Ensuring Excellence of DNP Scholarly Projects: The Application of Rubrics

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Objectives

• Understand the challenges associated with evaluating DNP scholarly projects
• Describe development of grading rubrics to evaluate the quality of DNP scholarly projects
• Discuss outcomes of objective evaluation of the DNP project using grading rubrics

The Challenge

• Variability in student performance
• Subjective faculty evaluation of DNP project
• Course grades not reflective of variability in quality
• Objective evaluation method needed

Rubric Development

• Written proposal
• Oral presentation of proposal
• Final written paper
• Final oral presentation

Elements of Grading Rubric

• Writing scholarship/APA format
• Oral presentation
• Problem/Background/Purpose
• Literature synthesis
• Theory/Framework
• Methodology
• Data analysis
• Results/Findings
• Discussion
• Impact on practice
• Dissemination and future implications

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Excellent = 4 points</th>
<th>Satisfactory = 3 points</th>
<th>Marginal = 2 points</th>
<th>Unacceptable = 0 points</th>
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<tr>
<td>APA format or format appropriate to journal</td>
<td>• APA format is correctly utilized.</td>
<td>• APA format is utilized with some errors.</td>
<td>• APA format is utilized with frequent errors.</td>
<td>• APA format is not utilized.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Title page References Appendices, as appropriate</td>
<td>• Reference list inclusive and written appropriately.</td>
<td>• Reference list with some errors.</td>
<td>• References with frequent errors.</td>
<td>• References not cited.</td>
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<td>• Appendices included, as appropriate</td>
<td>• Appendices with some errors.</td>
<td>• Appendices with frequent errors.</td>
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<td>Writing Scholarship</td>
<td>• Professional written communication used.</td>
<td>• Some errors in written communication</td>
<td>• Frequent errors in written communication</td>
<td>• Written communication and grammar lack professionalism</td>
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<td>• Correct grammar is used.</td>
<td>• Some errors in grammar.</td>
<td>• Frequent errors in grammar.</td>
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Outcomes Using Rubrics

• Successes and limitations
• Lessons learned
  – Quality points vs. Percentage grade
  – Condense category criteria
• Plans for the future
  – Iterative process

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