# Guidelines for DNP Scholarly Project **Proposal** Paper

The sections below make up the guidelines (outline) for your DNP Scholarly Project Proposal Paper and is completed in NURS783 or NURS807. Prior and/or current courses noted in parentheses indicate where preparation to complete each section of your DNP Scholarly Project Proposal Paper is derived from.

**\*Note**, this outline does not exactly mirror the Proposal outline noted in your Moran, Burson, & Conrad text because we are assisting you to frame your paper in a manuscript format that will assist with future publication of your important work.

The DNP Scholarly Project Proposal Paper should be written using APA 7 Professional Paper Guidelines and using the sections noted below. Here is the link to another helpful website for APA: <https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/apa_sample_paper.html>

* **Title page**
* **Abstract** (N783 or N807)
  + Included by itself as page 2, a maximum of 250 words, includes keywords
  + See APA 7th ed. For formatting (APA, page 50)
  + Includes Problem Statement, Purpose, Methods, Inclusion Criteria, Analysis, and Implications for Practice (Details found in Moran, Burson, & Conrad - 3rd ed., page 281; 4th ed., page 265)
* **Introduction** (N819)
  + According to your Moran, Burson, & Conrad text, the introduction tells the reader why the topic is important.
  + Omit the word “Introduction” as a heading.
  + Provide a brief description of the problem, presence of problem in the clinical setting, approach in resolving the problem, and high-level description of the intervention (about 3-5 sentences).
  + You should not have to re-write this section. You should be able to copy and/or revise what you wrote in N819.
* **Background** (N737, N780, N819)
  + You should not have to re-write this section. However, this section will combine your paragraphs from N819 and your chosen theoretical framework from N780 into one Background section.
  + A detailed description of the problem, including its significance and why the project is appropriate for the site where it will be implemented. (According to your Moran, Burson & Conrad text, this section expands on the introduction. “For example, for a quality improvement project, the student would describe a dysfunction in a healthcare delivery system that adversely affects patients, staff, or the system as a whole, or prevents care from reaching its full potential”). This part should end with the presentation of a clinical question that may be presented using a PICO approach.
  + Condense your literature search strategy into one short paragraph (3-5 sentences) summarizing your results. Include the databases you search, the keywords you used, your inclusion/exclusion criteria, and how many articles you ultimately chose for your evidence table. Then include (see Appendix A) at the end of this paragraph.
  + Literature review and synthesis of the evidence supporting the intervention. This is accomplished by comparing key concepts from an evidence table to summarize what is currently known about the intervention.
  + The theoretical framework used to explain the problem and any reasons or assumptions that were used to develop the intervention. (Details found in Moran et al, 3rd ed., pages 138 & 285; 4th ed., pages 161 & 270)
  + End the Background section with a concluding paragraph that clearly identifies the project type, purpose, objective, and outcome (written in N819). The purpose of this (*list the type*) project is to determine if (*the intervention*) at (*geographical description of* *the project site*) will (*what you hope to accomplish according to established standards*) in (*your population of interest*). Example: The purpose of this evidence-based practice (or QI, policy, or program evaluation) project is to determine if using a fall prevention toolkit at a long-term care facility will decrease falls below the national benchmark of 3.44 falls per 1000 patient days in adult and geriatric patients.
* **Methods** (N783/N807)
  + Description of the approach and intervention. The description should include the method or model (e.g., PDSA Model, suggestions are listed in Moran, Burson, & Conrad (3rd ed., page 158; 4th ed., page 202) that aligns with the project type and what specific implementation steps you will take to implement the project. These implementation steps should align with the model you have selected.
  + Follow the **Measurement Plan Guidelines and Rubric found within NURS783/NURS807 BB Assignment folder** and provide details about measures, measurement tools, data monitoring plan, data analysis plan and documentation of planned IRB process (e.g., IRB through the UofSC and/or IRB process through your project clinical site. Read about IRB in Moran et al., 3rd ed., p. 144, 241-243; 4th ed., p. 168, 281-284).
  + A project timeline that includes your proposal defense, IRB review, implementation to conclusion of your DNP project, including final DNP defense, should be determined, and provided as an Appendix (Likely Appendix B since your Evidence Table is Appendix A). There is an example provided in Moran, Burson, & Conrad (3rd ed., p. 213, Figure 13-10; 4th ed., p. 238, Figure 8-2), but some students create a bar graph in Excel. Either is acceptable.
  + A budget should be determined and provided as an Appendix (Likely Appendix C). Every project has some costs associated with it. – See the DNP Project Toolbox within your Moran, Burson, & Conrad text (3rd ed., page 325 & 348; 4th ed., page 185 & 191) for examples as needed.
* **References** (N737, N780, N819, N783/N807)
  + An appropriate listing includes all references cited. Please see American Psychological Association. (2019). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ed.).* Washington, DC: Author.
* **Appendices**
  + Include your Evidence Table from NURS819 as Appendix A, your timeline as Appendix B, and your budget as Appendix C.
  + Include other supporting materials (as appropriate). Follow APA formatting for in- text referencing of Appendices. See APA 2.14, 2.17.

Your final DNP Project Scholarly Paper completed in N897 will require you to change all the above to past tense (after your implementation) and will include additional sections for **Results, Discussion,** and **Conclusion.** The total word limit for the final paper, exclusive of the title page, abstract, reference list, and appendices, including the above sections you will complete in N897, is **5,000 words**.