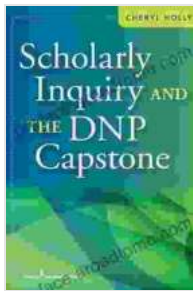


# The Ultimate Guide to Scholarly Inquiry and the DNP Capstone

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree is a terminal degree for nurses who want to advance their careers in clinical practice, leadership, or research. The DNP capstone project is a culminating experience that demonstrates the student's ability to conduct scholarly inquiry and apply research to practice.



## Scholarly Inquiry and the DNP Capstone by Emeran Mayer

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

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Scholarly inquiry is a systematic process of investigating a topic and generating new knowledge. It is based on the principles of evidence-based practice, which means that it uses research to inform decision-making and improve patient outcomes.

The DNP capstone project is an opportunity for students to apply their scholarly inquiry skills to a real-world problem. Students choose a topic that is relevant to their practice and conduct a thorough literature review to identify the best evidence to support their project.

Once the literature review is complete, students develop and implement a plan for their project. They collect data, analyze the results, and draw conclusions about their findings. The final step is to write and defend a dissertation that presents the results of their project.

## **Choosing a Topic**

The first step in the DNP capstone project is choosing a topic. The topic should be relevant to your practice and something that you are passionate about. It should also be narrow enough to be manageable within the timeframe of the project.

Here are some tips for choosing a topic:

- Start by brainstorming ideas that are related to your practice.
- Talk to your preceptor, faculty advisor, or other colleagues to get their input.
- Review the literature to identify areas where there is a need for more research.
- Choose a topic that you are interested in and that you are motivated to work on.

## **Conducting a Literature Review**

Once you have chosen a topic, the next step is to conduct a literature review. The purpose of the literature review is to identify the best evidence to support your project.

To conduct a literature review, you will need to:

- Search for articles in databases such as PubMed, CINAHL, and Cochrane Library.
- Review the abstracts of the articles to identify those that are relevant to your topic.
- Read the full text of the articles that you have identified.
- Synthesize the findings of the articles to identify the best evidence to support your project.

## **Developing and Implementing a Plan**

Once you have completed the literature review, the next step is to develop and implement a plan for your project. The plan should include the following information:

- A statement of the problem that you are addressing.
- A description of the methods that you will use to collect data.
- A timeline for completing the project.
- A budget for the project.

Once you have developed a plan, you will need to submit it to your faculty advisor for approval.

## **Collecting and Analyzing Data**

Once your plan has been approved, you can begin collecting data. The type of data that you collect will depend on the methods that you have chosen to use.

Once you have collected the data, you will need to analyze it to identify patterns and trends. You can use statistical software to help you analyze the data.

## **Drawings**

Once you have analyzed the data, you can draw conclusions about your findings. The conclusions should be based on the evidence that you have collected.

The conclusions should answer the following questions:

- What did you find?
- What do your findings mean?
- What are the implications of your findings for practice?

## **Writing and Defending a Dissertation**

The final step in the DNP capstone project is to write and defend a dissertation. The dissertation should present the results of your project and discuss the implications of your findings for practice.

The dissertation should be organized into the following sections:

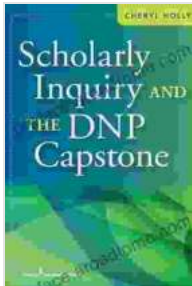
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- Literature review
- Methods
- Results
- Discussion

■

Once you have written the dissertation, you will need to defend it in front of a panel of faculty members. The defense is an opportunity for you to explain your project and answer questions about your findings.

The DNP capstone project is a challenging but rewarding experience. It is an opportunity for you to apply your scholarly inquiry skills to a real-world problem and make a difference in the field of nursing.

If you are interested in pursuing a DNP degree, I encourage you to learn more about the capstone project. It is an essential part of the program and it will help you to become a successful nurse leader.



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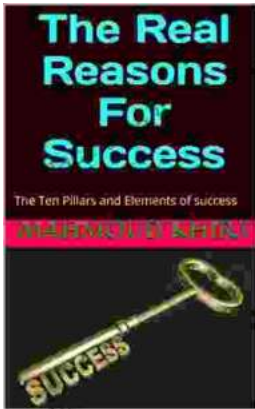
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