

# Using DNP Faculty Mentors as a Model to Ensure Quality and Success for the DNP Scholarly Project

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## Abstract

- The DNP degree has been designed to promote the advanced practice role, and address the complexities of healthcare systems
- The DNP clinical doctorate requires a final DNP scholarly project
- There is no national standard guideline/requirements for DNP scholarly projects
- Outcomes of DNP scholarly projects vary in level of quality and scholarly

## Purpose

- To present the benefits of a DNP faculty model using DNP project advisors and an part-time faculty methodologist to ensure quality, consistency, and timely program completion in a post-masters DNP program

## Objectives:

- ✓ Describe the post-master's DNP Program
- ✓ Define the role of DNP faculty project advisor and methodologist
- ✓ Provide strategies for DNP scholarly project successes
- ✓ Address the post-master's DNP program outcomes

## DNP Program Highlights

- This DNP program is a practice-focused doctoral program designed for post master's Advance Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) and Nurse Administrators

## The DNP Scholarly Project

- An academic product outcome that applies advanced empirical and theoretical knowledge to design, implement, and evaluate in the clinical environment based on the evidence

## Examples:

- ✓ Quality Improvement Project
- ✓ Organizational Evaluation
- ✓ Policy/Practice Guideline Development
- ✓ Manuscript Development
- ✓ Clinical Education Program

## Mentoring

- Mentoring is defined as a relationship between two individuals of differing levels of experience, one more experienced and one less experienced that focuses on advancing professional and personal development (American Association of Pharmaceutical Sciences [AAPS, 2012])

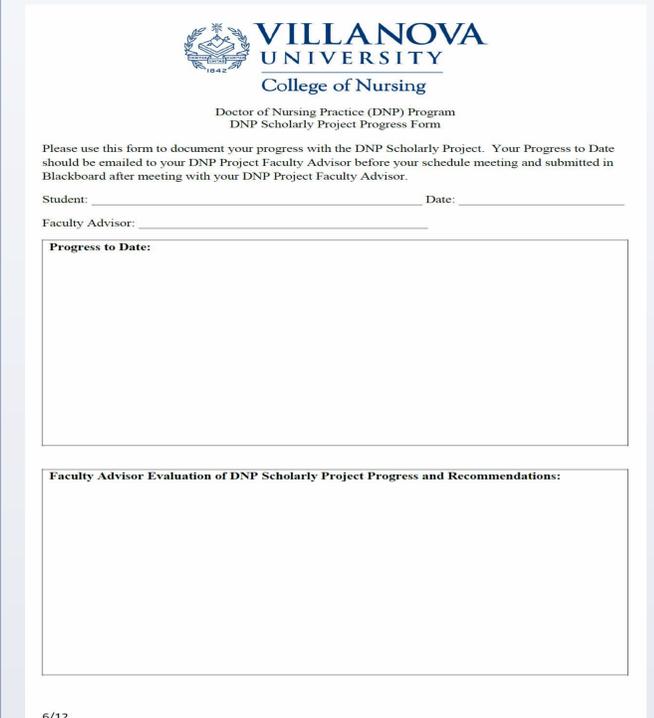
## Description of the DNP Project Faculty Advisor and Methodologist

- Full-time faculty and part-time adjunct faculty
- DNP, PhD, and EdD prepared
- APRNs and Nurse Administrators
- Workload: mentor 3 students per cohort
- Compensated per-credit/per-course
- Methodologist: part-time adjunct faculty assigned to each DNP Project Seminar Course

## Role of the DNP Project Faculty Advisor and Methodologist

- Mentor students through the design, implementation, evaluation and dissemination of the DNP project
- Share clinical expertise, and methodological experience
- Set clear guidelines and deadlines
- Available to student's on site practice mentor
- Serve as primary investigator if necessary for IRB issues
- Maintain regular contact via email, distance learning or face-to-face meetings throughout the semester
- Provide encouragement, support, and constructive feedback
- Require the student mentee to provide written with verbal updates 4 times each semester with "progress forms"

## Progress Form



**VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY**  
College of Nursing  
Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program  
DNP Scholarly Project Progress Form

Please use this form to document your progress with the DNP Scholarly Project. Your Progress to Date should be emailed to your DNP Project Faculty Advisor before your schedule meeting and submitted in Blackboard after meeting with your DNP Project Faculty Advisor.

Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Faculty Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

**Progress to Date:**

**Faculty Advisor Evaluation of DNP Scholarly Project Progress and Recommendations:**

6/12

## Program Outcomes

- 100% completion rate/23 students to date
- 93% of the graduating students had an abstract accepted to a national conference
- CCNE Accreditation

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