NURS 8410: Best Practices in Nursing Specialties

Program Overview
The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program builds on the student’s knowledge and expertise to strengthen advanced nursing practice, augment healthcare delivery, and improve patient outcomes. The program’s coursework covers a range of topics, including healthcare policy and advocacy, quality improvement, evidence-based practice, information systems/technology, advanced nursing practice, and organizational and systems leadership.

Course Description
A scholarly inquiry of key concepts in nursing is presented in this course. Students analyze best practices and evolving issues in their nursing areas of practice. They explore advanced specialty practice problems through a guided initial review of literature. Students develop a program or project to address clinical/practice questions under the guidance of an approved clinical mentor. Students generate a portfolio evidence plan to address clinical/practice questions related to issues such as program planning, practice change, consultation, quality improvement projects, pilot study proposals, and Institutional Review Board (IRB) approvals.

Credit & Practicum Hours
Quarter Credit Hours: 5 credits
- Didactic – 4 credits
- Practicum – 1 credits (72 practicum hours)
Practicum Hours: This course requires a minimum of 72 practicum hours. Practicum hours should not include any direct, hands-on patient care.

Course Learning Outcomes
By the conclusion of this course, students should be able to:
- Evaluate an evidence-based practice problem or issue within a specialty setting
- Synthesize literature related to a defined evidence based practice problem or issue
- Apply appropriate practice guidelines into an area of expertise
- Utilize advanced competencies for practice and leadership roles
- Formulate an intervention to address a practice problem or issue
- Demonstrate achievement of learning objectives related to the AACN DNP Essentials and specialty competencies for the practicum experience

DNP Learning Outcomes
At the end of this program, students will be able to:
1. Translate research findings to direct evidence-based nursing practice.
2. Develop organizational system changes for quality improvement in healthcare delivery in response to local and/or global community needs.
3. Apply optimal utilization of healthcare information technology across healthcare settings.
4. Advocate for the advancement of nursing and healthcare policy through sharing of science-based knowledge with healthcare policy makers.
5. Demonstrate leadership to facilitate collaborative teams for improving patient and populations health outcomes.
6. Utilize advanced nursing practice knowledge to implement methodologies to improve population health outcomes.
7. Establish a foundation for lifelong learning for continual elevation of contributions to the field of nursing through active involvement in professional organizations and/or other professional bodies.