NURS 480 Senior Project Designs

A variety of practicum designs are available which will allow the student to have experiences that focus on a specific professional nursing practice setting. Students will complete a 135 hour practicum that represents professional nursing at the baccalaureate level and meets the course outcomes (objectives).

Each student must come up with his or her own senior project to meet the clinical hours (135) for the course. If students implement a project (actually do all required elements at an approved project site), they are only required to do one (1) project! Students will complete a written project plan for their project; clinical journal entries about his or her practicum experiences; and finally, a PowerPoint presentation summarizing their project experiences for peer and instructor review. Please refer to the guidelines and evaluation rubrics for detailed assignment requirements (located in the course’s learning management system).

1. Clinical Problem/Issue *Community Health design

Identify a clinical problem which you would like to study in depth.

Guidelines:

Incorporating information from the literature review and other sources address the following points (in the clinical journal and the project presentation):

- A description of the problem or issue (include the issue, etiology, effect of the problem or issue)
- A description of the aggregate at risk and/or the extent and effect of the problem within the aggregate (to include who and how many people affected, and cost, both individually and to society)
- A description of specific resources/potential solutions (to include local, state, and national programs)
- Select a solution to try to implement at your chosen site
- Identify the level of prevention toward which services are directed
- An assessment of whether existing programs or resources are adequate to meet the need? (What else might be needed, appropriate?)

If the project is designed (planned) by NOT implemented, only a maximum of 25 hours can be awarded toward the total clinical hours needed for this course.

Literature review must include a minimum of 5 articles published in professional journals within the last 5 years. Textbooks and position papers from professional organizations are appropriate as ADDITIONAL references AFTER you have satisfied the 5 articles requirement. Articles used must be attached as PDF, Word, or JPEG files along with your clinical journal entries throughout the semester.
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2. High Risk Population *Community Health design

Select a high risk population that is of interest. Some examples might be community hospice patients/families, homeless veterans, teen mothers, or individuals at risk for communicable diseases. If the project is designed (planned) by NOT implemented, only a maximum of 25 hours can be awarded toward the total clinical hours needed for this course.

Incorporating information from the literature review and other sources, address the following points (in the clinical journal and the project presentation):

- A description of the problem or issue – what places this population at risk (include the issue, etiology, effect of the problem or issue)?
- A description of the high risk population and/or the extent and effect of the problem (to include who and how many people affected, and cost, both individually and to society)
- Clearly describe specific population focused interventions that could be employed for this risk group
- A description of specific resources/potential solutions (to include local, state, and national programs)
- Select a solution to try to implement at your chosen site
- Identify the level of prevention toward which services are directed
- An assessment of whether existing programs or resources are adequate to meet the need? (What else might be needed, appropriate?)

**Literature review must include a minimum of 5 articles published in professional journals within the last 5 years.** Textbooks and position papers from professional organizations are appropriate as ADDITIONAL references AFTER you have satisfied the 5 articles requirement. Articles used must be attached as PDF, Word, or JPEG files along with your clinical journal entries throughout the semester.
3. Environmental Issue *Community Health design

Using a health system, clinic, or community, describe an environmental issue, e.g. chemical, air, water, waste, which can be related to patient safety, staff safety, a neighborhood, or broader community. Substantiate the selection. State a primary, secondary, and tertiary intervention that could be used to alter this issue. **If the project is designed (planned) by NOT implemented, only a maximum of 25 hours** can be awarded toward the total clinical hours needed for this course.

Incorporating information from the literature review and other sources address the following points (in the clinical journal and the project presentation):

- What is this problem and why was it selected. It may include the issue, etiology, effect of the problem or issue
- A description of the environmental issue and/or the extent and effect of the problem (to include who and how many people affected, and cost, both individually and to society)
- Clearly describe risk
- Describe specific resources/potential solutions (to include local, state, and national programs)
- Select a solution to try to implement at your chosen site
- Identify the level of prevention toward which services are directed
- Identify alternative solutions

**Literature review must include a minimum of 5 articles published in professional journals within the last 5 years.** Textbooks and position papers from professional organizations are appropriate as **ADDITIONAL references** **AFTER** you have satisfied the 5 articles requirement. Articles used must be attached as PDF, Word, or JPEG files along with your clinical journal entries throughout the semester.
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4. Assessment of Healthy Workplace *Community Health design

Must have approval of the agency’s leadership at all levels. Assess a selected worksite, single unit or whole organization. Assess the workplace advocacy. Is it a healthy workplace? Describe the workforce advocacy. Utilize legitimate resources (print and/or Internet) to develop an assessment tool. Use the assessment tool to identify the level of “health.” If a tool is identified and available for use, you may use the tool after you have assessed the value (validity & reliability) of the tool.

Consider sites such as: www.ncnurses.org/WF_Main.asp or www.nursingworld.org/MainMenuCategories/ThePracticeofProfessionalNursing/workplace.aspx

Incorporating information from the literature review, the developed assessment tool and evaluation address the following points (in the clinical journal and the project presentation):
- Is a healthy workforce and work environment needed? Why?
- A description of the issues, the extent and effect of workforce safety
- The cost of unsafe practices
- Include assessment of unit or organization. If healthy, explain how. If not healthy or is unsafe, identify unsafe or unhealthy practices
- Identify alternative solutions to improve practices, include costs and methods
- Select a solution to try to implement at this unit or organization

If the project is designed (planned) by NOT implemented, only a maximum of 25 hours can be awarded toward the total clinical hours needed for this course.

Literature review must include a minimum of 5 articles published in professional journals within the last 5 years. Textbooks and position papers from professional organizations are appropriate as ADDITIONAL references AFTER you have satisfied the 5 articles requirement. Articles used must be attached as PDF, Word, or JPEG files along with your clinical journal entries throughout the semester.
5. Nurse as Leader

This option includes time with a nursing leader/manager. The individual should be at least one to two levels above where you normally work. For example, if you work as a staff nurse, you would use this time to be with a patient care manager or section supervisor or service line director. **Spend at least 30 hours with the individual. Completing this shadowing experience is implementing your project.** From the experience, identify key issues in management and leadership that impact the ability of the person to be successful in this role. For example, go to a departmental or organizational level meeting with this person and assess interaction. Observe the skills needed in communication, time management, and conflict resolution. **If the project is designed (planned) by not implemented (completed); only a maximum of 25 hours can be awarded toward the total clinical hours needed for this course.**

Incorporating information from the literature review and the time spent with the nurse leader, address the following points (in the clinical journal and the project presentation):

**Five (5) articles, at least three (3) must be research articles on the nurse as leader. Choose from the following:**

- Identify skills, education, and attitudes needed for this role
- Describe methods used for
  - Conflict management
  - Meeting success
  - Time management
  - Staff development (*ONLY if the leader actually does staff education!*)
  - Crisis management
  - Communication style
  - Leadership style and compare to organizational needs.

**Also need to:**

- Reflect upon your own expectations of this role and what actually existed in the role and the leader/manager

**Literature review must include a minimum of 5 articles published in professional journals within the last 5 years.** Textbooks and position papers from professional organizations are appropriate as **ADDITIONAL** references **AFTER** you have satisfied the 5 articles requirement. Articles used must be attached as PDF, Word, or JPEG files along with your clinical journal entries throughout the semester.
6. Political Power in Nursing

This option includes time at the legislative level. It should also include interviews with local elected officials and an interview of one key person at NCNA. The individual should be in a key role. This can be identified with the faculty and on the NCNA web site at www.ncnurses.org. Attend at least one legislative session in person (preferred) or via web cam available through http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/homePage.pl. From the experience, identify key issues in the legislature today and the impact of the issue on the profession of nursing and the health of the region. If the project is designed (planned) by not implemented (completed); only a maximum of 25 hours can be awarded toward the total clinical hours needed for this course.

Incorporating information from the literature review, observing the legislature, and interviews address the following points (in the clinical journal and the project presentation):

- The nurse as a political force
- Identify skills, education, and attitudes needed for this role
- What can nurses do to shape public policy?
- Describe methods for involvement in political activism
- Identify nurses who have a role in government at the local, state, and national level
- Reflect upon your own expectations of this role and what actually existed in the role and the nurse in political activism

Literature review must include a minimum of 5 articles published in professional journals within the last 5 years. Textbooks and position papers from professional organizations are appropriate as ADDITIONAL references AFTER you have satisfied the 5 articles requirement. Articles used must be attached as PDF, Word, or JPEG files along with your clinical journal entries throughout the semester.
7. Alternate

A. Students may elect to do a **shadowing experience** with an advance practice nurse such as a nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, nurse midwife, nurse anesthetist. Or, students may choose to shadow a nurse in a unique specialty area such as infection control, risk management, clinical educator. **Must complete at least 30 hours shadowing. Completing the 30+ shadowing hours is implementing your project.**

B. Students may also elect to do a **volunteering project** at a free/low cost clinic, senior center, hospice center, and other agencies pending instructor approval. **Must complete at least 30 hours volunteering. Completing the 30+ volunteering hours is implementing your project.**

If the project is designed (planned) by not implemented (completed); only a maximum of 25 hours can be awarded toward the total clinical hours needed for this course.

(In the clinical journal and the project presentation):

**Literature review must include a minimum of 5 articles published in professional journals within the last 5 years.** Textbooks and position papers from professional organizations are appropriate as **ADDITIONAL references AFTER** you have satisfied the 5 articles requirement. Articles used must be attached as PDF, Word, or JPEG files along with your clinical journal entries throughout the semester.