SECTION III: INFORMATION SPECIFICALLY FOR DNP STUDENTS

I. Overview of Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP)

The Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) in the College of Nursing was inaugurated in the 2007-2008 academic year after final Board of Regents approval in June, 2007. The DNP program at Iowa grew from the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) recommendation that all advanced nurse practitioners be prepared at the practice doctorate level by the year 2015. Faculty at the College worked on the proposal for several years and developed a program designed initially for post MSN Nurse Practitioners. The purpose and vision of the DNP program at Iowa is to:

- Prepare the next generation of nursing leaders
- Position graduates to be national leaders in the discovery and application of nursing knowledge
- Engage in strategic partnerships with the nursing and health care communities in Iowa, nationally and globally

The post-BSN to DNP program is 72-85 semester hours depending on the specialization/focus area. The post-master’s DNP program is 27-50 semester hours depending on the focus area of your master’s degree as well as the focus area of the post-master’s DNP. The plan of study reflects the national educational standards developed by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) and the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF). The courses will deepen the knowledge and skills of persons preparing for an advanced practice role with an emphasis on evidenced-based practice and the evaluation of practice to improve health care outcomes and cultivate expertise in health policy and organizational and systems leadership.

II. Advising

The Directors for the DNP focus areas are assigned as the initial advisor to the BSN to DNP students in their focus area. Post Masters students are assigned to a DNP faculty member to support students’ synthesis of the post masters curriculum. The role of the faculty advisor is to mentor and provide career guidance to students. Advisors support the student as they synthesize the critical elements of a program of study toward a successful conclusion. Additional student support is provided by Student Services related to course enrollment, understanding important deadlines, and complying with College requirements such as licensure, HIPPA, or criminal background check.

III. Plan of Study

All DNP students will receive individualized plans of study. Duplicates can be requested from the Office Student Services Graduate Programs Office. Template plans of study may be found at the site below. http://www.nursing.uiowa.edu/academic-programs/dnp/plans.

The DNP plan of study is developed in accordance with national standards that reflect the area of specialization. Clinical hours support clinical specialization and the capstone project. Students may not change their plan of study without approval of the Executive Associate Dean. You may request a change in your plan of study by contacting Jen Clougherty via e-mail or phone (jennifer-clougherty@uiowa.edu or 319-335-7021).
IV. Academic Registration Requirement

BSN-DNP: All doctoral programs will contain a minimum of 72 semester hours of graduate work. Of those 72 semester hours, at least 39 must be earned while registered in The University of Iowa Graduate College. After completing 21 semester hours of graduate work under Graduate College registration and in compliance with the Graduate College policy for time limits on academic credit, i.e., courses ten years or older may not be counted toward the degree (with a request being made by the Executive Associate Dean and approved by the Graduate College), students must complete an additional 18 semester hours to be taken as follows: (1) enrollment as a full-time student (9 semester hours minimum) in each of two semesters, or (2) enrollment for a minimum of 6 semester hours in each of three semesters.

Post-APRN-DNP: Student’s plan of study requires the first three semesters be at minimum 6 credits, 8 credits and 3 credits.

Post-Health Systems-DNP: (both those with a MSN in administration and those with a MSN in a focus area other than administration) student’s plan of study requires the final three semesters be at minimum 4 credits, 6 credits, 6 credits or 3 credits, 6 credits, 6 credits.

V. Doctoral Student Office and Kitchen

The Doctoral Student office area is located in room 30 NB. A photocopy/printer will be available in this area for doctoral students exclusively. It may be used for copying/printing that pertains to coursework only. There will be limited lockers available. A kitchen area will be designated for doctoral students and will be open during Student Services office hours.

VI. DNP Project (NURS:6825 Clinical Leadership Project)

The Clinical Leadership Project provides the student the opportunity for in-depth analysis and synthesis of a practice, system, or policy problem related to advanced nursing practice; development of an evidence-based proposal to benefit a group, population, or community; and demonstration of leadership in assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation. This is a course taken over the last 3 semesters of the DNP program and includes 5 s.h. and 370 hours supporting the clinical leadership project. The student must complete and document a process to ensure ethical conduct of the DNP project, including protection of human subjects and private health information, when applicable. Guidelines and forms can be found on the NURS:6825 ICON site.
| **Purpose** | Perform an in-depth analysis and synthesis of a practice, system, or policy problem related to advanced nursing practice; develop an evidence-based proposal to benefit a group, population, or community; and demonstrate leadership in assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation of the project. |
| **Eligibility** | All DNP students |
| **Role of Advisor** | For BSN to DNP students, the advisor is the program coordinator. Post-masters students will be assigned to an advisor. The role of the advisor is to initiate project discussion and help guide student selection of a project chair. The advisor may also serve as project chair. Final accountability for progression in completing satisfactory work of the project rests with the student. The advisor, chair, and course faculty will monitor progress toward satisfactory completion of the project. |
| **Project Chair** | The Project Chair is most often the student’s advisor. If there is a compelling reason for another faculty member to serve in that role, that person will be selected with advice and approval of the advisor. The chair must be a doctorally-prepared clinical or tenure track College of Nursing faculty member. The duties of the chair include:  
  - Assisting the student with preparation and submission of their project proposal,  
  - Supervising and directing project progress, and  
  - Assisting the student with preparation and submission of the final products for defense. |
| **Proposal** | Upon approval of the advisor and project chair, the student will submit a written proposal for review. A minimum of two faculty signatures are required on a project approval form. If the advisor and project chair are the same, course faculty may sign the project approval form. The student must submit a signed project approval form to the Graduate Program Office. |
| **Products** | Products include an executive summary, professional poster, and oral defense of the project. |
| **Evaluation of Final Projects** | Evaluation teams consisting of a minimum of three doctorally-prepared clinical or tenure track faculty, two of whom hold primary appointments in the College of Nursing, will jury the executive summary, professional poster, and oral defense. The team generally includes the advisor, chair, and course faculty. |
| **Approval** | The project will be evaluated by the Evaluation Teams as satisfactory or unsatisfactory, with two unsatisfactory votes making the result unsatisfactory. The College of Nursing Report of Final Examination DNP Clinical Leadership Project must be signed and returned to the Graduate Program Office. |
VII. Policy for unsuccessful completion of the 5th semester hour of NURS:6825 registration:

If a student is not successful in defending the Clinical Leadership Project or chooses not to pursue a defense, the student will be given a grade of U. The student would then register for another 2 semester hours of 096:308 (NURS:6825) the following semester. Check with the Graduate Programs Office prior to registering to verify correct number of semester hours. Check with the Graduate Programs Office regarding summer registration. The student will not be allowed to register for the Doctoral Continuous Registration 000:002 (GRAD:6002).

The rationale for not allowing Doctoral Continuous Registration follows:
- When registering for the Clinical Leadership Project, the students are loaded into ICON and have access to all the information that they will need throughout the semester.
- There is no grade involved with Doctoral Continuous Registration; therefore, the student is not driven to touch base with a faculty member regarding progress on the project.

Incompletes:
There will be instances when a student can receive an incomplete instead of a U; for example, illness or family emergency. We would need to be able to prove that the student had progressed satisfactorily through at least 60% of the semester.

VIII. Program Outcomes (under revision)
The DNP program is built on the MSN advanced practice specialty’s curriculum and incorporates the Master’s Essentials Graduate and Advanced core. The graduates of the DNP curriculum will (Outcomes are under revision Fall 2014)
- Commitment to knowledge based practice and continuing scholarship
- Analysis and synthesis of concepts and theories related to the discipline of nursing
- Use of appropriate leadership knowledge and skills when practicing in teaching, management, and advanced clinical practice roles
- Collaborate with others in the health care system to plan, analyze, and formulate health policy
- Use of legal and ethical principles and critical analysis to respond to events that influence nursing practice, professional status and health care delivery
- Analysis and use of technological innovations that support delivery of care and clinical decision making in advanced nursing roles.
- Utilize research and employ evidence based practice in the development and implementation of patient care, teaching methods, and executive management strategies
- Develop and implement interventions to improve health status/access patterns or address gaps in care of individuals, aggregates or populations
- Utilize analytical methods and information systems to evaluate systems of care to improve health outcomes of individuals, aggregates or populations
- Assume leadership in the development of health policy to improve the delivery of care and improve health outcomes of individuals, aggregates or populations

IX. Graduation Information
Note: Defenses will be in the spring and fall semesters. Please check with the Graduate Programs Office before scheduling a summer defense.
Students must be registered during the semester they plan to graduate.
Upon graduation you will need to complete a Project Close Form through HawkIRB. If you are employed by the University of Iowa and plan to continue using your data, keep your project open but remember to file the Project Close form when you are done.

In order to facilitate your graduation we have listed the pertinent paperwork below. The links and documents can be found at the Office of Student Services MSN, DNP, PhD ICON site under Graduation Information and Documents and the site under DNP Information. Forms should be completed and returned to the Graduate Programs Office. If you have any questions, please contact the Graduate Programs Office at 319-335-7021.

**All forms must be completed by the deadlines posted each semester. Final responsibility for meeting graduation requirements resides with the student.** If you have filed these forms previously, all must be refiled by the deadline listed except the Graduate College Plan of Study; a Graduate College Plan of Study should be refiled only if it has changed. This form will be completed and submitted by the Graduate Programs Office.

**A. Graduation Forms**

**APPLICATION FOR DEGREE** – completed on-line via ISIS.

**GRADUATE COLLEGE PLAN OF STUDY SUMMARY FORM** – the Graduate Programs Office will prepare this form, obtain your advisor’s signature, and submit to the Graduate College. Note that the prerequisite(s) cannot be applied toward your degree. Any credit over 10 years old cannot be applied toward your degree without consent of the Graduate College; if needed, the Graduate Programs Office will prepare and submit.

**REQUEST FOR FINAL EXAMINATION FORM (for defense of Clinical Leadership Project)** – the Graduate Programs Office will prepare this form, obtain the appropriate signature, and submit to the Graduate College. The student will need to provide semester of defense and committee members’ names.

**REPORT OF FINAL EXAMINATION (report on Clinical Leadership Project defense)** – the Graduate Programs Office will prepare this form. This form remains in your student file in 37NB until the day of the Project Presentation/Defense. The form must be returned to the Graduate Programs Office immediately following the presentation/defense. The Graduate Programs Office will obtain final signature(s) and submit to the Graduate College within 48 hours of the Project Presentation/Defense meeting.

(Rev 8.5.15 JAC)