

DNP Project Series Information:

Course 1: NURS 8020

This is a 1 credit preparatory course where a problem or question is identified within the clinical system or agency. Students develop the goal of their project (to rectify the issue through quality improvement (QI) methods or answer a question through program evaluation (PE)) and synthesize the evidence for their interventions. During this course, a clinical mentor from the participating agency is identified. A team is formulated, and an affiliation agreement is completed between the College of Nursing and the project site.

Course 2: NURS 8030

This is a 4 credit course where the student completes a background assessment of the agency and intervention through quality improvement measures such as root cause analysis (RCA), SWOT tools, and Driver Diagrams. The student then creates specific project measures. These measures include outcome measures, process measures, and balancing measures. Baseline data is collected. The official project proposal is presented and approved as non-human subjects research (ie. QI or PE) at the University of Colorado, College of Nursing. The proposal is created on a standard template provided to the student.

Course 3: NURS 8040.

This is a 3 credit course where students implement their quality interventions or program evaluations through small cycles of change (if using QI methods, this would consist of PDSA cycles). Students continue to meet with the team, the clinical mentor, and the agency to fully carry out the project. Execution of the project includes processes identified and approved in the proposal. Data collection for all identified measures is ongoing.

Course 4: NURS 8050.

This is a 4 credit course where students complete the implementation of the DNP Project. Here, students conclude their data collection and proceed to data analysis and evaluation. The majority of projects will use quality improvement methods, such as run charts and control charts to assess change over time. Some projects may also use small statistical tests such as a paired t-test or Wilcoxon signed rank test. Students disseminate their work through a formal presentation at the College of Nursing, as well as a poster presentation and completion of a scholarly paper.