



**Foundations of Evidence-Based Practice
NURS 7302
Fall 2026**

Scheduled Class Days and Times: Online

Instructor's Name: Amber Murphy, DNP, RN

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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.

Course Description: This course provides a comprehensive foundation for the integration of evidence into nursing practice to enhance healthcare quality and patient outcomes. Students will explore research methodologies, quality improvement frameworks, and models of evidence-based practice (EBP) to differentiate their roles in clinical decision-making. Emphasis is placed on systematic literature searching, critical appraisal of evidence, and synthesis of diverse sources to establish the significance of a practice problem. Additionally, students will examine ethical considerations in research and EBP while evaluating the applicability of findings to practice change and continuous quality improvement.

Prerequisites: Admission to the DNP program

Corequisites: NURS 7301

Student Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Differentiate the appropriate use of quality improvement, evidence-based practice, and research methodologies in healthcare decision-making. (AACN 4.1, 4.2)
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the research process and its role in evaluating and translating evidence into practice. (AACN 4.1, 4.2)
3. Apply systematic search strategies to identify and synthesize diverse sources of evidence to support a practice problem. (AACN 4.1, 4.2)
4. Use evidence to establish the background, significance, and rationale for addressing a clinical or practice-based problem. (AACN 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 5.1)
5. Identify potential ethical concerns related to quality improvement, evidence-based practice, and research methodologies. (AACN 4.3, 9.1)
6. Evaluate the applicability of research findings for practice change and continuous quality improvement. (AACN 4.1, 4.2, 5.1)

Required Textbooks & Resources:

- 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: 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
- 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

Microsoft Office 2019 Word

In all clinical courses, students are required to maintain an active Exaat subscription.

Assignments and Weights/Percentage/Point Values:

Criteria for Evaluation:	Percentage of Grade
CITI Training Certificate	5%
Participation	5%
Professionalism	5%
Quiz	5%
Discussion Boards	10%
Presentation Video	20%
Application Exercises	25%
Context of the Problem and Magnitude & Impact Papers	25%
Total	100%

DNP Project 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.

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

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.

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.

Late Assignments and Missed Tests - Attestation Required for this Course

As future Advanced Practice Nurses, 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

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.

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

Important Course Dates:

- Classes begin for 15-week session: 8/27/26
- Orientation: Monday, 8/31/26 @ 5 pm 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.

NURS 7302: Fall 2026 Course Calendar

Week Begins	Week #	Topic/Activities	Assignment/Due Dates
Thursday 8/27		Familiarize yourself with the course in Canvas	
Monday 8/31	1	Module 1: Course Orientation & QI, EBP & Research - Review <u>Getting Started & Module 1</u> in Canvas - Review syllabus & course calendar - Review assigned readings & podcast. • Orientation: Tuesday, 9/1, 5p-6p Teams Link: will be noted in Canvas	Due 9/6/26 - Graduate Affirmation Forms - Discussion Board: Introduce yourself - Attestation: Late and Missing Assignments Assignment: Visual Snapshot – QI, EBP, & Research
Monday 9/7	2	Module 2: Literature Searching Review assigned readings & tutorials Literature Searching Orientation/Webinar with Librarian: 9/10/2026 3:30 pm- 5:00 pm.	Due 9/13/26 - Attend or watch Library Webinar (Non-Graded) - DNP Practice Hours Attestation Form Assignment: Literature Searching Exercise Labor Day Holiday (9/7)
Monday 9/14	3-5	Module 3: The Research Process and its Role in EBP Review assigned readings and course materials.	Due 9/20/26 Assignment: How to Read a Research Article #1 Due 9/27/26 Assignment: How to Read a Research Article #2 Due 10/4/26 Assignment: How to Read a Research Article #3 Census Day-9/9/26

Monday 10/5	6	Module 4: Ethical Concerns in QI, EBP, and Research Review assigned readings and course materials.	Due 10/11/26 - Assignment: Ethical considerations in EBP - Quiz: Ethics
Monday 10/12	7-8	Module 5: Context of the Problem Review assigned readings and course materials.	Due 10/25/26 Assignment: Context of the Problem Paper
Monday 10/26	9-11	Module 6: Magnitude & Impact and Relevance to DNP Practice Review assigned readings and course materials.	Weeks 9 & 10 Due 11/8/26 - Assignment: Magnitude & Impact Paper Last Day to Withdraw: 11/2/26 Week 11 Due 11/11/26 - DB- From Problem to Practice. Initial Post. Due 11/15/26 - DB- From Problem to Practice. Peer Replies.
Monday 11/16	12-14	Module 7: Context of the Problem Review assigned readings and course materials. Week 13 of this module is Thanksgiving Break (11/23-11/27. There are no assignments due this week.	Due 11/22/26 - DB: Context of the Problem Presentation Video- Initial Post Due 12/6/26 - DB: Context of the Problem Presentation Video- Peer Replies - Assignment: Citi Training Certificate

Monday 12/7	15	Module 8: EBP Models and Final Course Wrap-Up	Due 12/10/26 • Assignment: EBP Model • End of Course Thoughts • DNP Practice Hours end of Semester Report Last Day: 12/11/26
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