



## Graduate Course Syllabus

### **NUR 681: Nursing Capstone Project**

Center: Online

Credits: 3

### **Course Prerequisites**

Completed 36 credit hours and NUR 680

### **Course Description**

The Capstone Project course engages students to implement an evidence-based practice project of significant importance that is a current problem or initiative for nursing practice. This capstone project course serves as a vehicle for the student to demonstrate the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviors consistent with the best practices in nursing practice. Instead of introducing new concepts, the course will be structured around this critical task.

### **AACN Essentials**

This course meets the following AACN Essentials of Master's Education for Professional Nursing Practice:

- Essential I: Background for Practice from Sciences and Humanities
- Essential II: Organizational and Systems Leadership Essential III: Quality Improvement and Safety
- Essential IV: Translating and Integrating Scholarship into Practice Essential V: Informatics and Healthcare Technologies
- Essential VI: Health Policy and Advocacy
- Essential VII: Interprofessional Collaboration for Improving Patient and Population Health Outcomes
- Essential VIII: Clinical Prevention and Population Health for Improving Health
- Essential IX: Master's-Level Nursing Practice

### **Generalist (GEN) Program and Course Outcomes**

- Synthesize and apply theories and conceptual models from nursing and other related disciplines to facilitate clinical practice decision-making
- Integrate the use of communication skills, information systems and standardized language in relation to clinical outcomes and continuous performance measures
- Develop collaborative interdisciplinary relationships and partnerships to improve the health care of the cohort population
- Interpret and apply evidenced-based data to assess cohort risk, implement interventional strategies, and evaluate outcomes as part of an interdisciplinary health care team
- Pursue continuous quality improvement through the nurse leadership role
- Create a capstone research project for oral and written presentation on a nursing practice topic

**Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) Program and Course Outcomes:**

- Synthesize and apply theories and conceptual models from nursing and other related disciplines to facilitate clinical practice decision-making
- Integrate the use of communication skills, information systems and standardized language in relation to clinical outcomes and continuous performance measures
- Develop collaborative interdisciplinary relationships and partnerships to improve the health care of the cohort population
- Interpret and apply evidenced-based data to assess cohort risk, implement interventional strategies, and evaluate outcomes as part of an interdisciplinary health care team
- Design, implement, and evaluate innovative, population-based programs of care to achieve quality outcomes
- Pursue continuous quality improvement through the clinical nurse leader role
- Serve as an advanced practice generalist for a cohort population within the selected health care subsystem
- Create a capstone research project for oral and written presentation on a nursing practice topic

**Patient Safety and Quality (PSQ) Program and Course Outcomes:**

- Develop continuous improvement of the patient care process through analysis and measured change to current clinical programs in the inpatient and outpatient environments
- Integrate the use of communication skills, information systems and standardized language in relation to clinical outcomes and continuous performance measures
- Develop the research and education programs necessary to advance the national patient safety agenda
- Create patient safety and patient care outcomes through educational programs
- Evaluate the effectiveness of continuous improvement processes
- Create a capstone project for oral and written presentation on a patient safety issue

**Required Materials**

Using your learning resources is critical to your success in this course. Please purchase directly through the [SNHU Online Bookstore](#) rather than any other vendor. Purchasing directly from the bookstore ensures that you will obtain the correct materials and that the Help Desk, your advisor, and the instructor can provide you with support if you have problems.

**Textbooks**

The following textbooks have been used in other courses throughout the MSN Program. You should have already purchased these for other courses. These are considered supplementary resources to help you as you work through this course. No readings are assigned throughout the course.

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). Washington, DC: Author. ISBN: 978-1-4338-3216-1

This course uses an eBook that is available through the SNHU Shapiro Library:

Bonnel, W., & Smith, K. V. (2018). [Proposal writing for clinical nursing and DNP projects](#) (2nd ed.). New York, NY: Springer Publishing Company. ISBN: 978-0-8261-4442-3.

Recommended

Polit, D. & Beck, C. (2012). *Nursing research generating and assessing evidence for nursing practice*, 9th edition.

Philadelphia, PA: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins. ISBN: 9781605477084

### Optional Materials

American Nurses Association. *Nursing: Scope and standards of practice* (package of three books).

### Instructor Availability and Response Time

Your class interaction with the instructor and your classmates will take place on a regular, ongoing basis. Your instructor will be actively engaged within the course throughout the week. You will normally communicate with your instructor in the weekly discussions or the General Questions discussion topic so that your questions and the instructor's answers benefit the entire class. You should feel free, however, to communicate with your instructor via SNHU email at any time, particularly when you want to discuss something of a personal or sensitive nature. Your instructor will generally provide a response within 24 hours.

### Grade Distribution

Assignment Category	Number of Graded Items	Point Value per Item	Total Points
Discussions	7	7	49
Weekly Hours Reflection Journals	9	9	81
ePortfolio	1	100	100
Capstone Project			
Milestone One	1	10	10
Milestone Two	1	30	30
Milestone Three	1	30	30
Final Submission: Capstone Project Paper	1	700	700
			<b>Total Course Points: 1,000</b>

This course may also contain practice activities. The purpose of these non-graded activities is to assist you in mastering the learning outcomes in the graded activity items listed above.

### University Grading System: Graduate

Grade	Numerical Equivalent	Points
A	93–100	4.00
A-	90–92	3.67
B+	87–89	3.33
B	83–86	3.00
B-	80–82	2.67
C+	77–79	2.33
C	73–76	2.00

Grade	Numerical Equivalent	Points
F	0–72	0.00
I	Incomplete	
IF	Incomplete/Failure *	
W	Withdrawn	

\* Please refer to the [policy page](#) for information on the incomplete grade process.

### Grading Guides

Specific activity directions, grading guides, posting requirements, and additional deadlines can be found in the Assignments and Rubrics section of the course.

### Weekly Assignment Schedule

All reading and assignment information can be found within each module of the course. Assignments and discussion posts during the first week of each term are due by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time. Assignments and discussion posts for the remainder of the term are due by 11:59 p.m. of the student's local time zone.

In addition to the textbook readings that are listed, there may be additional required resources within each module.

Module	Topics and Assignments
1	Preparations and Project Implementation 1-1 Discussion: Getting Started 1-2 Milestone One: Paperwork 1-3 Weekly Hours Reflection Journal 1-4 ePortfolio: Begin Work
2	Continuing Project Implementation 2-1 Discussion: Working with Stakeholders 2-2 Weekly Hours Reflection Journal 2-3 ePortfolio: Continue Work
3	Data Collection 3-1 Discussion: Collecting Data 3-2 Weekly Hours Reflection Journal 3-3 ePortfolio: Continue Work
4	Dealing with the Unexpected 4-1 Discussion: Navigating Obstacles 4-2 Weekly Hours Reflection Journal 4-3 ePortfolio: Continue Work
5	Wrapping up Project Implementation 5-1 Milestone Two: Implementation 5-2 Weekly Hours Reflection Journal 5-3 ePortfolio: Continue Work

Module	Topics and Assignments
6	Data Analysis 6-1 Discussion: Conclusions and Implications 6-2 Weekly Hours Reflection Journal 6-3 ePortfolio: Continue Work
7	Evaluating Findings 7-1 Milestone Three: Limitations and Direction for Future Research 7-2 Weekly Hours Reflection Journal 7-3 ePortfolio: Continue Work
8	Considering Impact and Disseminating Findings 8-1 Discussion: Pearls of Wisdom 8-2 Weekly Hours Reflection Journal 8-3 ePortfolio: Continue Work
9	Capstone Project Paper 9-1 Final Submission: Capstone Project Paper 9-2 Weekly Hours Reflection Journal 9-3 ePortfolio: Continue Work
10	Professional ePortfolio 10-1 Discussion: Sharing Abstracts 10-2 ePortfolio: Archive Work & Submit

### Attendance Policy

Online students are required to submit a graded assignment/discussion during the first week of class. If a student does not submit a graded assignment/discussion during the first week of class, the student is automatically dropped from the course for non-participation. Review the [full attendance policy](#).

### Late Assignments Policy

Meeting assigned due dates is critical for demonstrating progress and ensuring appropriate time for instructor feedback on assignments. Students are expected to submit their assignments on or before the due date. Review the [full late assignment policy](#).

### SNHU Student Handbook

Review the [student handbook](#).

### ADA/504 Compliance Statement

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008, Southern New Hampshire University does not discriminate on the basis of disability, including intellectual disability, in admission, treatment, or access to its programs or activities, nor does it discriminate in employment in its programs or activities.

The university prohibits unlawful discrimination on the basis of disability and takes action to prevent such discrimination by providing reasonable accommodations to eligible individuals with disabilities. A disability is a condition or impairment that impacts a “major life activity” or “major bodily function.”

- **Major life activities** include, but are not limited to, caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, walking, standing, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating, and working.
- **Major bodily functions** include, but are not limited to, functions of the immune system, normal cell growth, and digestive, bowel, bladder, neurological, brain, respiratory, circulatory, endocrine, and reproductive functions. Disabilities include physical, medical (including pregnancy), mental health, and learning needs.

At the beginning of each term, or as soon as you become aware of a disability or accessibility concern, we encourage you to contact the Online Accessibility Center (OAC) to discuss accommodations for which you may be qualified. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between the student and the OAC.

Note that accommodations are not retroactive and that disability accommodations are not provided until acceptable documentation of a disability and its impact is received and an accommodation letter has been processed. If you are unsure whether your condition qualifies as a disability or accessibility concern, please contact the OAC for determination.

**Contact Information:**

Online Accessibility Center

Phone: 866-305-9430

Email: [oac@snhu.edu](mailto:oac@snhu.edu)

**For questions concerning support services, documentation guidelines, or general disability issues, please visit the [Online Accessibility Center](#) website.**

If you feel you have been denied appropriate disability-related accommodations, including appropriate auxiliary aids and services, you may file a grievance as described in the ADA/504 Grievance Policy found on the [Disability and Accessibility Services](#) website.

**Academic Honesty Policy**

Southern New Hampshire University requires all students to adhere to high standards of integrity in their academic work. Activities such as plagiarism and cheating are not condoned by the university. Review the [full academic honesty policy](#).

**Copyright Policy**

Southern New Hampshire University abides by the provisions of United States Copyright Act (Title 17 of the United States Code). Any person who infringes the copyright law is liable. Review the [full copyright policy](#).

**SNHU Withdrawal Policy**

Review the [full withdrawal policy](#).

**Southern New Hampshire University Policies**

More information about SNHU policies can be found on the [policy page](#).

**Student Work Samples**

For the purpose of continuous improvement of our educational training, Southern New Hampshire University may, on occasion, utilize anonymous student work samples for internal professional development and staff training. If you would like to withdraw permission for use of your work, please complete the [Student Work Sample Survey](#).