Doctor of Nursing Practice
DNP Project Final Paper
Grading Rubric

Project Title:
Student Name:
First reader/advisor:
Second reader:
Date:

Criteria	Meets Expectation	Below Expectations	Comments/Evidence
Executive Summary	Student presents a concise summary of the problem, significance, setting, purpose, process and outcome objectives, ,methods/implementation plan, results and recommendations	Student presents an executive summary that presents an inaccurate or incomplete overview of the project.	
Problem	Relevant data from key stakeholders, organization/site, population assessment, local, regional/ national data are critically analyzed to define and substantiate the problem.	Problem is poorly developed. Problem is not supported by key stakeholders, organization/site, population assessment, local, regional/ national sources	
Purpose	Purpose is a clear and comprehensive statement that includes the intended outcome, population and overall strategy. The purpose statement aligns with the problem statement.	Purpose statement is vague, not well-aligned with the problem or does not include the intended outcome, population or overall strategy.	
Background/ Significance	Literature is cited to substantiate the problem, significance, and strategies. Literature is current and relevant to the project. Literature review is well synthesized.	Minimal literature cited to substantiate the problem, significance, and strategies. Relevant literature missing. Literature over 5 years old (unless it is a classic study or paper). Serial citations with no synthesis.	
Environmental Context	Salient characteristics of the environment are well described.	Environmental context is superficial and/or missing one or more salient characteristics	
Project objectives	Outcome objectives are connected to the problem Process objectives are connected to major activities and the outputs of the activities	Process or outcome objectives are absent. Poor connection between outcome objectives and problem. Poor connections between process objectives and activities and outputs of the objectives.	
Implementation/conceptual or evaluation framework	Key principles of the implementation/conceptual and/or evaluation framework(s) are described.	Poor description of the implementation/conceptual and/or evaluation framework(s) are described	

Methods (Implementation and Evaluation Plan)	Implementation and evaluation plan is well-described and includes all elements from the guidelines. Human subjects/ethical issues addressed	Implementation and evaluation plan are poorly described. Or, one or more of the elements from the guidelines are missing. Human subjects/ethical issues not addressed	
Results	Results are clearly summarized, addressing all of the objectives. Tables/figures give a clear representation of the findings.	Result section is very vague and does not address all objectives. Tables/figures do not give a clear representation of the findings.	
Discussion	Findings are interpreted in relation to literature If applicable, deviations or changes made to the implementation plan are analyzed and include any unintended consequences or failures Strengths, limitations and sustainability of the project are discussed. Recommendations are based upon the interpretation of the findings, analysis of deviations or changes, and discussion of strengths, limitations, and sustainability.	Findings are interpreted in relation to the literature. If applicable, deviations or changes made to the implementation plan are not described or analyzed. Strengths, limitations, and/or sustainability are not discussed. Recommendations are incomplete and not based upon the interpretation of the findings, analysis of deviations or changes, or strengths, limitations or sustainability.	
APA* and writing style	Ideas are clearly and logically written. Grammar and APA* format used correctly throughout paper with clear attribution and appropriate citations. References complete. Copyrights included (if applicable)	Paper is poorly organized. Grammatical, reference/citation, and APA* style errors substantially detract from the paper. References not complete Copyrights not included (if applicable)	

In order to pass the course, students must meet standard on all sections of the rubric.

*For students who gain approval for a publishable paper option, follow the journal author guidelines