



Healthcare Quality & Safety for DNP Leaders

NURS 7375

Fall 2026

Scheduled Class Days and Times: Online

Instructor's Name: J. Michael Leger (Section(s) P460 & P461)

Office: Virtual

Phone: (903) 566-7320

Email: jleger@uttyler.edu *

Office Hours: Virtual Office Hours: M/W/F 12 PM CST and by appointment for phone call or video conference. Alternative days and times, including evenings and weekends, may be arranged upon request.

*Best way to contact me

Course Description: This course explores the principles of quality and safety in healthcare delivery, emphasizing the DNP leader's role in driving system-wide improvements. Students will analyze performance metrics, patient safety initiatives, and regulatory frameworks to inform quality improvement strategies. Emphasis is placed on interprofessional collaboration, process improvement, and data-driven decision-making to enhance patient outcomes. Students will also examine workplace safety, ethical practice, and just culture as integral components of high-quality care. Through evidence-based approaches, students will develop interventions to mitigate risks, reduce errors, and foster a culture of continuous improvement.

Prerequisites: NURS 7358

Corequisites: NURS 7331

Student Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Analyze data-driven benchmarks and performance metrics to assess system effectiveness and inform quality improvement initiatives. (AACN 5.1, 7.3)
2. Appraise interprofessional and collaborative process improvement strategies to enhance patient safety, care quality, and operational efficiency. (AACN 5.1, 6.1, 6.2, 7.3)
3. Develop evidence-based interventions informed by an analysis of errors, near misses, and potential risks to improve patient safety outcomes. (AACN 2.5, 4.2, 5.2, 7.3)
4. Evaluate national patient safety resources, initiatives, and regulatory frameworks to guide the delivery of high-quality and safe care. (AACN 5.1, 5.2, 7.1, 7.2, 9.4)

5. Advocate for and contribute to a culture of safety, ethical practice, and a just work environment that supports continuous quality improvement. (AACN 5.2, 5.3, 9.1, 9.3)

Required Textbooks and Readings:

Spath, P. L., (2022). *Applying quality management in healthcare: A systems approach* (5th ed). Health Administration Press.

Special Course Notes:

DNP Project Hours Requirement:

To successfully pass this course, students must complete and document a **minimum of 100 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.

Assignments and Weights/Percentage/Point Values

Participation	5%
Professionalism	5%
Discussion	20%
Leadership Development	20%
Assignments	50%
100 Practice Hours (refer to the Pass/Fail Course Requirements Information Section)	Pass/Fail

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

Artificial Intelligence: 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 for specific assignments or situations, as indicated by your course faculty. Appropriate acknowledgment of AI use is required. Learning how to use AI is an emerging skill, and we will work through the limitations of these evolving systems together. To uphold academic integrity and the spirit of scholarly pursuit, when you utilize any generative AI tools to help with the completion of an

assignment, it must be properly documented (which tool was used and how it was used). For any assignment requiring [APA formatting and citation style https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/cite-generative-ai-references](https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/cite-generative-ai-references) (or other approved style), use the appropriate Style Guide to cite and reference the use of the generative AI tool. Specific assignments may require additional details; see assignment instructions.

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.

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.

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.

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:

Query Basic Orientation & Project Proposal (3 Parts) + Final QI Project Plan Proposal – Conduct a review of relevant, publicly-available quality data related to project proposal to establish baseline & development of proposal for simulated quality improvement project.

Check Your Understanding (3 Quizzes) – Formative assessment of knowledge gleaned from the assigned reading materials.

Leadership Development – Continuation from previous DNP courses, reflect on the ongoing leadership development as a DNP student.

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

Pass/Fail Course Requirements Information:

Program Specific Course Practice Hours: Completion of 100 practice hours approved through Exxat are required to pass the course

Important Course Dates:

Classes Begin: 08/27/2026

Census Date (withdraw without penalty): 09/02/2026

Last Date to Withdraw: 09/30/2026. Students please notify your course faculty and contact your advisor.

Calendar of Topics, Readings, and Due Dates:

NURS 7375: Healthcare Quality & Safety – Fall 2026 Course Schedule

Week #	Dates	Module	Assignments/Due Dates
Course Preview Days	8/27-8/30	Getting Started	Getting Started Activities (See Modules: Getting Started)
1	8/31 – 9/6	Module 1	8/31: Class Starts 9/01: Orientation Session (Teams) @ 7:30pm CT

			9/02: Census Day 9/03: Discussion Module 1: Original post 9/06: Discussion Module 1: Peer review posts 9/06: Check Your Understanding
2	9/7-9/13	2	9/07: University Holiday – Labor Day 9/10: Discussion Module 2: Original post (Case study) 9/13: Discussion Module 2: Peer review posts 9/13: Assignment: Query Basic Orientation & Project Proposal, Part 1 9/13: Check Your Understanding
3-4	9/13-9/27	3	9/17: Discussion Module 3: Original post (Culture of Safety evaluation) 9/20: Discussion Module 3: Peer review posts 9/20: Assignment: Check Your Understanding 9/27: Assignment: Query Basic Orientation & Project Proposal, Part 2
5-6	9/28-10/11	4	9/30: Last Day to Withdraw 10/11: Leadership Plan Development Update 10/11: Query Basic Orientation & Project Proposal, Part 3
7	10/12-10/17	5	10/15: DNP Practice Hours End-of-Semester Report 10/15: Assignment: Final QI Project Plan Proposal 10/16: Complete Course Evaluation 10/17: End of Flex Session 1

Dr. Leger's Office Hours: M/W/F – 12:00 PM and by appointment for phone call or video conference.
 Alternative days and times, including evenings and weekends, may be arranged upon request.

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.