



Hello and thank you for agreeing to mentor an MSN-DE student this semester. The following information was prepared to provide an overview of the course and project requirements for the MSN Capstone Project. To begin, the MSN Capstone Project will extend over two semesters (courses) – NSG631, 8-week course, followed by NSG632, 16-week course. Each course will require the student to regularly engage with the project site and submit various components of the project to support systematic and efficient workflow.

The MSN Capstone Project is designed to challenge students to improve nursing practice through the development, implementation and evaluation of a proposed evidence-based practice or quality improvement project. Students will work through writing a project proposal but will NOT implement the projects.

Course Outcomes

NUR631:

- Utilize health data and current evidence to inform efforts to promote health, reduce risk, and eliminate disparities.
- Create a proposal for an evidence-based practice capstone project.
- Collaborate with interprofessional colleagues for planning of a capstone project.
- Initiate translation of evidence into practice to address an identified health risk, need, or disparity.

NSG632:

- Implement an evidence-based practice or quality improvement capstone project.
- Employ measurable evaluation strategies to determine outcome achievement of a capstone project.
- Disseminate capstone project results and outcomes achieved to stakeholders.
- Reflect upon professional values, growth, and goals for nursing practice achieved during the capstone project and nursing program.

Project Guidelines

- The project hours are not focused on direct patient care. Rather, the goal is for the students to engage in the planning of an evidence-based practice or quality improvement project in an effort to change or improve a practice within your organization.
- Projects may be focused on nursing practice, education, and/or leadership processes within the assigned department.
- There are 135 clinical hours associated with the MSN Capstone Project.
 - 45 hours will be completed during NSG631 with an emphasis on the following:
 - Identifying a local clinical problem, gap, or need
 - Developing a PICOT question
 - Conducting a literature review and synthesis
 - 90 hours will be completed during NSG632 with a focus on the following:
 - Writing SMART Project objectives and Project Plan Timeline
 - Writing a proposed Project Implementation Plan
 - Developing a proposed Evaluation Plan
 - Dissemination of Project Overview to peers and stakeholders
- A minimum of 30% of project hours for each course must be completed on site to support essential course learning outcomes. The remainder of the hours may be completely remotely.
- The Project is a EBP/QI study. Research activities will not be conducted in the clinical agency during the student's coursework due to limited time and IRB restrictions. Students will develop and present an EBP/QI proposal. The goal is that proposals will provide a valuable framework for project sites and support organizational implementation.

Mentor Guidelines

- Mentors should meet the following qualifications:
 - MSN or higher degree preparation.
 - Minimum of 1 year of practice experience in the current role.
 - Unencumbered RN license in the state of clinical placement (or compact licensure).
- Mentors should proactively communicate student concerns with the MSN Course Faculty. The student will provide faculty specific contact information.
- At the conclusion of each project course, we ask that the mentor complete a student evaluation. The student will provide this form and submit to the learning management system for review.

Again, we thank you for your time and support as we prepare much needed future nurses, educators, and leaders! Please reach out with any questions or concerns and thank you for supporting Herzing University's MSN-DE program.



Sincerely,
Herzing University's MSN-DE Synthesis Course Team

Dr. Michelle Dykes

Adjunct Professor, NSG 631 Course Lead

Email: midykes@herzing.edu

Phone: (229) 560-0144

Dr. Raywattie Prashad

MSN-DE Program Chair

Email: rprashad@herzing.edu

Phone: (561) 223-9203

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