



**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:** Karen Walker, PhD, RN, MBA, ACUE  
**Office Location:** Online  
**Email:** [kwalker@uttyler.edu](mailto:kwalker@uttyler.edu)  
**Best way to contact:** Canvas Inbox

**Office Hours:**

*Virtual hours:* Tuesday 10AM -1PM CST; other times by appointment (including evening or weekend)

- Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://uttyler.zoom.us/j/87408220610?pwd=XnGW46MbPakk3b4TC8AYt17iAW6OLo.1>  
Meeting ID: 874 0822 0610  
Passcode: Swoop
- 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 903-521-6854)

**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 advanced nursing 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:** Monday, January 5, 2026, to Wednesday, January 7, 2026 (*Preview only; Faculty are not available, and no assignments should be submitted.*)
- **Classes Begin:** Thursday, January 8, 2026
- **Census Date** (*the final date for adding new courses, changing sections, or dropping courses without incurring grades of "W" or "Q"*): **Wednesday, January 21, 2026**
- **Last Day to Enter Midterm Grades:** **Monday, 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"*): **Tuesday, 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/>
- **Holidays:** March 9–13, 2026 (*Spring Break*)
- **Final Exam Date:** *N/A for this course*
- **End of Classes:** **Saturday, April 25, 2026** (*grades due Tuesday, April 28, 2026*)

### **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	Preview the course content	No assignments due but Course is open for Preview! (Your instructor will not be monitoring the course yet)	Jan 5–7

Week 1	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	Jan 8–14 Due Jan 11, 2026, 11:59 PM CST
Week 2	Module 2: Search for the Best Evidence	Reading- Chapter 3: Integrating Best Evidence Into Practice; Chapter 4: Setting the Boundaries of Nursing Evidence Assignment- Proposed Project Topic Approval Discussion- Share your Project Topic with Peers	Jan 15–21 Due Jan 18, 2026, 11:59 PM CST
Week 3	Module 3: Searching the Literature	Reading- Chapter 6: Evidence-based Practice: Success of Practice Change Depends on the	Jan 22–28 Due Jan 25, 2026, 11:59 PM CST

		Question; Chapter 8: How to Read and Assess for Quality Research Assignment- Searching the Literature Discussion- Searching the Literature	
Week 4	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!	Jan 29–Feb 4 Due Feb 01, 2026, 11:59 PM CST
Week 5	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!	Feb 5–11 Due Feb 08, 2026, 11:59 PM CST

Week 6	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	Feb 12–18 Due Feb 15, 2026, 11:59 PM CST
Week 7	Module 7: Synthesizing the Literature II	Reading- No readings this week! Assignment- Final Literature Synthesis Discussion- No discussion this week!	Feb 19–25 Due Feb 22, 2026, 11:59 PM CST
Week 8	Module 8: Implementation I	Reading- Chapter 11: Organizing an Evidence-based Practice Implementation Plan Assignment- Implementation of your Plan Phase I Discussion- No discussion this week!	Feb 26–Mar 4 Due Mar 01, 2026, 11:59 PM CST
Spring Break	Spring Break	No assignments due – Spring Break (March 9–13, 2026)	Mar 9–13 No assignments due

Week 9	Module 9: Implementation II	Reading- No readings this week! Assignment- Implementation of your Plan Phase II Discussion- Project Support and Resistance	Mar 5–11 Due Mar 08, 2026, 11:59 PM CST
Week 10	Module 10: Data Collection and Evaluation	Reading- Chapter 15: Evidence-based Practice: A Culture of Organizational Empowerment Assignment- Data Collection and Evaluation Discussion- Culture of Organizational Empowerment	Mar 12–18 Due Mar 15, 2026, 11:59 PM CST
Week 11	Module 11: Cost/Benefit Analysis and Conclusions/Recommendations	Reading- Chapter 16: Nursing Leadership: The Fulcrum of Evidence-Based Practice Culture Assignment- Discussion of Results and Conclusions Discussion- Leadership Strategy and Innovation	Mar 19–25 Due Mar 22, 2026, 11:59 PM CST
Week 12	Module 12: Finalizing your Proposal Draft and Presentation	Reading- No readings this week! Assignment- Final	Mar 26–Apr 1 Due Mar 29, 2026, 11:59 PM CST

		Draft with Executive Summary; PowerPoint and Presentation for Peers Discussion- No discussion this week!	
Week 13	Module 13: Final Revision and Sharing Your Work with Peers	Reading- No readings this week! Assignment- Final Capstone Paper Discussion- Share your Final Presentation with Peers	Apr 2–8 Due Apr 05, 2026, 11:59 PM CST
Week 14	Final Week: Course Evaluation	Assignment - Complete Course Evaluations	Apr 9–15 Due Apr 12, 2026, 11:59 PM CST

**Important Dates:**

- Classes Begin: January 8, 2026
- Census Day: January 21, 2026
- Spring Break: March 9–13, 2026
- Last Day to Withdraw: March 24, 2026
- Last Day of Classes: April 25, 2026

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](https://www.uttyler.edu/nursing/college/student_guide_and_policies.php)

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