



**Introduction to DNP Role and Culture
NURS 7301 Sections P560 & P561
Fall 2026**

Scheduled Class Days and Times: Online

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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.

Course Description: This foundational course introduces students to the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) role, emphasizing its historical evolution, philosophical underpinnings, and impact on healthcare. Students will explore the diverse roles, leadership responsibilities, and professional identity of DNP-prepared nurses as advocates for practice transformation and healthcare innovation. The course fosters a spirit of inquiry and professional maturity, guiding students in developing strategies for evidence-based decision-making, ethical leadership, and lifelong learning. Through self-assessment and reflection on personal strengths, emotional intelligence, and resilience, students will create an individualized action plan for professional growth throughout their DNP journey. Collaborative communication, stakeholder engagement, and advocacy principles are integrated to prepare students for effective leadership in complex healthcare environments.

Course Credit: 3 credit hours

Prerequisites: Admission to the DNP Program

Corequisites: NURS 7302

Student Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Apply professional communication strategies to foster collaboration, engagement, and advocacy with diverse stakeholders in healthcare. (AACN 2.2, 6.1, 6.2, 6.4, 9.2)
2. 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)
3. Examine the historical and philosophical foundations of the DNP degree, including its evolution, role in advanced practice, and impact on healthcare. (AACN 1.1, 1.2, 9.3, 10.2)
4. Explore the professional identity, ethical responsibilities, and leadership expectations of DNP-prepared nurses as healthcare innovators and change agents. (AACN 7.1, 7.3, 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.5, 9.6, 10.2, 10.3)
5. Apply leadership principles to advocate for practice transformation, quality improvement, and healthcare innovation. (AACN 5.1, 5.2, 7.3, 10.2)

6. Evaluate the role of personal well-being and resilience in sustaining professional effectiveness, leadership capacity, and ethical decision-making. (AACN 10.1, 10.2, 10.3)

Required Textbooks and Readings:

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

<https://stylemanual.apa.org/dashboard>

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 (available in UT Tyler library)

Chism, L. A. (Ed.). (2023). *The Doctor of Nursing Practice: A guidebook for role development and professional issues* (5th ed.). Jones and Bartlett Learning. ISBN:9781284233155 (available in UT Tyler library)

Dunlap, J. J., & Waldrop, J. B. (Eds.). (2026). *Leading evidence-based practice and quality improvement initiatives in advanced nursing practice: A competency-based approach* (1st ed.). Cognella Academic Publishing. ISBN-13: 979-8-8233-4462-3

Dunlap, J. J., Waldrop, J. B., & Reynolds, S. S. (2026). *The comprehensive DNP project guidebook: Evidence-based practice, quality improvement, program evaluation, and policy analysis* (1st ed.). Cognella Academic Publishing. ISBN-13: 979-8-8233-8678-4

Polit, D. F., & Beck, C. T. (2021). *Essentials of nursing research: Appraising evidence for nursing practice* (10th ed.). Wolters Kluwer. ISBN-13: 978-1975141851

Rath, T. (2007). *Strengthsfinder 2.0*. Gallup Press. (This will be provided to you by the university.)

Schadewald, D. (2023). *Zaccagnini & White's core competencies for advanced practice nursing: A guide for DNP's* (5th ed.). Jones & Bartlett. ISBN:9781284288391 (available in UT Tyler library)

Sylvia, M. L., & Terhaar, M. F. (2023). *Clinical analytics and data management for the DNP* (3rd ed.). Springer. ISBN: 9780826163233, eBook ISBN: 9780826163240 (available in UT Tyler library)

In clinical courses, all students are required to have an Exaam active subscription.

There may be additional assigned readings in the modules in Canvas.

Assignments and Weights/Percentage/Point Values:

Criteria for Evaluation:	Percentage of Grade
Participation	5%
Professionalism	5%
Discussion Boards	10%
Leadership Development	20%

DNP Scholarly Project Activity	30%
DNP Project Deliverables	30%
Total	100%

DNP Practice 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.

Practice Hours and Affiliation Agreement Policy

Students are not authorized to complete any DNP practice hours, including activities related to the DNP project, at any site, including their place of employment, without a fully executed Affiliation Agreement between the academic institution and the practice site.

The Affiliation Agreement is a legal contract that ensures appropriate oversight, liability coverage, and compliance with institutional and clinical site policies. This agreement must be in place before the initiation of any practice hours at the proposed site.

Engaging in practice hours at a site without a formal agreement constitutes a violation of program policy and may result in a delay of hours being counted toward program requirements, academic penalties, or dismissal from the course.

Students are responsible for working with their DNP faculty and clinical placement coordinator to initiate and confirm the Affiliation Agreement process well in advance of the proposed start date for site-based activities.

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

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 encouraged during the course, and appropriate acknowledgment is expected.

The responsible use of AI tools, such as ChatGPT, Copilot, or other generative platforms, is permitted and even encouraged in this course for enhancing your learning and supporting your academic work. AI tools may assist with tasks such as outlining ideas, editing and revising written work, or identifying areas needing clarification. However, their use must follow academic integrity standards and be transparent.

If you choose to use AI tools in preparing your assignments:

- You must clearly indicate and properly cite any content that has been generated or significantly influenced by AI, following the 7th edition APA citation and reference guidelines.
- AI tools are not considered retrievable sources in the traditional sense. Therefore, APA recommends treating AI output as software or an algorithmic tool, with transparency about how it was used.
- You are expected to critically evaluate all AI-generated content to ensure accuracy, appropriateness, and relevance to your assignment. Use of incorrect or unvetted content may result in a loss of points.
- Your submitted work should read as a cohesive, scholarly product that integrates AI-assisted content appropriately and acknowledges it properly in the text and references.

Important Reminder for DNP Students

Even when properly cited:

- AI does not replace scholarly sources
- AI-generated content does not count as evidence
- Peer-reviewed literature must still support all claims

Some assignments may explicitly prohibit the use of AI tools to ensure that student learning objectives are met through independent critical thinking. When this is the case, it will be clearly stated in the assignment instructions. It is your responsibility to adhere to any restrictions provided.

Failure to appropriately disclose AI use or submitting AI-generated work without proper evaluation and citation may be considered a violation of academic integrity policies.

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.

Missed Assignments Policy: All course assignments are required components of this course and must be completed to receive a passing grade. If an assignment is missed, a grade of zero will be recorded and will remain as the final grade for that assignment. However, the assignment must still be completed and submitted, regardless of the grade penalty, to satisfy course completion requirements. Failure to submit all required coursework may result in a course failure, regardless of the final grade average.

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. All resubmitted assignments will have an automatic 20% deduction from the final grade earned out of 100%.
- 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.

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.

Important Course Dates:

- Classes begin for 15-week session: 8/27/26
- Orientation: Monday, 8/31/26 @ 12pm CST. Teams link will be provided in the course Modules section
- Census Date: 9/9/26
- Holidays: Labor Day (9/7/26), Thanksgiving Holiday (11/23/26 - 11/27/26)
- Last Date to Withdraw: 11/2/26

Last Day of Course: 12/11/26; please refer to the course schedule and Canvas for specific due dates.

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 7301 Course Calendar: Fall 2026

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

Week Begins	Wk #	Topic/Activities	Assignments/Due Dates
8/31	1	Getting Started: Syllabus Review & Course Exploration M1: Introduction Orientation Plagiarism Professional Bios Readings Lecture Discussion Board	Course Preview Begins: Thursday, 8/27/26 First Day of Class: Monday, 8/31/26 - Log in to Canvas & Explore Course Content - Review Syllabus and Course Schedule Virtual Course Orientation: Mon 8/31/26 @ 12pm CST - Teams Link in Canvas Due Friday, 9/4/26: - DB: Professional Bio – Initial Post Due Sunday, 9/6/26: - Required Course Attestations - Orientation - Grad Affirmation Forms - RISE Model - DNP Practice Hours Guidelines - Plagiarism Course & Certificate - DB: Professional Bio – Responses (2) - Clinical Hours Verification Request
9/8	2	M2: Introduction to the DNP and the AACN Essentials Readings Videos	Due Sunday, 9/13/26: - DNP Practice Hours Attestation - Fact or Fiction? Evaluating AI-Generated Scholarly References - Copyright Permission for the Mountain Model Census Day: 9/9/26
9/14	3	M2 cont.	Due Wednesday, 9/16/26: - M2 DB- AACN Essentials – Initial Post Due Sunday, 9/20/26: - M2 DB: AACN Essentials – Responses (2) - Crews (Small Groups)
9/21	4	M3: Defining a Practice Problem Readings Videos Exxat Hours	Due Sunday, 9/27/26: - Root Cause Analysis Using The 5 Whys - DNP Affiliation Agreement Requests - Part 1
9/28	5	M3 cont.	Due Sunday, 10/4/26: Networking to Identify and Discuss Problems (Lesson 3.6 in the DNP Workbook)
10/5	6	M3 cont.	Due Sunday, 10/11/26: - DNP Practice Problem AI-Guided Refinement Activity - Practice Problem Identification

			AI-Supported DNP Mentor Survey
10/12	7	M4: Internal Evidence and Organization, Setting, and Culture Readings Videos Exxat Hours	Due Thursday, 10/15/26: - Needs Assessment Worksheet Due Sunday, 10/18/26: - Internal Evidence Paper
10/19	8	M4 cont.	Due Sunday, 10/25/26: Description of the Organization Paper
10/26	9	M5: Strengths and Emotional Intelligence for the DNP Readings Videos Exxat Hours	Due Wednesday, 10/28/26: - DB: Strengths (initial post) Due Sunday, 11/1/26: - DB: Strengths (response posts)
11/2	10	M5 cont.	Due Sunday, 11/8/26: Strengths, Emotional Intelligence, & Persistence Last Day to Withdraw: 11/2/26
11/9	11	M6: Roles and Leadership Development Readings Videos Exxat Hours	Due Wednesday, 11/11/26: - DB: DNP Leader Skills (initial post) Due Sunday, 11/15/26: - DB: DNP Leader Skills (response posts)
11/16	12	M6 cont.	Due Sunday, 11/22/26: Elevator Speech
11/23	13	Thanksgiving Holiday	Enjoy your break!
11/30	14	M7: Health & Well-Being Readings Videos Exxat Hours	Due Sunday, 12/6/26: - Leadership Development Plan - DNP Affiliation Agreement Requests - Part 2
12/7	15	M7 cont. Course Wrap-Up	Due Wednesday, 12/9/26: - Faculty Approval of Practice Problem - DB: Shared Reflection - DNP Faculty Mentor-Student Communication & Progress Agreement - Exxat Compliance Requirements - Course Evaluation - Last day to log hours in Exxat - DNP Practice Hours End-of-Semester Report