DNP Hours Plan (Effective spring 2024)

The following addendum to the 2023-2024 DNP Hours Guide will:

1. Identify current students who are eligible for the new plan;
2. Compare the current DNP Hours plan with the new plan;
3. Provide background (i.e., the rationale) for the change;
4. Provide an overview of DNP Hours, including the purpose and accrual of hours;
5. Provide information about the types of activities DNP students will engage in to accrue DNP Hours, including the associated types of evidence;
6. Describe the submission of evidence and the new DNP Hours Portal;
7. Describe the revised DNP Hours Table; and
8. Describe the types of progress checks that will be made throughout a students' tenure in the program, including the Graduation Audit.

Who is eligible for the new DNP Hours plan?

- Nurse practitioner and nurse anesthesia students matriculating to the DNP program in spring 2024 and beyond are eligible for the new DNP Hours plan.
- Current nurse practitioner students who have either not taken any clinical courses or have just completed NS 830 are eligible for the new DNP Hours plan.
- Current nurse anesthesia students who began their didactic course work in fall 2023 are eligible for the new DNP Hours plan.

What is different about the new DNP Hours plan?

	Current DNP Hours Plan	New DNP Hours Plan, Spring 2024
Identifying DNP Hours Activities	▪ Student identifies extracurricular activities related to the DNP program outcomes	▪ Activities identified for you[1]
Number of Hours	▪ 350 DNP Hours + 750 direct patient care clinical hours = **1,100 hours**[2]	▪ 125 DNP hours + 975 direct patient care clinical hours[3] = **1,100 hours**
Marking Progress	▪ 3 checkpoints with benchmarks for number of hours (End of Semesters 2 & 5, Midway through Final Semester) ▪ Graduation Audit semester before graduation	▪ Annual audit; no benchmark for number of hours ▪ Graduation Audit semester before graduation

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[1] You may be required to identify someone to shadow and/or interview.
[2] The DNP Hours plan for nurse anesthesia students differs from other BSN-DNP program options. These students complete at least 2,000 clinical hours and 125 DNP Hours.
[3] Nurse anesthesia students will continue to complete at least 2,000 clinical hours.

	Current DNP Hours Plan	New DNP Hours Plan, Spring 2024
Evidence Evidence (continued)	▪ At least 1 activity and artifact related to each DNP program outcome ▪ At least 1 activity and artifact related to each professional role competency[4]	▪ Submit documentation for activities related to courses, shadowing, scholarly project ▪ Track professional role competencies or graduate standards[2] on checklist; no evidence; only a Typhon™ Case ID # or surgical case # (for nurse anesthesia students).

Background

The new DNP Hours plan was conceived (a) to accommodate that number of direct patient care clinical hours required of DNP nurse practitioner students (i.e., from 750 to 975), and (b) to better align DNP Hours activities with DNP courses as a means of simplifying the way(s) students will accrue the DNP Hours.

Starting spring 2024, DNP nurse practitioner students will be required to complete at least 975 direct patient care clinical hours. This change is in keeping with our accrediting body, the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) (link), and their requirements for APRN programs, which are related to requirements from the 2022 National Task Force (NTF) Standards for Quality Nurse Practitioner Education (link).

To accommodate the greater number of direct patient care clinical hours required of nurse practitioner DNP students, we have streamlined the DNP Hours plan.

DNP Hours Overview

What ARE the DNP Hours?

- The DNP Hours reflect an aggregate of activities, course work, and clinical/practicum which all DNP students are required to do throughout the program. The number of hours required depends on the student's program option (e.g., BSN-DNP FNP, BSN-DNP CRNA, Post-MSN DNP).

What is the purpose of the DNP Hours?

- The purpose of these hours is for you to expand and enhance your mastery of content in the DNP courses in preparation the highest level of nursing practice. These activities allow you to explore DNP course content and concepts in more depth, gain insights and

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[4] Note: Some competencies or standards may be met during your Scholarly Project. They have been identified for you on the new DNP Hours Table.

perspective about the roles and responsibilities of doctorally prepared advanced practice nurses (APRNs).

Accruing DNP Hours

How do I accrue the DNP Hours?

- Throughout the program, you will accrue these hours in four (4) ways:
    1. Completing activities related to the required DNP courses.
    2. Shadowing APRNS.
    3. Completing the required number of direct patient care clinical/practicum hours.
    4. Completing (at least) the minimum number of Scholarly Project Hours during the three (3) scholarly project courses at the end of the program.[5]

DNP Course-related Activities

We have specified a DNP Hours activity for each *required* DNP course. In some cases (i.e., DNP 915, DNP 916, DNP 948), part of the activity will be related to a course assignment.

Directions for each of these course-related activities are provided in the DNP Hours Portal in Canvas, which is where you will submit/upload the work you do for each activity. The Assistant Director for Graduate Nursing tracks students' DNP courses and will provide a due date for each course-related assignment in the DNP Hours Portal each semester. You will note the date of completion for each course-related activity on a new/updated DNP Hours Table, which is an all-in-one document used to document completion of the DNP Hours requirements.

In addition to being aligned with the required DNP courses, these activities have been aligned with the DNP program outcomes (LINK). They have been reviewed by the faculty member teaching the DNP course.

APRN Shadowing

You will use the Shadowing Form to demonstrate meeting this requirement and accruing these hours. When you have completed the required number of shadowing hours, you will submit the form, signed by the individual(s) you have shadowed, in the portal with a brief reflection. You will list information about the shadowing experience in your DNP Hours Table.

Clinical/Practicum Hours/Courses

Your clinical hours are documented in Typhon™ and monitored by clinical faculty. There is no documentation required in the DNP Hours Portal for clinical/practicum hours. All students will submit the final preceptor assessment for each clinical/practicum course and the final self-

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[5] Scholarly Project Hours will be accrued via meetings, literature/evidence appraisal, and/or data analysis. Reading, writing, participating in course learning activities (e.g., discussions, collaborations), and preparation of a PowerPoint presentation **do not count toward Scholarly Project Hours**.

evaluation for each clinical/practicum course. You will also list the total number of direct patient care clinical/practicum hours for each clinical/practicum course in your DNP Hours Table.

Scholarly Project Courses

Minimum hours for each of the three (3) Scholarly Project courses have been determined, **but the expectation is that you will exceed this minimum**. You should plan to maintain an accurate record of time spent for meetings with your Faculty Chair, meetings with your External Subject Area Expert/Mentor, meetings with project stakeholders, and evidence/literature appraisal and/or data collection and analysis in the appropriate section of the DNP Hours Table.

How do I prove that I've accrued the DNP Hours?

- There are different types of evidence you will use to demonstrate accruing these hours.
- You will maintain a DNP Hours Table that includes a section for each of the aforementioned types of activities. This table should be updated at the end of each semester and will be submitted on an annual basis for an audit.

Where do I submit the evidence for the DNP Hours?

- All students will be "enrolled" in a Canvas "course" titled DNP Hours Portal during their first semester. Within this portal, there are "assignments" for all required DNP Hours activities (e.g., DNP Course or APRN Shadowing activities).

> *Note*: Current students who transition to the new plan (see above for eligibility) will remain in their current DNP Hours Documentation "course" (i.e., for their semester of entry) but *will no longer submit evidence there*. These students will have access to the new **DNP Hours Portal** where all evidence related to the new plan will be submitted.

What kind of evidence should I use for the DNP Hours?

- The types of evidence varies depending on the type of activity/requirement.

Activity	Type(s) of Evidence
Course-Related Activities	Specific activity form/worksheet in DNP Hours Portal
Shadowing NOT related to course activities	Shadowing Form, which includes a brief reflection about the experience
Direct Patient Care Clinical/Practicum	Typhon™ log[6] and data in DNP Hours Table
Scholarly Project Hours	Log in DNP Hours Table

Professional Role Competencies/Graduate Standards

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[6] The Typhon™ log remains in Typhon™; it does not need to be submitted in the DNP Hours Portal.

In addition to accruing DNP Hours, this plan includes a checklist to ascertain when (i.e., during which clinical course) students meet the professional role competencies or graduate standards specific to their program option (e.g., Family NP, CRNA). These competencies and standards have been established by accrediting organizations, such as the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculty (NONPF) and the Council on Accreditation (COA), which accredits nurse anesthesia programs. These competencies or standards reflect tasks or skills the student should be able to perform as a novice in his or her discipline. NONPF identifies general nurse practitioner competencies as well as population focused competencies for family NPs, adult-gerontology acute care NPs, and psychiatric-mental health NPs. The COA does likewise for standards related to nurse anesthesia practice. These competencies and standards have been included in the checklist portion of the DNP Hours Table. (See below.)

DNP Hours Portal (in Canvas)

Matriculating students will be assigned to a DNP Hours Portal in Canvas related to their semester of entry (e.g., Spring 2024, Summer 2024). *Current students who have elected to transition from the original to the new DNP Hours plan will be assigned to a DNP Hours Portal as well*.

In this portal, there are "assignments" for each of the course-related activities, shadowing experiences, final preceptor assessments and self-evaluations from the student's clinical courses, and end of program work. Like assignments in the DNP courses, there is a brief description of the assignment/activity as well as printable/downloadable directions and worksheets.

> **Please note: All DNP Hours activity work should be submitted to this portal, particularly the DNP course-related activities. DO NOT SUBMIT THE WORK IN YOUR DNP COURSES.**

DNP Hours Table

The DNP Hours Table is the all-in-one document to be used by DNP students to provide information about their progress through the DNP Hours requirements. There are four (4) main sections pertaining to DNP Hours within the table:

1. DNP Course-related activities,
2. Shadowing experiences,
3. Direct patient care clinical/practicum hours (transferred from Typhon™), and
4. Scholarly project hours.

In addition, the tables for each BSN-DNP program option will include a checklist related to the professional role competencies established by the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculty (NONPF) for each population focus (e.g., Family NP, Psychiatric-Mental Health NP, Adult-

Gero Acute Care NP) and to the graduate standards established by the Council on Accreditation for the BSN-DNP Nurse Anesthesia program option.[7]

This checklist consists of three (3) columns:

1. Professional Role Competency/Graduate Standard
2. Course where the competency/standard was met
3. Typhon™ Case ID # (or surgical case number)

The expectation is that all students will be able to meet all competencies during their four (4) to five (5) clinical/practicum courses.

Checking Progress toward DNP Hours: Annual Audits

Students will submit their DNP Hours Tables at yearly intervals (unless otherwise requested or specified). The purpose of these annual audits is to ensure students are tracking their hours in a timely manner and that the evidence for completed activities has been submitted in the DNP Hours Portal. These annual audits will take place each semester (because we admit students each semester) as follows:

Semester of Admission	Annual Audit(s)
Spring 2024	End of fall 2024 semester
Summer 2024	End of spring 2025 semester
Fall 2024	End of summer 2025 semester
Spring 2025	End of fall 2025 semester

Students will see a deadline for the annual audit on his or her Canvas dashboard, in the To Do List.

Graduation Audit

When students apply for graduation, in their next to last semester, the Registrar's Office requests a DNP Hours audit from the Graduate Nursing program. This report includes the number of hours completed as well as progress toward meeting all required DNP Hours activities (referenced above). The report is sent to the Registrar's Office and copied to the student so that he or she knows what must be completed in order to fully meet the DNP Hours requirement prior to graduation and granting of degree.

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[7] Some competencies or standards may be met during your Scholarly Project. They have been identified for you on the new DNP Hours Table and can be addressed in the Scholarly Project section of the Table.