

## **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/1<sup>st</sup> 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)