



**Capstone
NURS 5382
Summer 2026**

Scheduled Class Days and Times: Online

Please check Canvas during the first week of class for potential syllabus updates

Instructor Name: J. Michelle Nelson, PhD, RN, CNE, ACUE

Office Location: Online

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Best way to contact: Canvas Inbox

Office Hours:

Virtual hours: Tuesday 7:30pm -9:30pm CST; Saturday 8:00-9:00 PM CST; other times by appointment (including evening or weekend)

- <https://uttyler.zoom.us/j/7356692825>
- I'll be waiting in the virtual room at this link (please wait in the waiting room, and I'll let you in as soon as I am done with the previous student-text me if you want to let me know you are waiting 281-433-0382)

Course Description: Students will synthesize evidence for a clinical problem and develop an evidence-based project, building on work in prior core and clinical courses. This project will comprise evidence-based best practice innovations that will actualize the advanced nursing practice role in educational, administrative, and clinical environments to impact the health of individuals or populations. This course is designed to fall within the final two semesters of the MSN program.

Prerequisites: NURS 5301 and 5302 and at least one-program specialty course.

Student Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Identify a clinical or practice problem and complete an appropriate literature review and synthesis of the available evidence to address the problem.
2. Integrate research evidence, evidence-based theory, ethical considerations, clinical expertise, and patient values into an evidence-based project proposal with the potential to impact health care and health education outcomes.
3. Describe a plan to evaluate your proposed project processes and outcomes for sustainability and cost-effectiveness.

4. Share your evidence-based projects with peers.

Required Textbook:

American Psychological Association. (2020). Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ed.). Washington, DC: Author

Open Resource Text:

Thomas, C. (2018). Evidence-based practice in nursing foundations, skills, and roles. Springer Publishing.

This is the Link to the online Text. Keep it handy for easy reference!

<https://go.openathens.net/redirector/uttyler.edu?url=https%3A%2F%2Fbookcentral.proquest.com%2Flib%2Futtyler%2Fdetail.action%3FdocID%3D5185511>

Assignments and Weights/Percentage/Point Values

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Discussion Board Participation | 20% |
| 2. Assignments | 45% |
| 3. Final Scholarly Project | 25% |
| 4. PowerPoint Presentation | 10% |

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.

Late Policy: 5% will be deducted *each day* an assignment is past due unless prior arrangements have been made with your course faculty. ALWAYS let the instructor know in advance of the due date that you need extra time to complete an assignment.

Canvas is set up in this course to do the following settings:

- Missing Assignments: Canvas will **automatically apply a grade of zero (0) for all missing submissions** in the Grade book. A submission is labeled missing when the due date has passed, and it has not been submitted.

- Late Assignments: ***If a submission is received after the due date, the Missing label will be automatically replaced by the Late label.*** A submission is labeled late when it has been submitted past the due date.
- Late Assignments: Canvas will ***automatically deduct 5% on all late submissions up to a maximum of 25%.*** The late policy will be applied to a submission when it is graded.
- Late Assignments: For the calculation of the Late Penalty, days late will be rounded up to the next whole number. For example, if a student submits 1.3 days late, the Late Penalty will treat the student as 2 days late.

No resubmissions are accepted unless recommended by your instructor.

Artificial Intelligence in Coursework: 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.** To best support your learning, you must **generate** all graded assignments by yourself to assist in your learning. This exclusion of other resources to help generate assignments includes artificial intelligence (AI). Refrain from using AI tools to **generate** any course content (e.g., text, video, audio, images, code, etc.) for an assignment or classroom assignment.

You may, however, use an AI Writing Assistant (like Grammarly) **to help check for spelling, grammatical errors, and best word choice once your document is written.** If you do use a tool like Grammarly for edits and fine-tuning, you **MUST** acknowledge this in your reference section.

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.

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

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:

The major assignments are

1. Discussion Boards (20%): These discussions allow students to explore concepts and techniques related to the evidence-based practice process.
2. Written assignments (45%): These documents encompass the elements of your Capstone Scholarly Project.
3. PowerPoint Presentation (10%): This presentation allows the final Scholarly Project to be viewed as a professional presentation. It is both an audio and visual presentation via Studio recording.
4. Final Project Paper (25%): This MS Word document is a culmination of the MSN core courses (TS1, TS2, and other degree-specific courses) and combines the evidence-based practice process into a final Scholarly Project. It is a professional paper that presents all elements of the evidence-based practice process.

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

Important Course Dates:

Note: The complete course schedule is available on the Course Canvas site.

- **Course Preview Days:** May 7 – May 10, 2026
- **Course Dates:** May 11 – August 15, 2026
- **Census Date:** May 26, 2026 *(the final date for adding new courses, changing sections, or dropping courses without incurring grades of “W” or “Q”)*
- **Last Date to Withdraw:** July 15, 2026 *(final date students are eligible to withdraw from courses for grades of “W”)*
 - **Students, please notify your course faculty and contact your advisor if you plan to withdraw.*

NURS 5382 Capstone Course Calendar

***All assignments due by 11:59 pm unless otherwise noted.**

Week 0: Preview (May 7 – May 10)

Review the syllabus and course modules
Begin thinking about your project topic

Week 1: May 11 – May 17

Readings

Chapter 1: Nursing’s Commitment to Best Clinical Decisions
Chapter 2: Using Evidence to Inform and Reform Clinical Practice

Assignments

Graduate Affirmation Forms (Complete/Incomplete)
Module 1: Begin to Explore Your Project Topic

Discussions

Introductions and Professional Networking
Understanding Evidence-Based Practice

Week 2: May 18 – May 24

Readings

Chapter 3: Integrating Best Evidence Into Practice
Chapter 4: Setting the Boundaries of Nursing Evidence

Assignments

Module 2: Topic Approval

Discussions

Share Your Project Topic With Peers

Week 3: May 25 – May 31**Memorial Day: May 25****Readings**

Chapter 6: Evidence-Based Practice: Success of Practice Change Depends on the Question

Chapter 8: How to Read and Assess for Quality Research

Assignments

Module 3: Searching the Literature

Discussions

Searching the Literature

Week 4: June 1 – June 7**Readings**

See Canvas for readings and media on starting your project and appraising evidence

Assignments

Module 4: Start Your Project (Title Page and Introduction)

Module 4 Check-In: Start the Evidence Table (Complete/Incomplete)

Week 5: June 8 – June 14**Readings**

See Canvas for readings and media on appraising evidence

Assignments

Module 5: Completed Evidence Table

Week 6: June 15 – June 21**Juneteenth/Emancipation holiday June 19****Readings**

See Canvas for literature synthesis resources

Assignments

Module 6 Check-In: Rationale and Progress on Literature Synthesis (Complete/Incomplete)

Week 7: June 22 – June 28**Readings**

No assigned readings

Assignments

Module 7: Final Literature Synthesis

Week 8: June 29 – July 5**Independence Day: July 4****Readings**

Chapter 11: Organizing an Evidence-Based Practice Implementation Plan

Assignments

Module 8 Check-In: Implementation of Your Plan Phase I (Complete/Incomplete)

Week 9: July 6 – July 12**Readings**

No assigned readings

Assignments

Module 9: Implementation of Your Plan Phase II

Discussions

Project Support and Resistance

Week 10: July 13 – July 19**Readings**

Chapter 15: Evidence-Based Practice: A Culture of Organizational Empowerment

Assignments

Module 10 Check-In: Data Collection and Evaluation (Complete/Incomplete)

Discussions

Culture of Organizational Empowerment

Week 11: July 20 – July 26**Readings**

Chapter 16: Nursing Leadership: The Fulcrum of Evidence-Based Practice Culture

Assignments

Module 11 Check-In: Cost/Benefit Analysis and Conclusions/Recommendations
(Complete/Incomplete)

Week 12: July 27 – August 2**Readings**

No assigned readings

Assignments

Module 12: Final Draft with Acknowledgments and Executive Summary
Final PowerPoint and Presentation

Week 13: August 3 – August 9**Readings**

No assigned readings

Assignments

Final Capstone Paper (MS Word Version)

Discussions

Share Your Final Presentation with Peers

Week 14: August 10 – August 15**Assignments**

Course Evaluation (Complete/Incomplete)
(final grades due to Faculty Center by 12 pm August 18)

Helpful Reminders for Students

Stay engaged weekly and avoid falling behind

Use feedback from check-ins to strengthen your final paper

Work in your template throughout the course rather than waiting until the end

Reach out early if you need support

School of Nursing Policies and Additional Information can be found at the website below.
https://www.utt Tyler.edu/nursing/college/student_guide_and_policies.php
Student Resources and University Policies and Information are provided in Canvas.