NURS 8500: Evidenced-Based Practice II: Planning and Implementation

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
In this DNP practicum course, students focus on planning and implementing a program/project design to address their clinical/practice questions; students complete work under the guidance of an approved clinical mentor. Generating practicum portfolio evidence, students complete a systematic review that drills down to the evidence regarding their clinical/practice question and resulting findings, conclusions, and recommendations.

Credit & Practicum Hours
Quarter Credit Hours: 3 credits
Practicum Hours: This course requires a minimum of 216 practicum hours.

Course Learning Outcomes
By the conclusion of this course, students should be able to:
- Evaluate programs and projects directed toward improving systems of care and health outcomes
- Justify the responsible use of human, technological, and financial resources in the provision of health care services
- Apply principles of evidence-based practice and appropriate theory and frameworks in addressing a health care issue
- Design methods that improve population-based health outcomes and promote positive social change using evidence-based practice principles and concepts, and professional practice standards
- Design a comprehensive approach to improve the safety and quality of health care outcomes
- Appraise leadership behaviors that are executed for effective inter-professional and intra-professional teams and systems
- Critically self-reflect on the components of the professional role of the nurse-leader in relation to the Walden University School of Nursing (SON) mission and vision
- Generate evidence to guide improvements in nursing practice and outcomes
- Apply leadership behaviors in the practicum experience
- Apply leadership and change theory to an issue in the practicum setting

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.