# Table of Contents

Introduction............................................................................................................. 4
Differences: PhD Dissertation and DNP Scholarly Project............................ 5
NU 899: DNP Scholarly Project............................................................................. 6
  Description and Purpose................................................................................. 6
  Objectives......................................................................................................... 6
  Faculty Chair and Committee ..................................................................... 7
  Scholarly Project Guidelines....................................................................... 7
  Types of Projects.......................................................................................... 8
  Organization of Project Paper.................................................................... 9
  Timeline and Method of Evaluation............................................................. 9-10
  Evaluation Rubric......................................................................................... 11
  Grading........................................................................................................... 12
  GD 593 Graduate Degree Continuous Enrollment .................................... 12
  Oral Presentation.......................................................................................... 12
  Disposition of Final Product....................................................................... 12
  The NMU Commons.................................................................................... 12
  Final Manuscript.......................................................................................... 13
  Student Responsibilities.............................................................................. 14
  Faculty Chairperson Responsibilities.......................................................... 15
  Committee Member Responsibilities............................................................ 15
  Checklist for NU 899................................................................................... 16
Appendices

A. Scholarly Project Declaration Form .......................... 17
B. Registration for Research Practicum Form...................... 18
Introduction

The translation of research into practice is a hallmark of professional nursing and is critical for quality, cost-effective health care. The primary goal of nursing research at all levels of nursing education (baccalaureate, master’s, practice-focused doctoral programs, and research-focused doctoral programs) is to strengthen the profession’s contribution to enhancing the health and healthcare of individuals, families, populations and communities (American Association of Colleges of Nursing [AACN], 2006; International Council of Nurses [ICN], 1999). Doctoral level advanced practice nurses often bridge the gap between the production of knowledge and the clinical application of knowledge. Translational research and research utilization are integral parts of evidence-based practice. Doctoral level nurses should be able to translate and facilitate evidence-based practice in their own clinical settings.

In the Essentials for Doctoral Education in Nursing Practice, the AACN (2006) describes expectations in relation to practice focused education at the doctoral level:

“The final DNP project produces a tangible and deliverable academic product that is derived from the practice immersion experience and is reviewed and evaluated by an academic committee. The final DNP product documents outcomes of the student’s educational experiences, provides a measurable medium for evaluating the immersion experience, and summarizes the student’s growth in knowledge and expertise. The final DNP product should be defined by the academic unit and utilize a form that best incorporates the requirements of the specialty and the institution that is awarding the degree. Whatever form the final DNP product takes, it will serve as a foundation for future scholarly practice” (AACN, 2006).

Therefore, a requirement for the Doctor in Nursing Practice is the completion of a scholarly project to prepare students to become clinical experts; functioning at the highest level of nursing practice.

The purpose of this document is to provide students with information on the requirements for the scholarly project. Specifically discussed are:

- NU 899 requirements (Scholarly Project)
- The processes necessary to meet the project requirements
- Student, research advisor and research committee responsibilities.
- Selection of a research advisor and committee members.
- Checklists and timetables.
Difference between a PhD Dissertation and a DNP Scholarly Project

There are two types of Doctoral programs in nursing; research-focused and practice-focused programs. Most research-focused doctoral level nursing programs culminate in a Doctor in Philosophy (PhD) degree, whereas practice-focused doctoral study often results in a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree. The focus of the dissertation is to utilize all components of the research process to generate new knowledge, whereas the primary focus of the DNP scholarly project consists of using research generated evidence to improve practice or patient outcomes. In the following paragraph, the AACN (2006) discusses differences between the PhD dissertation and the DNP scholarly project:

“Practice-focused programs understandably place greater emphasis on practice, and less emphasis on theory, meta-theory, research methodology, and statistics than is apparent in research-focused programs. Whereas all research-focused programs require an extensive research study that is reported in a dissertation or through the development of linked research papers, practice-focused doctoral programs generally include integrative practice experiences and an intense practice immersion experience. Rather than a knowledge-generating research effort, the student in a practice-focused program generally carries out a practice application-oriented “final DNP project,” which is an integral part of the practice experience” (AACN, 2006).
Description and Purpose

The purpose of the scholarly project is to synthesize knowledge and skills attained in the doctor of nursing practice program in an activity that directly moves research evidence into nursing practice and positively influences patient care. The project culminates with a written scholarly paper and an oral presentation. An example of a scholarly project may involve the development, implementation, and evaluation of an evidence-based guideline, protocol, or algorithm. A faculty chair supervises and directs the project. Students are required to take two credits of scholarly project for a total of three semesters.

Objectives
Upon completion of the scholarly project, the student will be able to:

1. Identify a clinical problem and the significance of the problem to health care in general and to advanced practice nursing in particular.
2. Critically review the state of the science through a literature review.
3. Identify and describe a theoretical framework based on nursing theories and/or theories from other science-based disciplines that is congruent with the proposed design/plan.
4. Use information technology and research methods to collect data and implement the chosen evidence-based intervention plan or approved project.
5. Serve as an advocate for social justice, and equity by maintaining ethical standards for the protection of human subjects.
6. Evaluate the evidence-based intervention plan or project using concepts related to community, environmental health and cultural and socioeconomic dimensions of health.
7. Summarize and communicate the significance and limitations of the findings in a fair, accurate and consistent manner.
8. Provide recommendations for future clinical projects.
9. Demonstrate leadership by presenting findings from the clinical project to healthcare providers and/or other professionals.
Faculty Chairperson and Committee
To complete the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree, students will complete 6 credits of NU 899 (Scholarly Project). The scholarly project requires the supervision of a faculty chairperson to direct the project and two additional faculty that serve as members on the scholarly project committee. The chairperson must be a Doctorally (PhD or DNP) prepared nursing faculty member that has graduate faculty status. The committee consists of two additional faculty members that have graduate faculty status. With the approval of the department head, non-NMU or adjunct graduate faculty may serve as a member of the committee as long as they have been approved for graduate faculty status. The faculty chair and the committee’s role is to provide feedback on the manuscript throughout the program and to attend and evaluate the student’s final project during the oral scholarly project presentation which takes place after completion of the scholarly project manuscript.

Students begin the process of choosing their faculty chair by reviewing faculty areas of expertise/interest. A faculty chairperson is then chosen based on mutual interests. Students will be introduced to faculty who discuss their research interests during the first semester in the program. The faculty chair’s area of expertise should “match” the topic area of the project. The nature of the student’s project will depend upon the areas of faculty expertise/interest and the interest and experience of the student. The student must contact the faculty to determine their interest and availability. Once you have secured your faculty chair and have obtained approval for the project, complete the Scholarly Project Declaration Form (Appendix A) and submit the completed form to the School of Nursing DNP Secretary (Tina Smith).

Scholarly Project Guidelines
The completed scholarly project manuscript provides evidence that demonstrates the student can think critically and can communicate effectively orally and in writing. To demonstrate these outcomes, the final written project must be complete, logical and clear. All written work must adhere to the following guidelines:

- APA format using the APA Publication Manual (6th edition) guidelines including requirements for grammar, punctuation, spelling and references
- Times New Roman (12 point) font
- The manuscript should be double-spaced. The left margin should be 1.5 inches wide; all other margins should be 1.0 inch in width.
- Mandatory: upon completion of the final manuscript, students should attend an APA workshop with Mike Strahan, NMU School of Nursing library liaison, to review APA format within the paper and to correct minor typographical errors.
- Document length: will vary from paper to paper but a general rule is about 30-50 pages (including title page, references and appendices).
Types of projects include but are not limited to the following:

- Implementation and evaluation of an innovative clinical program or evidence-based guideline
- Development, implementation and evaluation of a clinical protocol or guideline that reflects best practice
- Quality improvement project that includes direct measurement of patient outcomes

The final form of the project includes a written manuscript and an oral power-point presentation. Refer to the DNP Scholarly Project Formatting Guidelines handbook for details on final formatting of the document. The handbook can be located at: http://www.nmu.edu/nursing/handbooks

Depending upon the nature of the project, additional products may be generated which include but are not limited to the following:

- In-service
- Pamphlet/brochure
- Algorithm
- Clinical protocol/guideline
- Flow sheet
- Screening tool
- Policy
- Manuscript for publication
- Video
- Manual
Organization of the Scholarly Project Paper

- Preliminary pages
- Title page
- Chapter One – Includes an introduction which addresses the problem to be explored and the purpose of the scholarly project. Chapter one begins with a brief literature review which introduces the reader to the problem, significance of the problem, and purpose of the scholarly project. Chapter one also includes a brief description of the theoretical framework.
- Chapter Two – (Review of the literature) – Chapter two includes a full review of the “state of the science” including a full description of the theoretical framework.
- Chapter Three – (Methods) - includes a description of the sample, including calculation of sample size, sampling technique, design of the project, procedures, measures, IRB approval and a description of the statistical tests that were utilized.
- Chapter Four – (Results) - This section includes the results of the project (demographic characteristics of participants, descriptive and inferential statistics), and includes an identification of strengths, limitations, implications for nursing practice, and recommendations for future projects or research related to this project.
- References
- Appendices

Timeline and Method of Evaluation
The scholarly project timeline is designed so the student completes the project as he/she progresses through coursework. The goal is that the project is completed at the same time coursework is completed.

Every semester in which the student registers for NU 899, the student should meet with their faculty chair (early in the semester) to discuss a timeline and plans for completion of activities for that semester. Each semester that the student takes NU 899, the student must complete and submit a Registration for Research Practicum form: (See appendix B) and submit the form for signature by the faculty chairperson. The completed form is then submitted by the student to the School of Nursing DNP Secretary, Tina Smith. Melissa Romero, graduate program coordinator, has copies of this form and is responsible for registering students into the NU 899 course.
The timeline for completion of NU 899 is as follows:

Semester 1 (2 credits)
- Student identifies his/her project chair (this can be accomplished in an earlier semester)
- Student develops a plan for an evidence-based intervention and clinical project based on nursing science and other sciences
- Student successfully completes the introduction (Chapter 1) and review of literature (Chapter 2) section of his/her project

Semester 2 (2 credits)
- Student obtains Institutional Review board approval. The NMU Human Subjects Research Review Committee (HSRRC) meets on a monthly basis and oversees all protocols involving the use of human subjects. Information regarding the process to apply for human subject’s approval may be found at the NMU Grants and Research website: http://www.nmu.edu/grantsandresearch/node/102
- CITI Human Subjects Human Research training modules must also be completed prior to applying for IRB approval
- Student completes the project methodology (Chapter 3) section of his/her scholarly project
- Student successfully implements the project and collects evaluation data

Semester 3 (2 credits)
- Student completes the results (Chapter 4) section of the paper
- Student submits the final, completed manuscript to the scholarly project committee for review and revisions
- Student attends APA workshop with Mike Strahan, School of Nursing Library liaison
- Student presents the scholarly project to the scholarly project committee and a university audience at NMU
- Student submits the final completed manuscript to The NMU Commons website

* The timeline for completion may vary depending upon factors such as individualized curricula and plan of study, and timing for implementation of the project which depends upon clinical placements and other factors. The faculty chairperson and student may meet early in the curriculum to decide about the timeline for completion
## Evaluation Rubric: Scholarly Project S=satisfactory U=unsatisfactory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester One</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>U</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chapter One:</strong> Describes a clinical problem, the significance of the problem and how the problem has impacted nursing, healthcare and/or patient populations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduces a purpose of the scholarly project that effectively addresses the clinical problem</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduces a theoretical framework that is congruent with the proposed design/plan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester Two</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>U</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chapter Two:</strong> Critically reviews the state of the science through a literature review</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provides an in-depth description of a theoretical framework that is congruent with the proposed design/plan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester Three</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>U</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chapter Three:</strong> Completes the methods section of the paper which includes a description of the sample, including calculation of sample size, sampling technique, design of the project, procedures, measures, IRB approval and a description of the statistical tests that were utilized</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintains ethical standards for the protection of human subjects (Obtains IRB approval)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implements the evidence-based intervention plan or approved project</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester Four</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>U</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chapter Four:</strong> Completes the results portion of the manuscript and includes demographic characteristics of participants, descriptive and inferential statistics</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Makes recommendations for future research or clinical projects</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identifies strengths and limitations associated with the project</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Successfully presents the results of the scholarly project to the scholarly project committee and a university audience at a scholarly project presentation at NMU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submits the final, completed paper including the product (if applicable)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creates a scholarly project poster and presents it at the Xi Sigma induction ceremony.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>APA Formatting</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>U</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title Page</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Text Citations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reference List</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendices</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Writing Style</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>U</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Writing style is complete, logically organized, relevant and uses professional terminology</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Synthesis of Ideas</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>U</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All relevant ideas from sources are synthesized and covered in-depth</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resources</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>U</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All references and sources are academic and scholarly</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Updated M. Romero 3/2017
Grading
Each credit will be awarded either an S for satisfactory work or a U for unsatisfactory work. Students who do not complete the requirements at each of the evaluation points will receive a U grade and be required to complete additional credit(s) of NU 899.

GD 593 Graduate Degree Continuous Enrollment
Students who do not complete the project in 6 credits will need to enroll in GD 593 Graduate Degree Continuous Enrollment Credit. This allows the student to stay active, maintain library access, e-mail, and computer use throughout the university.

Oral Presentation
The scholarly project presentation is a formal, oral presentation of the student’s completed work that is presented to the faculty chair, committee, and university audience. The overall purpose of the presentation is to first, have the student identify and describe the nature of the project, literature review, and to discuss how the project was implemented and evaluated in addition to a description of strengths, limitations and directions for the future. The oral presentation provides an opportunity for the student, committee, and university audience to discuss the scholarly project in terms of its scientific merit, its contribution to the clinical practice environment and patient population and its implications for further projects. Following the oral presentation, the student will attend to any recommendations or requirements of the committee.

Disposition of the Final Product
Following a satisfactory oral presentation, a Verification of Completion of Graduate Projects form is completed by Melissa Romero, graduate program coordinator and forwarded to the Dean of the Office of Graduate Education and Research. The verification form is available via Melissa Romero.

The NMU Commons
An electronic copy of the final manuscript will be submitted by the student to The NMU Commons, (http://commons.nmu.edu/) which is a webpage where faculty and student research and scholarly works are posted for the public to view.
Final Manuscript

The substantive components of the scholarly project manuscript includes a title page, four chapters, references and appendices:

1. **Title page**: This should be in APA format.

2. **Chapter One** - Introduction: the introduction includes a clearly identified clinical problem, the significance of the problem, theoretical framework and the plan for addressing the clinical problem.

3. **Chapter Two** - Literature Review: includes scholarly articles, books, and other sources relevant to the topic. It is a compilation of the research that has been published on a topic. The literature review identifies and articulates the relationships between the literature and the research topic. Chapter two should also include a more in-depth description of the theoretical framework and should identify how the theoretical framework ties in with the project.

4. **Chapter Three** – Methods: includes a description of the sample, including calculation of sample size, sampling technique, design of the project, procedures, measures, IRB approval and a description of the statistical tests that were utilized.

5. **Chapter Four** - Results: includes the results of the project (demographic characteristics of participants, descriptive and inferential statistics), and includes an identification of strengths, limitations, implications for nursing practice, and recommendations for future projects or research related to this project.

6. **References** – in APA format

7. **Appendices** – in APA format
Student Responsibilities

Student responsibilities:

- After obtaining a faculty chair, submit the completed Declaration Form (Appendix A) with all the necessary signatures to the DNP secretary (Tina Smith).
- Meet with faculty chair, complete and submit the NU 899 Registration for research practicum form to Tina Smith every semester in which the student is registered for NU 899.
- Keep the faculty chair informed of progress/non-progress in completing the project.
- Submit all drafts of manuscript and completed project to the faculty chair for review.
- Submit drafts to committee members, when appropriate, after consulting with your faculty chair.
- Incorporate all feedback from the faculty chair/committee members in subsequent drafts.
- **Allow 10 working days for faculty chair to respond to drafts, revisions,** unless special arrangements have been made.
- Obtain editorial assistance if you have problems with grammar, punctuation, spelling, and writing style.
- Obtain IRB approval after faculty chair has approved the IRB application and ensure that the final IRB report is filed with the appropriate agencies.
- Meet with Mike Strahan at APA workshop prior to submitting the final manuscript to ensure that the paper is properly APA formatted.
- Assure that all necessary forms are on file with the School of Nursing secretary including the Declaration form and Registration for Research Practicum form (submitted each semester the student is registered for NU 899).
Faculty (Chairperson) Responsibilities

Faculty chair responsibilities:

- Provide primary guidance and feedback to the student throughout manuscript development, project completion and preparation for the final oral presentation in consultation with other committee members, where applicable.
- Provide information and assistance to the student about obtaining IRB approval.
- Assist in the selection of committee members, where applicable.
- Determine when drafts of the manuscript are ready for submission to committee members for their review.
- Assure that all necessary forms are on file with the DNP secretary including: declaration form, verification of completion of graduate projects, and registration for research practicum forms.
- Assure that the final IRB report to the appropriate committee/institution is on file.

Committee Member Responsibilities

Committee member responsibilities:

- Provide guidance as requested by the student or chairperson, related to any aspect of the project.
- Critically review the manuscript and completed project and provide suggestions for revisions.
- Actively participate in committee meetings (as needed) as the project proceeds.
Checklist for NU 899

**Semester One**

- Select topic and project
- Select faculty chair
- Complete the Declaration Form and Registration for Research Practicum form and submit to the DNP secretary (Tina Smith)
- Complete Chapters One and Two - submit to faculty chair

**Semester Two**

- Complete the Registration for Research Practicum Form and submit to the DNP secretary (Tina Smith)
- Complete CITI Modules and obtain IRB approval (after faculty chair has approved the IRB proposal document)
- Develop and describe the project methodology (Chapter 3)
- Submit Chapter 3 to faculty chair
- Complete the implementation part of the project and collect data

**Semester Three**

- Complete the Registration for Research Practicum Form and submit to the DNP secretary (Tina Smith)
- Complete and submit Chapter 4 - the results section of the scholarly project
- Submit the manuscript to scholarly project committee for review and revisions
- Meet Mike Strahan at APA workshop to review manuscript
- Present the results of the project – oral presentation
- Complete any final revisions on the manuscript
- Submit the final manuscript to The NMU Commons
- Complete final report of research activities and submit to all IRB committees
Appendix A

NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF NURSING

SCHOLARLY PROJECT DECLARATION FORM

Student Name: ____________________________________________________________

The proposed topic for the scholarly project:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

I agree to serve as chairperson:

________________________________________________________________________

Signature Date

Date Received in Graduate Office: __________________________________________

By: ______________________________________________________________________
    Signature
Appendix B

NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF GRADUATE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH
REGISTRATION FOR RESEARCH/PRACTICUM CREDITS

DATE: __________________________________ NMU IN: ______________________________

NAME: ____________________________________________________________
        (Last)                 (First)                  (MI)

ADDRESS: __________________________________________________________
          (Street)                           (City)            (State)          (Zip)

LAND PHONE: _________________________ CELL PHONE: _________________________

COURSE I.D.: _________________________ TITLE/SUBJECT: _________________________

CREDIT HOURS: _________________________ SEMESTER: __________ YEAR: ______

MAJOR: _______________________________ DEPARTMENT: _________________________

_______________________________________ Signature of Student

_______________________________________ Signature of Research Director/
    Practicum Supervisor                   [ ] for pay          [ ] on load

_______________________________________ Signature of Adviser

_______________________________________ Signature of Department Head

_______________________________________ Signature of College Dean

Graduate Studies Office

NOTE: AFTER OBTAINING THE NECESSARY SIGNATURES, THIS FORM MUST BE
SUBMITTED TO THE REGISTRATION AND SCHEDULING OFFICE TO HAVE A
COURSE SEQUENCE NUMBER ASSIGNED TO THE COURSE. DISTRIBUTION WILL BE
MADE BY THE REGISTRATION AND SCHEDULING OFFICE UPON RECEIPT OF THIS
FORM.

Distribution: Registrar, Instructor, Department Chairperson, Adviser, Dean of School, Graduate
Studies Office, Student

_______________________________________ Course Created

_______________________________________ Sequence Number

_______________________________________ Student Enrolled