

Suggested Frameworks for Student and Faculty Use regarding Capstone Project Proposals and Final Reports

Suggested Framework for Capstone Project Proposal

The Capstone Project Proposal needs to be concise and yet provide a full and clear description of the problem or health issue being addressed, the specific purpose of the project; project implementation and evaluation; and what the agency will receive at the conclusion of the project (e.g., the Final Report and any additional “deliverables” specified in the purpose). When relevant, the proposal must also contain information about the protection of human subjects.

The Proposal contains:

a) Title and student’s name and DNP student status at UW SoN

b) Problem identification and significance.

The problem or issue to be addressed should be identified and its significance substantiated by key (rather than exhaustive) resources reflecting the current evidence base.

c) Purpose

The purpose of the project including the specific measurable goals to be achieved needs to be described.

d) Implementation and Evaluation.

Fully describe how the project will be implemented. Describe the proposed sources information as well as the kind of information that will be collected in order to address the specific capstone project goals. Describe the plan for evaluating the information collected. The protection of human subjects should be included if relevant.

e) End products.

Describe what the agency will receive when the project is completed. A Final Report is expected of all students. May also do presentation and/or produce specific products.

f) References and Appendices (tools to be used or consent forms)

***An important outcome of this aspect of the DNP curriculum is refined professional writing skills. The capstone proposal is written in future tense using a formal writing style, which is professional, clear and appropriate for this agency/audience. This writing style varies somewhat from the approach used in research grant proposals. Instead it reflects what might be utilized in other types of “proposals” addressing areas such as program planning or reformulating clinic services.*

Suggested Framework for Capstone Project Final Report

The Final Report includes a description the purpose and methods of the capstone project followed by a detailed report of the findings and the related implications.

The Final Report contains:

a) Title page

Identifies project, collaborating agency, date, student's name and DNP Candidate status at the University of Washington School of Nursing.

b) Executive Summary.

Stand alone, concise description of project accentuating key findings and/or products produced and related implications.

c) Description of problem or issue addressed and its significance

d) Purpose and specific goals

e) Methods actually used to implement and evaluate the project (may have varied from proposal).

f) Findings

Straight forward text presentation of all findings. Include charts and tables, as appropriate, to portray findings visually to enhance reader/audience understanding of the results.

g) Discussion

Interpretation of the findings in light of relevant evidence based guidelines and scholarly literature. May also express your own impressions and insights in this section where doing so in the Findings section would not be appropriate. Include a description of the project's strengths and limitations in this section.

h) Conclusions

Describe main conclusions in light of Findings and Discussion.

i) Recommendations, if relevant to specific project issue or problem addressed

j) References

k) Appendices

*** An important outcome of this aspect of the DNP curriculum is refined professional writing skills. The capstone final report is written in the past tense and uses a formal writing style which is professional, clear and appropriate for this agency/audience. For example, a final report focusing on a health policy project written for a Washington State Legislator might vary from a final report written for the providers at a primary care clinic. The level of writing in this report however needs to reflect a level of sophistication and professionalism appropriate for graduates of a doctoral program.*