DNP PROJECT FINAL PAPER GUIDELINES

All students are expected to use the following guidelines and rubric for the DNP project final paper. Students should discuss the project sections and sequence with their advisor/1st reader. The paper should be no longer than 15 pages, excluding the title page, executive summary and appendices.

CONTENT:
Executive Summary (one page single spaced)
- Overview of the following:
  - Concise summary of the problem/focus and significance
  - Setting
  - Purpose
  - Process and outcome objectives
  - Summary of methods/implementation plan
  - Results
  - Recommendations

Introduction (one paragraph)
- Introduce the general issue

Problem (less than one page)
- The problem statement should include:
  - Clear, succinct statement of the problem
  - Data supporting the problem and need for a change (from stakeholders, organization/site, population assessment; include local, regional/national data)
- In this section, the student should provide evidence that the data have been critically analyzed in order to define and substantiate the problem.

Purpose (less than 1 page)
- Statement of the purpose includes the intended outcome, the population, and strategy
- Purpose aligns with the problem statement

Background/Significance (1 to 2 pages)
- Literature synthesized to substantiate the problem and its significance
- Literature synthesized to support the project strategies

Environmental Context (1/2 page)
- Brief description of the organization/setting/population
- Describe salient features that influenced the project

Project Objectives (less than one page)
- Outcome objectives are connected to the problem
- Process objectives are connected to major activities and the outputs of the activities

Framework(s) (1 to 2 paragraphs)
- Description of the key principles of the implementation/conceptual and/or evaluation framework(s)

Methods (Implementation and Evaluation Plan) (2 pages)
- Include the following:
  - Description of how the intervention was implemented
  - Description of procedures used to collect and analyze process and outcome evaluation data
  - Description of measures/instruments, including reliability and validity (as appropriate)
- Address protection of human subjects and confidentiality
Results (2 pages)
- Summarize the results of the interventions as related to the objectives
  - Use tables and figures to display data

Discussion (1 page)
- Interpret the findings in relation to the literature
- Analyze deviations or changes made to the implementation plan, including any unintended consequences or failures (if applicable)
- Discuss strengths, limitations, sustainability of the project
- Provide recommendations that are based upon the interpretation of the findings, analysis of deviations or changes, and discussion of strengths and limitations.
- Discuss plan for sustainability

Conclusion (1-2 paragraphs)