Doctor of Nursing Practice Capstone Handbook
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This handbook has been developed to serve as a roadmap to the processes, procedures and requirements of the DNP Capstone Project and Residency. The DNP capstone project is developed, implemented and disseminated over a one-year residency (NUR 773, 775, 777) supported by content delivered across three concurrent didactic courses (NUR 772, 774, 776). (Appendix A-F)

Overview of Capstone Project

The DNP program culminates in the successful completion of the scholarly Capstone Project that is completed over three semesters. This project is a comprehensive, integrative practice experience that reflects synthesis of program course work and mastery of expert practice knowledge in the translation of current research to improve nursing practice or healthcare outcomes for patients, families, populations or systems. Each student collaborates with an agency to address a real-world clinical problem or health issue. The capstone allows the student to demonstrate clinical expertise and competencies in organizational leadership, system analysis, program assessment and evaluation and practice change. The student must successfully defend the capstone in order to complete the requirements for the course and the DNP degree. The final product of the project is a professional poster, paper presentation and/or manuscript suitable for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

Capstone projects can take the form of a/an:

- Evidence-based intervention or change initiative
- Program development and/or evaluation
- Quality improvement initiatives
- Implementation and evaluation of evidence-based practice guidelines
- Design and evaluation of new models of care
- Policy implementation, analysis, revision

A shared feature of these examples is the use of research evidence and systems leadership to improve healthcare outcomes, whether at the practice, patient, or health system level.

Specific examples of completed capstone projects may be found at:

DNP Residency (Practicum)

The DNP Residency combines a clinical immersion experience with scholarly activities to provide in-depth learning for students. The residency is designed to provide the DNP student with a comprehensive clinical experience individually designed to meet the professional and clinical goals of each DNP student. The capstone advisor will work with the student to identify an appropriate residency placement. The residency site may be a hospital, healthcare system, public health agency, or other appropriate organization. The essential components of residency are scholarly activities related to the identification, development, implementation and evaluation of a capstone project; synthesis of the
AANC DNP Essentials (AACN, 2006) (Appendix G); and dissemination of knowledge related to the capstone project. Residency activities may be disqualified if not substantively related to the capstone project, at an appropriate level for doctoral work, or consistent with the DNP Essentials.

Five hundred clinical scholarly hours, divided proportionately across three semesters, will complement the 500 pre-DNP clinical hours to meet the DNP competencies. For students in the BSN-DNP track, 100 of these hours will be directed toward practice in the student’s specialty role preparation area (Adult/Gerontology NP) to maintain core competencies (Appendix H) over the final year of DNP coursework completion. These hours of residency require separate, formal placement in a clinical agency and supervision by an appropriately credentialed CON faculty member. All policies regarding precepted clinical practice for NP students apply.

Residency hours must be documented and submitted. A record of the residency hours is kept in the student’s official academic folder (Appendix I).

All students are required to demonstrate accomplishment of the DNP Essentials through their residency experiences. Satisfactory attainment of the eight DNP Essentials will be determined by the capstone advisor upon completion of the final semester (NUR 777) course.

The following activities are some examples of time that can be applied toward residency hours:
- Observational, meeting time with identified experts
- Organizational planning meetings to determine goals/approached for project
- Searching and reviewing the literature related to practice problem with agency mentor.
- Attending seminars, meeting with consultants related to project problem
- Learning new leadership and advanced practice skills appropriate to the capstone topic
- Producing educational materials related to the capstone topic
- Developing tools for assessment and evaluation related to the capstone topic
- Engaging in organizational work related to the capstone project
- Engaging in policy development related to capstone project
- Poster, paper presentations of findings in agency or at conference
- Staff in-services related to project implementation
- Manuscript preparation

The following is required in each semester of residency:
1. Develop residency goals related to the DNP Essentials
2. Maintain a log of clinical practicum hours and activities
3. Maintain a reflective journal related to development and implementation of the Capstone Project and attainment of the DNP Essentials
4. On-going self-evaluation relative to accomplishing the DNP Essentials
<table>
<thead>
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<th>Development and Progression of the Capstone Project</th>
<th>Pre-773</th>
<th>NUR 772 &amp; 773</th>
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**Capstone Project Committee**

The student is required to submit a capstone project proposal at the completion of the 1st semester. The proposal is written under the direction of the DNP Capstone Advisor and approved by the DNP Capstone Project Committee. The DNP Project Committee will be composed of three members including the DNP Capstone advisor, an additional UMD faculty member and the agency mentor or designate (see form). The committee will be selected once residency placement and mentor have been established.

*DNP Capstone Advisor*

The capstone course faculty will serve as the committee chair and provides academic guidance and mentoring to the DNP student regarding the capstone project. The student should meet regularly with the advisor for assistance with project development, implementation, analysis and dissemination of results. The faculty advisor does not need to be an expert in the student's area of interest.

*Faculty Committee Member*

The faculty committee member is an appointed member of the University faculty who has expertise in the student's capstone project area. The committee member helps the student in areas related to the capstone project.

*Capstone Clinical Mentor*

Capstone mentors are advanced clinical practice or administration professionals who are experts in the students focus area. They facilitate the students meeting of project objectives and collaborate on the committee. They have an ongoing relationship with students throughout the residency, contributing especially to the student's development as a leader in the student’s area of practice. Clinical mentors may be selected from among a variety of disciplines, thereby building upon the DNP program objective to enhance the student's interdisciplinary experience.

**Capstone Proposal Defense**

The Capstone proposal should be submitted to the committee two weeks prior to the defense meeting. The student(s) and all committee members must attend the defense. The students will provide a 30-minute overview of proposal. The proposal may be accepted in full, accepted with major or minor revisions, or rejected. In the case of major revisions or rejection, the students must develop a revised or new proposal and a subsequent re-defense meeting scheduled.

Once approved, the Capstone Project Approval Form (Appendix J) must be signed by all committee members and placed in the student academic file. Application for IRB approval may then be submitted to Office of Institutional Compliance as appropriate. Implementation of the capstone project may begin once IRB approval has been received.
DNP Capstone Proposal Outline  (See rubric - Appendix K)
The capstone project proposal should demonstrate evidence of scholarly review and
critique of the literature and a detailed and well thought out project plan.

1. Title Page and Table of Contents

2. Section 1 – Background and Significance (needs assessment, problem statement)
   • Id specific problem in targeted clinical situation/population
   • Background and significance of problem (define magnitude of problem in measurable terms, characterize impact of problem on population and/or organization. Consider bio-psycho-social-cultural-spiritual dimensions.
   • Congruence of needs and organizational strategic plan with project (market analysis, strategic analysis, readiness for change)
   • Concise problem and purpose statement
   • Project objectives

3. Section 2- Framework
   • Identify and discuss EBP framework for project
   • Identify and discuss organizational theory for project
   • Identify and discuss practice theory for project (if applicable)

4. Section 3- Literature Review
   • General literature review pertinent to problem and project
   • Evidence-based literature search and critical appraisal of evidence (leveling and grading) to support project and interventions. This may be completed prior to proposal development, or ongoing during the implementation phase in the case of a multi-phase project.

5. Section 4- Project Design (Evidence Based Project/Intervention Plan)
   • Participants/population
   • Key personnel
   • Stakeholders
   • Potential barriers to implementation and sustainability
   • Data collection plan (evidence based measures/instruments)
   • Data analysis plan (Specific plan for evaluation of each objective)
   • Ethical considerations
   • Risk-benefits
   • Proposed timeline
   • Anticipated resources and Budget

6. References
7. Appendices
IRB Committee Approval

All projects require approval by the Institutional Review Board through the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth IRB Committee (http://www.atmc.umassd.edu/institutionalcompliance/institutionalreviewboard/forms/). Even if human subjects are not involved (ex. data mining, etc), IRB approval is necessary since the student is expected to publish and present findings. The student is responsible for securing IRB approval. The faculty capstone advisor is required to serve as the Principal Investigator on all student IRB applications. Students will serve as co-investigator.

Students are required to successfully pass the CITI certification exam in order to submit a proposal to the IRB. (https://www.citiprogram.org/Default.asp?)

Capstone Project Final Report (See rubric- Appendix L)

The final report of the DNP capstone project is a scholarly paper.

The specific format of the paper will be negotiated between the capstone advisor, committee members and the student. The final report is to be submitted in electronic and hardcopy format once recommended revisions are completed. The following is the recommended format of the report:

1. Title page: Project title, student name and credentials, institution and “in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree” statement.
2. Signature page
3. Abstract
4. Table of contents
5. Section 1: Background and significance
6. Section 2: Framework
7. Section 3: Literature Review
8. Section 4: Project Design (instruments in Appendix)
9. Section 5: Project Implementation (discussion of facilitators and barriers, objectives achieved, unintended consequences (positive/negative)
10. Section 6: Results (specific details of how project was evaluated, method of analysis for each objective) Objective presentation of findings
11. Section 7: Discussion – analysis of findings, support with literature
12. Section 8: Recommendations and limitations (within framework of strategic plan). Recommendation for sustaining intervention (or not?). Application in other settings/populations. Limitations of project findings
13. Section 9. Implications for Practice and Career Development
   Contribution of project in achieving DNP Essentials, personal goals
14. References
15. Appendices
Capstone Defense

The capstone oral defense hearing will be scheduled by the Capstone Advisor after all requirements for the DNP have been met and committee members agree that the capstone project is complete and ready to undergo defense. Three weeks prior to the scheduled defense the final draft of the project is delivered to all committee members. All members of the committee are expected to read the capstone report, forward any clarification questions to the student and committee at least 72 hours in advance of the scheduled defense. All members are required to attend the defense hearing.

Students are expected to develop a 30 minute presentation of the project. After the presentation, committee members will ask questions for up to 30 minutes. Following the defense, the committee meets and makes one of two determinations: 1) approve; or 2) approve subject to minor changes. In the case of approval with minor revisions, the student need only submit the revised capstone report to the chair and any other specified committee members.

Copies of the capstone report (see printing guidelines) with signed capstone defense form (Appendix M) and an electronic copy of the professional portfolio are submitted prior to graduation.

Guidelines for Internal Review of Scholarly Work

Students seeking to submit their work for any type of external review must seek an internal review from their capstone advisor. The purpose of this review process is to strengthen the quality of the work and assist the student's scholarly development. Work that should be reviewed includes: abstracts for conferences, oral or poster presentations, manuscripts for submission and grant proposals.

Guidelines for authorship

As a matter of professional integrity, scholars list each major contributor to a work as a coauthor. Contributions by authors may include conception of the work, writing, data analysis and revision of the work. Students who are developing a paper or other work for external review should confer with their capstone advisor before the work begins. Student groups working on a paper or other project for external review should confer with each other about authorship prior to beginning the work. These guidelines apply for ideas and papers submitted as part of course work and considered potentially publishable.

- Authorship may be a complex issue depending on whether the work was the idea of one person or multiple people and the type of contributions of each person.
- For student work developed with the support of a faculty member, the student will be first author and the faculty will be listed as second author.
- The order of coauthor's names is important and varies depending on the journal and field of study. In nursing, the order of author typically signifies the contributions of each author. The order of authors should be agreed upon before the publication is developed.
• Some journals require authors to formally list the role of each author in the publication and provide guidelines about who should be included as an author based on their role in the publication.
• Most publications require authors to sign certain assurances about the originality and contributions of authors to the work presented, and certain laws protecting intellectual property apply.

Guidelines for acknowledgement

Authors publicly thank those people and organizations that supported the work submitted for public presentation.

• Prior to acknowledging an organization or person, confer in advance with the person or organization whose name you intend to publicly recognize.
• Some organizations that provide grant funding will require acknowledgement and may have a preferred statement about how they wish to be acknowledged.
• Students publishing or presenting their capstone work as sole authors typically acknowledge the capstone committee and any funding sources.

Professional Portfolio (e-portfolio)

The purpose of the Clinical Scholarship Portfolio is to demonstrate achievement of Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program outcomes. Residency experiences will culminate with portfolio development as a component of the capstone evaluation. Submission of an acceptable portfolio is a requirement for completion of the DNP program.

Students are responsible for maintaining a log of clinical practicum/residency hours, activities, and accomplishment of the DNP Essentials. A clinical hours form detailing hours, description of residency/immersion activity, and reflection on accomplishment of the DNP Essentials is to be maintained throughout the one-year residency. Demonstration of satisfactory progress is on the DNP Essentials is required for progression through the three semesters of residency. In the final semester of residency, the student completes an in-depth synthesis evaluation of their progress and performance on the DNP Essentials, demonstrating full and meaningful completion of the Essentials. The academic professional portfolio will also include:

• Current CV
• Capstone related documents (IRB etc)
• Competency assessment
• Reflective journal entries
• Final paper, presentation slides and poster templates
Graduation Preparation

At the beginning of your last semester, you should complete the application for diploma (available at registrar site). You should order your CON doctoral regalia (gown, hood and cap) from the UMD bookstore. Custom doctoral gowns may also be purchased through the UMD book store. Doctoral hooding takes place at the commencement ceremony.
Appendix A  
University of Massachusetts Dartmouth  
College of Nursing

Course Number:  NUR 772

Course: Translating Research for Evidence Based Practice I: Project Proposal Development

Credit/Course Hours:  2 credit / 2 lecture hours per week; Blended (On-line and in-class)

Placement In Curriculum:  Capstone Project- didactic content; Summer

Prerequisites:  NUR 770,771

Co-requisites:  NUR 773: DNP Residency I

Faculty:

Course Description:  
This seminar is the first in a series of three didactic courses to facilitate the scholarly capstone project. This course focuses on the development of an evidence-based project proposal for a translational research project. Students will complete and submit an Institutional Review Board (IRB) application. Emphasis is placed on reviewing the literature and evaluating the evidence using established rating systems. Course development was guided by the AACN (2006) Essentials for DNP Education.

Objectives:
1. Develop an evidence-based project proposal based on problem identification, needs assessment and comprehensive literature review. E- 3 C-1, 2, 3, 4, 5
2. Critically appraise and level the strength of evidence related to the identified problem. E- 3
   C-1, 3, 4, 5
3. Explore appropriate theoretical frameworks to guide the project. E-1, 3 C- 4
4. Review ethical considerations for the conduct of research. E-1, 3  C- 8
Appendix B
University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
College of Nursing

Course Number: NUR 773

Course: DNP Residency I
Credit/Course Hours: 3 credits/16 hours per week practicum course

Placement In Curriculum: Capstone Project for DNP program

Prerequisites: NUR 770,771
Co-requisites: NUR 772

Course Description:
This is the first in a series of three mentored practica to facilitate the scholarly capstone project and develop the DNP role. The focus of this residency is to identify and assess a practice problem and develop an evidence-based project proposal. Collaborative assessment and planning strategies are utilized to support the proposal development process. Opportunities are provided to consider the interprofessional perspectives of the problem. This practicum lays the foundation for the development of collaborative and interprofessional knowledge, skills and attitudes.

Course Objectives:
1. Foster collaboration and team work among faculty mentors, students, and clinical agency to identify and assess a practice project.
2. Demonstrates effective verbal and written communication.
3. Uses technology systems that capture data to inform the project.
4. Consider the interface of the evidence-based project with health policy.
   C-6
5. Demonstrates sensitivity to diverse organizational cultures and populations including patients and providers.
6. Explore interdisciplinary opportunities to understand the full-scope of the problem.
7. Successfully defend the project proposal. E-3, 8 C-2
Course Number: NUR 774

Course: Translating Research for Evidence Based Practice II: Project Implementation and Analysis

Credit/Course Hours: 1 credit/1 lecture hours per week; Blended (On-line and in-class)

Placement In Curriculum: Capstone Project- didactic content; Fall

Prerequisites: NUR 770, 771, 772, 773

Co-requisites: NUR 775: DNP Residency II

Faculty:

Course Description:

This seminar is the second in a series of three didactic courses to facilitate the scholarly capstone project. This course focuses on the implementation and evaluation of an evidence based project for translating evidence into practice. Emphasis is placed on collecting and evaluating data to assess the impact on health care processes and patient outcomes.

Course development was guided by the AACN (2006) Essentials for DNP Education.

Objectives:

1. Discuss strategies to overcome challenges to project implementation.

2. Examine appropriate methods of data analysis based on project goals.

3. Discuss organizational response to change.

4. Explore healthcare policies that promote access, equity, quality and cost.

5. Reflect on advanced practice roles in healthcare organizations and health policy.
Appendix D  
University of Massachusetts Dartmouth  
College of Nursing

**Course Number:** NUR 775

**Course:** DNP Residency II  
**Credit/Course Hours:** 3 credit/12 hours per week practicum course *(170 hours total)*

**Placement In Curriculum:** Capstone Project- didactic content; Fall

**Prerequisites:** NUR 770, 771, 772, 773

**Co-requisites:** NUR 774: Translating Research for Evidence Based Practice II: Project Implementation and Analysis

**Faculty:**

**Course Description:**

This is the second in a series of three mentored practica to facilitate the scholarly capstone project and develop the DNP role. The focus of this residency is to implement and evaluate an evidence-based project. Collaborative data collection and management strategies are utilized to support the implementation and evaluating process. This practicum builds on the knowledge, skills and attitudes of the students to enhance collaborative and interprofessional practice. Course development was guided by the *AACN (2006) Essentials for DNP Education.*

**Objectives:**

1. Foster collaboration and team work among faculty mentors, students, and clinical agency to implement and evaluate a practice project.

2. Implement the proposed project according to plan, documenting process problems and their solutions.

3. Identify opportunities for the DNP role in healthcare organizations and health policy.

4. Demonstrates sensitivity to diverse organizational cultures and populations including patients and providers.

5. Uses information technology for data management and analysis.
Appendix E
University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
College of Nursing

Course Number: NUR 776

Course: Translating Research for Evidence Based Practice III: Dissemination of Findings

Credit/Course Hours: 1 credit/ 1 lecture hours per week; Blended (On-line and in-class)

Placement In Curriculum: Capstone Project - didactic content; Spring

Prerequisites: NUR 770,771

Co-requisites: NUR 777: DNP Residency III

Faculty:

Course Description:

This seminar is the third in a series of three didactic courses to facilitate the scholarly capstone project. This course focuses on the dissemination of findings of an evidence based project for translating evidence into practice. Emphasis is placed on multiple modalities for disseminating project findings. Students will continue to explore the various roles of the DNP.

Course development was guided by the AACN (2006) Essentials for DNP Education.

Objectives:

1. Evaluate the implications of the study findings, form conclusions and identify implications of findings for changes in practice, policy, education and future research.

2. Develop an abstract, poster presentation, and podium presentation of project findings.

3. Develop a written document suitable for manuscript submission.

4. Reflect on advanced practice roles in scholarship and education.
Appendix F
University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
College of Nursing

Course Number:  NUR 777

Course:  DNP Residency III

Credit/Course Hours:  3 credit/ 12 hours per week practicum course

Placement In Curriculum:  Capstone Project - didactic content; Spring

Prerequisites:  NUR 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775

Co-requisites:  NUR 776: Translating Research for Evidence Based Practice III:
                 Dissemination of Findings

Faculty:

Course Description:

This is the third in a series of three mentored practica to facilitate the scholarly capstone project and development of the DNP role competencies. The focus of Residency III is to disseminate results of an evidence-based project. This practicum builds on the knowledge, skills and attitudes of the students to enhance collaborative and interprofessional practice.

Course development was guided by the AACN (2006) Essentials for DNP Education.

Objectives:

1. Foster collaboration and team work among faculty mentors, students, and clinical agency to disseminate findings of a practice project.

2. Demonstrates professional behaviors in bringing the project to closure.

3. Completes an oral defense of the project.

4. Shares project results with appropriate audience using one or more scholarly formats.

5. Articulates plan for lifelong learning as a DNP practitioner and scholar.
Appendix G

The Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Nursing Practice

The DNP Essentials (AACN, 2006), outlines eight foundational Essentials. The specialization content is defined by the appropriate specialty organization. Faculty will work with students individually to ensure the specialized content complements the areas of core content.

I. Scientific Underpinnings for Practice

II. Organizational and Systems Leadership for Quality Improvement and Systems Thinking

III. Clinical Scholarship and Analytical Methods for Evidence-Based Practice

IV. Information Systems/Technology and Patient Care Technology for the Improvement And Transformation of Health Care

V. Health Care Policy for Advocacy in Health Care

VI. Interprofessional Collaboration for Improving Patient and Population Health Outcomes

VII. Clinical Prevention and Population Health for Improving the Nation’s Health

VIII. Advanced Nursing Practice

Appendix H


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Residency Hours Form

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</tbody>
</table>

20
Appendix J

Capstone Project Defense Form

This is to certify that ________________________________________________

a DNP candidate in the College of Nursing has successfully complete his/her capstone project entitled ________________________________

and has been approved as meeting the requirement for the Degree of Doctor of Nursing Practice.

Oral defense approved Date:______________________________

Manuscript approved Date:______________________________

Capstone Advisor Date:

Faculty Committee Member Date:

Expert Mentor Date:

DNP Graduate Program Director Date:
## Appendix K

### Doctor of Nursing Practice Capstone Proposal Rubric

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Background &amp; Significance</strong></td>
<td>Describes the phenomena, its importance to healthcare and affected stakeholders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Purpose Statement</strong></td>
<td>Clearly and concisely states the goal of the project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Review of the Literature</strong></td>
<td>Provides an organized, integrated summary of the state of the science (with level of evidence provided).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Theoretical Framework</strong></td>
<td>Provides appropriate theoretical framework to guide project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Methods and Procedures</strong></td>
<td>Clearly and concisely summarizes (where applicable):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Evidence-based Practice model or Research design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Participants/population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Sample</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Setting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Instruments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Key personnel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Stakeholders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Barriers to implementation and sustainability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Data collection plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Data analysis plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Ethical considerations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Timeline</strong></td>
<td>Provides realistic timeline for project implementation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Resources</strong></td>
<td>Identifies all anticipated resources and potential costs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Approvals for Implementation</strong></td>
<td>Identifies required approvals needed for implementation (cooperating agencies, IRB, etc)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Evaluation Plan</strong></td>
<td>Clearly and concisely summarizes evaluation plan (where applicable):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Objectives or research questions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Plan for monitoring objective accomplishment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Plan if problems encountered during implementation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>References</strong></td>
<td>Current references</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Clarity of Writing and Writing Technique</strong></td>
<td>Writing is crisp, clear, and succinct. The writer incorporates the active voice when appropriate. Appropriate grammar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>APA</strong></td>
<td>Follows current APA format guidelines</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Appendix L

## Doctor of Nursing Practice Final Capstone Report Rubric

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Background &amp; Significance</strong></td>
<td>Describes the phenomena, its importance to healthcare and affected stakeholders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Purpose Statement</strong></td>
<td>Clearly and concisely states the goal of the project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Review of the Literature</strong></td>
<td>Provides an organized, integrated summary of the state of the science (with level of evidence provided).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Theoretical Framework</strong></td>
<td>Provides appropriate theoretical framework to guide project.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Methods and Procedures** | Clearly and concisely summarizes (where applicable):  
  - Evidence-based Practice model or Research design  
  - Participants/population  
  - Sample  
  - Setting  
  - Instruments  
  - Key personnel  
  - Stakeholders  
  - Barriers to implementation and sustainability  
  - Data collection plan  
  - Data analysis plan  
  - Ethical considerations |
| **Resources** | Identifies all required resources and costs |
| **Approvals for Implementation** | Provides all required letters of support from cooperating agencies (as appendices). |
| **Results** | Clearly and concisely summarizes (if appropriate):  
  - How each goal/research question was objectively evaluated.  
  - Statistical analyses for each goal/question. |
| **Discussion** | Addresses each objective:  
  - Provides facilitators and barriers encountered.  
  - Identifies unintended consequences (both positive and negative, if appropriate) and how handled.  
  - Thorough analysis of findings with comparison to literature. |
| **Recommendations and Limitations** | Provides future recommendations for this project/research project and possible application of this project in other settings. Identifies all limitations of project |
| **Implications for practice and career development** | Discusses impact of project and residency on personal growth and development. |
| **References** | Current state of the science references (with matrix). |
| **Clarity of Writing and Writing Technique** | Writing is crisp, clear, and succinct. The writer incorporates the active voice when appropriate. Grammar appropriate |
| **APA** | Follows APA. |
Appendix M

We approve the capstone of ____________________________

Date of Signature

________________________________
Title
Capstone Committee

________________________________
Name
Title
Capstone Committee

________________________________
DNP Graduate Program Director, Adult & Child Department

________________________________
Name
Chairperson, Adult and Child Department

________________________________
Name
Dean, College of Nursing

______________________________
Teseay Meressi
Associate Provost for Graduate Studies