
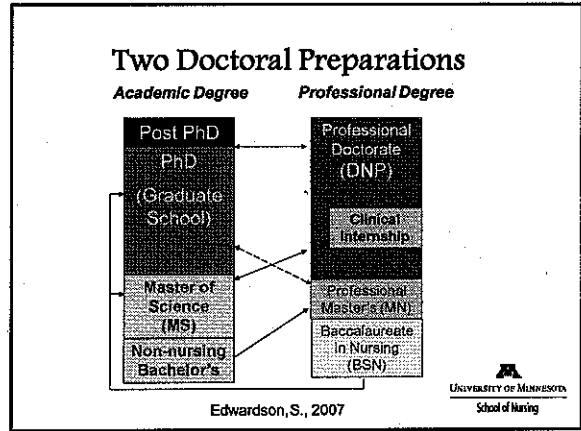
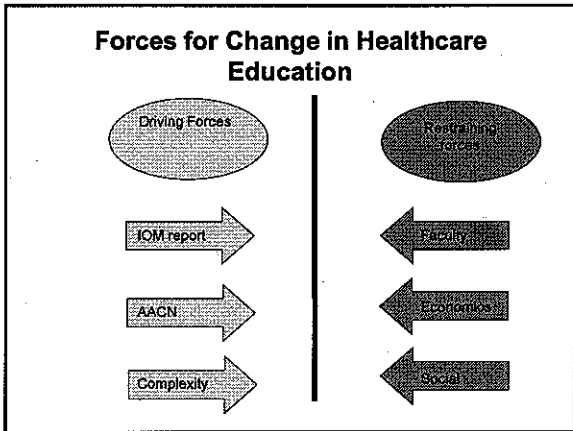
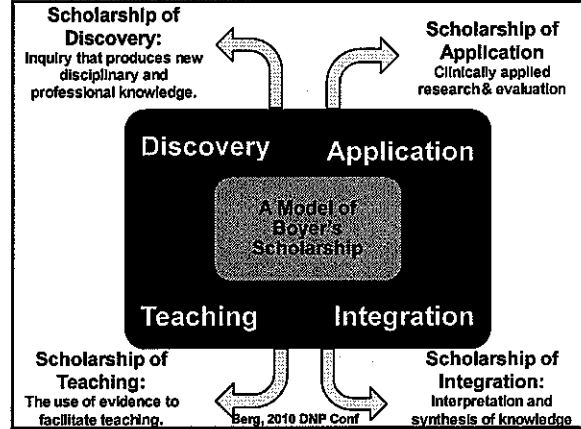



A New Model for the DNP Project Process

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Differences and similarities between the DNP Scholarly Project and the PhD Dissertation



Dissertation	DNP Scholarly Project
Systematic search for an answer to a research question. Addresses gap in knowledge.	Systematic investigation of a practice issue. Translation of research into practice.
Outcome is an answer to the research question that is generalizable beyond current study. Reproducible.	Outcome is an evidence based solution to a practice problem that usually involves systems change. May be reproducible in other systems.
Not specific to a time or place.	Specific to a place or system and a time.
Based in theory and literature	Based in theory and literature
Uses rigorous methodology that is unbiased and can be reproduced.	Uses rigorous methods that are appropriate to the scope of the problem.

Edwardson, S., 2009



**DNP Scholarly Project:
What is a DNP Project?**

- Scholarly
- Synthesis
- Addresses a complex practice or clinical problem
- In the student's area of expertise/study
- Proposes and conducts evidence based change in a significant population

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**DNP Scholarly Project:
What is a DNP Project?**

- Doctoral level leadership skills
- Evaluation of change
- Use of evidence and theory to achieve practice improvement
- Culmination in a scholarly paper
- Reviewed by the academic community

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The Nature of the Project

- Many appellations
 - Capstone Project
 - DNP final Project
 - Leadership Project
 - *The DNP Scholarly Project*

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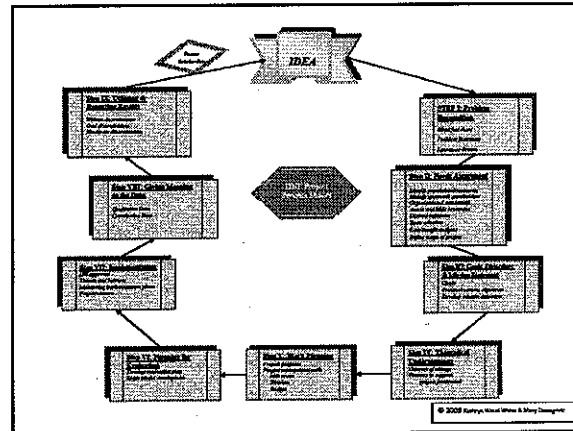
Structure of the Project


- Proposes to identify and fix a gap in a system given the available research
- Should benefit a population
- Should meet all of the ethical standards for research and quality improvement

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A DNP Project Process Model

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Step 1: Problem Recognition

- Identified need
 - Emanates from a clinical issue or opportunity
- Problem statement
 - Why this project? Why now?
- Literature review
 - Should support the need for improvement
 - Should be thorough and iterative


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Step II: Needs Assessment

- Population, sponsor, and stakeholder identification
- Organizational setting and culture assessment
- Identification of resources
- Identification of desired outcomes – can be defined through the literature review
- Selection of team
- Cost-benefit analysis – a tool for promotion of the project
- Defining the scope of the project – written as an executive summary


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Step III: Development of Goals and Objectives

- Goals – typically has several goals
- Objectives – commonly use the SMART template (specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and timely)
- Mission Statement
 - What is the purpose?
 - What is the population to be addressed?
 - What are the methods utilized?


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Step IV: Theoretical Underpinnings

- Utilizing theory to support the change process and the project framework
- Utilizing theory to evaluate new practice approaches
- Utilizing a theoretical framework to help conceptualize the project


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Step V: Work Planning

- Project proposal
 - Includes a synopsis of the problem and problem statement, a summary of significant findings, mission statement, goals, objectives, cost-benefit analysis
 - Executive summary
- Project management tools
 - Diagrams of work breakdown and milestones
 - Budget development – important step
 - Direct and indirect costs


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Step VI: Planning for Evaluation



- Not collecting data to make it reproducible
 - Provides accountability, demonstrates improvement, demonstrates effectiveness, and helps to clarify the purpose
- It is to measure change
 - Statistical methods may or may not be valuable to measure change
- Development of evaluation methods
 - Can be quantitative, qualitative, or both

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Step VI: Planning for Evaluation

- **Logic Model development**
 - Includes inputs, outputs, constraints, activities, short term, long term, and impact outcomes
- **Unlike research there is no prescribed protocol**



Step VII: Implementation

- **IRB Process**
- **Threats and barriers**
 - Those that can or cannot be predicted
- **Implementation Methodologies**
 - Description of methods used to implement change



Step VII: Implementation

- **Monitoring the implementation phase**
 - Should measure progress against goals, objectives, evaluation plan, and timeline
- **Project closure**
 - Acknowledgement of completion and celebration of success



Step VIII: Giving Meaning to the Data

- **Evaluation of quantitative and qualitative data**
 - Demonstrates the efficacy of the project – NOT meant to meet the statistical tests for significance
 - Must demonstrate the outcomes
 - Can present the findings through visual tools used for quality projects (graphs, charts, diagrams)

Step IX: Dissemination and Utilization of Results

- **Written dissemination**
 - Executive summary, abstracts, peer-reviewed journals, other professional journals
- **Oral dissemination**
- **Electronic venues**

Step IX: Dissemination and Utilization of Results

- **Future Scholarship**

