into an evidence-based project proposal with the potential to impact health care and health education outcomes.
3. Describe a plan to evaluate your proposed project processes and outcomes for sustainability and cost-effectiveness.

4. Share your evidence-based projects with peers.

Required Textbook:

American Psychological Association. (2020). Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ed.). Washington, DC: Author

Open Resource Text:

Thomas, C. (2018). Evidence-based practice in nursing foundations, skills, and roles. Springer Publishing.

This is the Link to the online Text. Keep it handy for easy reference!

<https://go.openathens.net/redirector/uttyler.edu?url=https%3A%2F%2Fbookcentral.proquest.com%2Flib%2Futtyler%2Fdetail.action%3FdocID%3D5185511>

Assignments and Weights/Percentage/Point Values

1. Discussion Board Participation	20%
2. Assignments	45%
3. Final Scholarly Project	25%
4. PowerPoint Presentation	10%

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.

Late Policy: 5% will be deducted *each day* an assignment is past due unless prior arrangements have been made with your course faculty. ALWAYS let the instructor know in advance of the due date that you need extra time to complete an assignment.

Canvas is set up in this course to do the following settings:

- Missing Assignments: Canvas will **automatically apply a grade of zero (0) for all missing submissions** in the Grade book. A submission is labeled missing when the due date has passed, and it has not been submitted.

- Late Assignments: ***If a submission is received after the due date, the Missing label will be automatically replaced by the Late label.*** A submission is labeled late when it has been submitted past the due date.
- Late Assignments: Canvas will ***automatically deduct 5% on all late submissions up to a maximum of 25%.*** The late policy will be applied to a submission when it is graded.
- Late Assignments: For the calculation of the Late Penalty, days late will be rounded up to the next whole number. For example, if a student submits 1.3 days late, the Late Penalty will treat the student as 2 days late.

No resubmissions are accepted unless recommended by your instructor.

Artificial Intelligence in Coursework: 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.** To best support your learning, you must **generate** all graded assignments by yourself to assist in your learning. This exclusion of other resources to help generate assignments includes artificial intelligence (AI). Refrain from using AI tools to **generate** any course content (e.g., text, video, audio, images, code, etc.) for an assignment or classroom assignment.

You may, however, use an AI Writing Assistant (like Grammarly) **to help check for spelling, grammatical errors, and best word choice once your document is written.** If you do use a tool like Grammarly for edits and fine-tuning, you **MUST** acknowledge this in your reference section.

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.

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:

The major assignments are

1. Discussion Boards (20%): These discussions allow students to explore concepts and techniques related to the evidence-based practice process.
2. Written assignments (45%): These documents encompass the elements of your Capstone Scholarly Project.
3. PowerPoint Presentation (10%): This presentation allows the final Scholarly Project to be viewed as a professional presentation. It is both an audio and visual presentation via Studio recording.
4. Final Project Paper (25%): This MS Word document is a culmination of the MSN core courses (TS1, TS2, and other degree specific courses) and combines the evidence-based practice process into a final Scholarly Project. It is a professional paper that presents all elements of the evidence-based practice process.

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

Important Course Dates:

Note: The complete course schedule is available on the Course Canvas site.

- **Preview Days:** Thursday, January 8- Sunday, January, 11, 2026 (Preview only; Faculty are not available, and no assignments should be submitted.)
- **Classes Begin:** Monday, January 12, 2026
- **Census Date the final date for adding new courses, changing sections, or dropping courses without incurring grades of "W" or "Q".**): January 21, 2026
- **Last day to enter midterms grades:** March 9, 2026
- **Spring Break:** March 9-13, 2026
- **Last Date to Withdraw: (final date students are eligible to withdraw from courses for grades of "W"):** March 24, 2026
 - *Students, please notify your course faculty and contact your advisor if you plan to withdraw.
- **For forms from the Office of the Registrar:** <https://www.uttyler.edu/registrar/forms/>
- **Final Exam Date:** N/A for this course
- **End of Classes:** April 25, 2026 (grades due Tuesday, April 28, 2025)

Calendar of Topics, Readings, and Due Dates:

***All assignments/discussions are due on Sundays by 11:59 pm CST.

Week	Module	Readings / Assignments / Discussions Due at the end of the week (Sundays) at midnight
Preview Week Jan 8-11	Preview the course content	No assignments due but Course is open for Preview! (Your instructor will not be monitoring the course yet)
Week 1 Jan 12-18	Module 1: Spirit of Inquiry	Reading- Chapter 1: Nursing's Commitment to Best Clinical Decisions; Chapter 2: Using Evidence to Inform and Reform Clinical Practice Assignment- Graduate Affirmation Forms; Begin to Explore your Project Topic Discussion- Introductions and Professional Networking; Understanding Evidence-Based Practice
Week 2 Jan. 19-25	Module 2: Search for the Best Evidence	Reading- Chapter 3: <i>Integrating Best Evidence Into Practice</i> ; Chapter 4: <i>Setting the Boundaries of Nursing Evidence</i> Assignment- Proposed Project Topic Approval Discussion- Share your Project Topic with Peers
Week 3 Jan. 26- Feb. 1	Module 3: Searching the Literature	Reading- Chapter 6: <i>Evidence-based Practice: Success of Practice Change Depends on the Question</i> ; Chapter 8: <i>How to Read and Assess for Quality Research</i> Assignment- Searching the Literature

		Discussion- Searching the Literature
Week 4 Feb. 2-8	Module 4: Appraising the Evidence	Reading- see links in Canvas for readings/media about starting your project and appraising the evidence Assignment- Start your Project and Evidence Table Discussion- No discussion this week!
Week 5 Feb. 9-15	Module 5: Appraising the Evidence II	Reading- see links in Canvas for readings/media about starting your project and appraising the evidence Assignment- Complete your Evidence Table Discussion- No discussion this week!
Week 6 Feb. 16-22	Module 6: Synthesizing the Literature I	Reading- see links in Canvas for readings/media about starting your literature synthesis Assignment- Progress on the Literature Synthesis Discussion- Literature Synthesis Reflection
Week 7 (midterm) Feb. 23- March 1	Module 7: Synthesizing the Literature II	Reading- No readings this week! Assignment- Final Literature Synthesis Discussion- No discussion this week!
Week 8 March 2-8	Module 8: Implementation I	Reading- Chapter 11: <i>Organizing an Evidence-based Practice Implementation Plan</i> Assignment- Implementation of your Plan Phase I Discussion- No discussion this week!
Spring Break! March 9-15		
Week 9 March 16-22	Module 9: Implementation II	Reading- No readings this week! Assignment- Implementation of your Plan Phase II Discussion- Project Support and Resistance
Week 10 March 23-29	Module 10: Data Collection and Evaluation Withdraw date: March 24	Reading- Chapter 15: <i>Evidence-based Practice: A Culture of Organizational Empowerment</i> Assignment- Data Collection and Evaluation Discussion- Culture of Organizational Empowerment
Week 11 March 30- April 5	Module 11: Cost/Benefit Analysis and Conclusions/Recommendations	Reading- Chapter 16: <i>Nursing Leadership: The Fulcrum of Evidence-Based Practice Culture</i> Assignment- Discussion of Results and Conclusions Discussion- Leadership Strategy and Innovation
Week 12 April 6-12	Module 12: Finalizing your Proposal Draft and Presentation	Reading- No readings this week! Assignment- Final Draft with Executive Summary; PowerPoint and Presentation for Peers Discussion- No discussion this week!
Week 13 April 13-19	Module 13:	Reading- No readings this week! Assignment- Final Capstone Paper

	Final Revision and Sharing Your Work with Peers	Discussion- Share your Final Presentation with Peers
Week 14 April 20-25	Final Week: Course Evaluation	Assignment -Complete Course Evaluations

School of Nursing Policies and Additional Information can be found at the website below.

https://www.uttyler.edu/nursing/college/student_guide_and_policies.php

Student Resources and University Policies and Information are provided in Canvas.