



Evidence-Based Practice I
NURS 7315
Spring 2026

Scheduled Class Days and Times: Online

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

Office: Virtual

Phone: (903)-566-7320

Email: gnickelsnelson@uttyler.edu *

Office Hours: TBD:

*Best way to contact me (email).

Course Description: This course builds on the foundation of the evidence-based practice (EBP) paradigm, emphasizing critical appraisal, synthesis, and application of research to inform clinical decision-making and practice change. Students will evaluate the quality and strength of evidence sources, analyze ethical considerations in scholarly inquiry, and apply Institutional Review Board (IRB) guidelines. Methods for translating research into practice, implementing sustainable EBP changes, and assessing outcomes across healthcare settings will be explored within ethical, legal, and regulatory frameworks.

Prerequisites: NURS 7301 & NURS 7302 (formerly NURS 6301 & NURS 6302)

Corequisites: NURS 7314

Student Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Locate and critically appraise diverse sources of evidence to inform a practice project and support clinical decision-making. (AACN 4.1, 4.2, 8.2, 8.3)
2. Evaluate the appropriateness, quality, and strength of evidence for applicability to advanced nursing practice. (AACN 4.1, 4.2, 5.1, 5.2)
3. Synthesize findings from multiple sources of evidence to develop a comprehensive foundation for a practice change initiative. (AACN 2.5, 4.1, 4.2, 5.1)
4. Analyze ethical considerations in the conduct of scholarly inquiry and implementation of evidence-based practice. (AACN 4.3, 9.1, 9.3)
5. Apply Institutional Review Board (IRB) guidelines and ethical research principles to the scholarship process. (AACN 4.3, 9.4)

6. Examine the impact of ethical, legal, and regulatory frameworks on the dissemination and implementation of evidence-based practice. (AACN 4.3, 9.4)

Required Textbooks and Readings:

If you are in a clinical course, all students are required to have an active Exxat subscription.

Recommended Textbooks and Readings:

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: 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

Assignments and Weights/Percentage/Point Values

1. Participation	5%
2. Professionalism	5%
3. Discussions	20%
4. Scholarly Papers	40%
5. Application Assignments	30%

DNP Practice Hours:

To successfully pass this course, students must complete and document a **minimum of 150 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.

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

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

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.

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.

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: Course assignment descriptions will be present in Canvas.

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

Important Course Dates:

Classes Begin: January 8, 2026

Orientation: TBD

Census Date (withdraw without penalty): January 21, 2026

Holidays: MLK Day January 19, 2026; Spring Break March 9-13, 2026

Last Date to Withdraw: March 24, 2026

Last Day of Class: April 25, 2026

Please refer to the course schedule and Canvas for specific due dates.

Course Calendar: TBD