



DNP Independent Study
NURS 6199
Fall 2026

Scheduled Class Days and Times: Online

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Course Description: This independent study course offers Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) students the opportunity to explore a specialized area of interest that aligns with their professional goals and scholarly focus. Under the guidance of a faculty mentor, students will develop individualized learning objectives, complete in-depth readings, engage in scholarly inquiry, and produce a tangible academic or practice-based deliverable (e.g., literature review, project proposal, policy analysis, manuscript, or quality improvement plan).

The independent study is designed to foster advanced critical thinking, self-directed learning, and the application of DNP competencies in clinical, administrative, policy, or educational contexts. Topics may include but are not limited to advanced clinical practice, healthcare systems leadership, informatics, population health, or evidence-based practice innovation.

Prerequisites: NURS 6301, 6302, 6303, 6314, 6315 and approval and DNP director

Corequisites: none

Student Learning Outcomes:

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

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a spirit of inquiry and professional maturity to support adaptability, evidence-based decision-making, and lifelong learning. (AACN 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 5.3, 10.2)
2. 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)

3. Synthesize findings from multiple sources of evidence to develop a comprehensive foundation for a practice change initiative. (AACN 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.5, 4.1, 4.2, 5.1, 6.3)
4. Translate evidence from nursing and other sciences into practice to improve patient and population health outcomes. (AACN 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 3.1, 3.2, 5.1, 5.2, 7.3)
5. Develop a collaborative approach with stakeholders, incorporating education methods to address population health needs and optimize patient outcomes. (AACN 3.1, 3.2, 3.4, 6.1, 6.3, 9.2)
6. Design evidence-based interventions that mitigate risk, enhance value, and improve access, quality and cost-effectiveness in healthcare delivery. (AACN 3.3, 3.4, 4.2, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 7.2, 7.3)
7. Apply Institutional Review Board (IRB) guidelines and ethical research principles to the scholarship process. (AACN 4.3, 9.4)

(*Note: Additional SLOs may be found within the following DNP courses: NURS 7301, NURS 7302, NURS 7314, NURS 7315, and NURS 7317.)

Required Textbooks and Readings:

Recommended Textbooks and Readings:

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). ISBN-13: 978-1433832161, ISBN-10: 143383216X

Assignments and Weights/Percentage/Point Values

1. Participation	5%
2. Professionalism	5%
3. SQUIRE Manuscript	50%
4. DNP Project Deliverables	40%

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 75% out of 100. Please noted: Resubmission does not automatically earn a 75%, points will be deducted as per rubric guidelines for the assignment.
- 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.

Assignments in this Course:

The following types of assignments are present in this course:

- Participation (5% of course)
- Professionalism (5% of course)
- Project Reflection (40% of course)
- Implementation Milestones (50% of course)

Important Course Dates:**Classes Begin:** August 27, 2026**Orientation:****Census Date (withdraw without penalty):** September 10, 2026**Holidays:** Labor Day (September 7) and Thanksgiving Break: Nov 22-29**Last Date to Withdraw:** November 2, 2026**Last Day of Class:** December 12, 2026

Week	Module	Module Content	Due Dates
Preview: August 27-30			
Week 1: August 31-Sep 6	1	Course Orientation and Practice Problem Identification, Root Cause Analysis and Needs Assessment	Due Sunday, Sept 6 by 11:59 pm CST: • Graduate Affirmation Form • CITI and IRB Portal • IRB Approval Documents • DNP Exxat Compliance Requirements • DNP Faculty Mentor-Student Communication & Progress Agreement
Week 2: Sept 7-13	1	Needs Assessment & Relevance to DNP	Census Date: Sept 10-may withdraw without penalty Due Sunday, Sept 13 by 11:59 pm CST: • Obtain Copyright Permission for The Mountain Model

			Attestation of Faculty Mentor meeting
Week 3: Sept 14-20	1	SQUIRE 2.0	
Week 4: Sept 21-27	1	Practice Problem Development	Due by Sunday Sept 27 by 11:59 pm: SQUIRE sections 1&2
Week 5: Sept 28-Oct 4	1	Practice Problem Development	Due by Sunday Oct 4 by 11:59 pm: Faculty mentor check in
Week 6: Oct 5-11	2	Search for the Evidence/Synthesis	Work on BOE
Week 7: Oct 12-18	2	BOE	Work on BOE
Week 8 Oct 19-25	2	BOE	Due by Sunday, Oct 25 by 11:59 pm CST: - SQUIRE Section 2 - Final Logic Model - Written Stakeholder Agreement email
Week 9: Oct 26-Nov 1	3	Translation Review of Change model, QI model and EBP model	Due by Sunday, Nov 1 by 11:59 pm CST: - Attestation for faculty mentor meetings - Attestation for Data Scientist Meeting
Week 10: Nov 2-Nov 8	3	Translation: Review SMART goals, Timeline and budget	Last Day to Withdraw from course: Nov 2, 2026 Work on project
Week 11: Nov 9-15	3	Translation: Data	Work on project
Week 12: Nov 16-22	3	Translation: Finalizing Plan Slide deck and practice	Due by Sunday, Nov 22 by 11:59 pm: Presentation Plan Slide Deck
Week 13:	3	HAPPY	THANKSGIVING!

Nov 23-29			
Week 14: Nov 30-Dec 6	3		Due by Sunday, Dec 6 by 11:59 pm: • Implementation Plan Presentation (this week) • Completed SQUIRE Sections 1-2
Week 15: Dec 7-12	7	Course Close	Last day of Course: Dec 12, 2026 Due by Saturday, Dec 12 by 11:59 pm: • IRB attestation