

Assurance of Student Learning Reflection 2024-2025

<i>College of Health and Human Services</i>	<i>School of Nursing and Allied Health</i>
<i>Doctor of Nursing Practice 0011</i>	
<i>Dr. Tonya Bragg-Underwood, Graduate Nursing Program Coordinator</i>	
Is this an online program? ☐ Yes ☒ No	Please make sure the Program Learning Outcomes listed match those in CourseLeaf. Indicate verification here ☒ Yes, they match! (If they don't match, explain on this page under Evaluation)

Instructions: For the 2024-25 assessment, we are asking you to reflect on the last three-year cycle rather than collect data. It's important to take time to look over the results from the last assessment cycle and really focus on a data-informed direction going forward. In collaboration with your assessment team and program faculty, review each submitted template from 2021-2024 and consider the following for each Program Learning Outcome, add your narrative to the template, and submit the draft to your **ASL Rep** by **May 15, 2025**.

Program Student Learning Outcome 1

Program Student Learning Outcome	Critically appraise theoretical concepts and knowledge from nursing and other disciplines and integrate this evidence in developing, implementing, and evaluating best practices for improved health outcomes.
Evaluation	Outcome 1 remains highly relevant and should not be changed. The graduate nursing outcomes are aligned with the standards of the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), the accrediting body for WKU's nursing programs. Many of these outcomes, including Outcome 1, are double or triple-barreled in nature. Outcome 1 states: "Critically appraise theoretical concepts and knowledge from nursing and other disciplines and integrate this evidence in developing, implementing, and evaluating best practices for improved health outcomes." This outcome reflects a foundational principle of advanced nursing practice and aligns well with current healthcare demands and professional standards. Although it is a triple-barreled outcome, it remains clearly measurable through the use of action verbs consistent with Bloom's Taxonomy. Maintaining this outcome supports the program's commitment to preparing graduates who are both competent and responsive to the dynamic needs of the healthcare system.
Measurement Instruments	Direct: Analysis of Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Project Proposal Paper Direct: Students will score of ≥ 160 of 200 pts on the DNP Project Proposal paper completed in NURS 750 (Program Evaluation). In this paper students appraise literature on a problem in health care, develop a purpose for their DNP project, and integrate the evidence into the project plan to explore and improve health outcomes. Direct: Analysis of DNP Portfolio: Essential VIII Advanced Nursing Practice Summary Paper All DNP students compile a DNP portfolio organized by the eight DNP essentials which are considered foundational competencies for DNP programs by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN). The portfolio includes DNP Essential Summary Papers that are a reflective account of the student's DNP experience and how they met each Essential.
Criteria & Targets	DNP Proposal Paper: Students will score of ≥ 160 of 200 pts on the DNP Project Proposal paper completed in NURS 750 (Program Evaluation). In this paper students appraise literature on a problem in health care, develop a purpose for their DNP project, and integrate the

	evidence into the project plan to explore and improve health outcomes. DNP Portfolio – Essential VIII: Students will score ≥ 9.0 of 12 pts on the Essential VIII-Advanced Nursing Practice Summary paper. 92% is the current target for this measurement and was appropriate for this measure in the past; however, due to recommended changes from our accrediting body (AACN), Essentials will change to competency model in the future. Evaluation of how to measure the new competency model will occur during the next AY of 25-26.
Results & Conclusion	<u>Results for DNP Project Proposal Paper:</u> 22-23AY = 100% - n = 10/ average score 186 23-24AY = 100% - n=9/average score 184 24-25AY = 100% - n=4/average score 182 <u>Results for Portfolio – Essential VIII:</u> 22-23AY = 100% -n=11/average score 10.3 23-24AY = 100% - n=9/ average score 10.5 24-25AY = 100% - n=7/ average score 10.6 <u>Conclusions:</u> The results for DNP Project Paper were slightly lower in 24-25AY than expected, but the decreasing number of DNP students could account for this drop. The results for Portfolio – Essential VIII were as expected. This Essential VIII summary remains important as it provides students with an opportunity for reflection and reinforces the DNP Essentials within the context of their overall program learning experience.
<u>**IMPORTANT - Plans for Next Assessment Cycle:</u>	The DNP Project Proposal paper remains an integral component of the overall DNP project process. It is essential for demonstrating student progress within the program and aligns closely with established program outcomes. Results for the DNP Project Proposal paper minimum points of measure for this outcome will be increased to 170 of 200 points instead of 160 in 25-26AY based on the past three year's results. The DNP program will be moving away from Essentials and using Competencies in the future per accreditation guidelines (AACN). This measure will be removed or changed for 25-26AY.

Program Student Learning Outcome 2	
Program Student Learning Outcome	Demonstrate interprofessional collaboration and leadership skills to improve patient and population health outcomes.
Evaluation	Outcome 2 remains highly relevant and should not be changed. The graduate nursing outcomes are aligned with the standards of the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), the accrediting body for WKU's nursing programs. While many of the outcomes are double or triple-barreled, Outcome 2 is double-barreled and remains measurable, supporting both clarity and effective assessment.
Measurement Instruments	Direct: Analysis of Leadership Philosophy Paper Students will score ≥ 120 of 150 pts on the NURS 700 Leadership Philosophy Paper Direct: Interdisciplinary Consultations Clinical Coursework Students will record at least two interdisciplinary consultations during the clinical coursework (NURS 547, NURS 549, and NURS 554).

Criteria & Targets	92% average is the current target for these measurements. A target of 92% is well above the average and represents an appropriate and ambitious goal for this program, reflecting its commitment to excellence and high academic standards.
Results & Conclusion	<u>Results for Analysis of Leadership Philosophy Paper</u> 22-23AY = 88% - n=8/score average 134 (one student scored <120) 23-24AY = 100% - n=5/score average 138.2 24-25AY = 100% - n=1/score 129 <u>Results for Interdisciplinary Consultations Clinical Cousework</u> 22-23AY = 94% - n=30/32 documented at least 2 interdisciplinary collaborations 23-24AY = 100% - n=10/10 documented at least 2 interdisciplinary collaborations 24-25AY = 100% - n=12/12 documented at least 2 interdisciplinary collaborations <u>Conclusions:</u> The Analysis of Leadership Philosophy Paper results were not as expected in 22-23AY, but have improved since that time. Perhaps the increased emphasis on the importance of leadership at a DNP level assisted in this increase. Lower enrollment numbers are likely to impact or skew results compared to previous years with higher enrollment. This shift will require ongoing monitoring to establish new benchmarks and accurately interpret emerging trends. Interdisciplinary consultations results were exceedingly higher than expected, therefore, identifying the need to increase the expectation for this measure from two to eight documented interdisciplinary consults per class (NURS 547, NURS 549, and NURS 554). What worked for this measure was increasing the emphasis on the importance of interdisciplinary consults within the courses.
<u>**IMPORTANT - Plans for Next Assessment Cycle:</u>	The Leadership Philosophy Paper is a valuable component of the DNP program and remains an important outcome measure, as it demonstrates students' understanding of leadership principles and styles relevant to advanced nursing practice. It reflects their ability to articulate a personal leadership philosophy aligned with the expectations of doctoral-level nursing leadership. Since the Interdisciplinary Consultations target has been exceedingly met the past two years, we will keep the 92% target but increase the amount of interdisciplinary consultations clinically documented from 2 per course to 8 per course. Interdisciplinary consultations are essential for Family Nurse Practitioners, as they promote collaboration with other healthcare professionals to support comprehensive, patient-centered care and achieve optimal health outcomes. These consultations remain an effective measure of Outcome 2, reflecting the application of leadership and communication skills in interprofessional practice.

Program Student Learning Outcome 3	
Program Student Learning Outcome	Develop, integrate, and evaluate evidence-based health care innovations while considering cultural, economic, ethical, legal, political, and technological issues across diverse health systems and models.
Evaluation	Outcome 3 remains highly relevant and should not be changed. The graduate nursing outcomes are aligned with the standards of the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), the accrediting body for WKU's nursing programs. Although this outcome is multi-barreled, it remains measurable through key assignments, including the Analysis of Systematic Review paper and the Analysis of DNP Portfolio – Essential III Summary paper.
Measurement Instruments	Direct: Analysis of Systematic Review Paper Direct: Analysis of DNP Portfolio: Essential III Clinical Scholarship and Analytic Methods for EBP Summary Paper
Criteria & Targets	Systematic Review Paper: Students will score ≥ 80 of 100 pts on the Systematic Review paper DNP Portfolio Essential III Summary Paper: Students will score of ≥ 12.0 of 16 pts on the Essential III Summary Paper. 92% average is the current target for these measurements.
Results & Conclusion	<u>Results - Analysis of Systematic Review Paper</u> 22-23AY = 100% n=7/average score 91.1 23-24AY = 100% n=5/average score 94.6 24-25AY = 100% n=1/score 91 <u>Results - Analysis of DNP Portfolio: Essential III Clinical Scholarship and Analytic Methods for EBP Summary Paper</u> 22-23AY = 91% n=11/with 10/11 scored above 12pts, average score 13.9. 23-24AY = 100% n=9/with 9/9 scoring above 12pts, average score 14.8 24-25AY = 100% n=7/with 7/7 scoring above 12pts, average score 14.2 <u>Conclusions:</u> The Analysis of Systematic Paper results were not as expected as expected and remained consistent. Results for Analysis of DNP Portfolio: Essential III Clinical Scholarship and Analytic Methods for EBP Summary Paper were not as expected in 22-23AY. Scores have improved since that time.
<u>**IMPORTANT - Plans for Next Assessment Cycle:</u>	The Analysis of Systematic Review Paper is a valuable component of the DNP program and serves as an important outcome measure. It demonstrates students' understanding of the systematic review process, including the ability to critically evaluate methods, interpret results, and synthesize evidence to inform practice. No changes are planned for this outcome or measure. The DNP program will be moving away from Essentials and using Competencies in the future per accreditation guidelines (AACN). This measure will be removed or changed for 25-26AY.

Program Student Learning Outcome 4	
Program Student Learning Outcome	Use and evaluate information systems and technology to improve clinical decision making, and health outcomes.
Evaluation	Outcome 4— <i>Use and evaluate information systems and technology to improve decision-making and health outcomes</i> —remains highly relevant and should not be revised. The graduate nursing outcomes align with the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) standards, the accrediting body for WKU's nursing programs. While many of the graduate nursing outcomes are double or triple barreled, Outcome 4, though double-barreled, remains clearly defined and measurable.
Measurement Instruments	Direct: NURS 740 Clinical Experience Paper Scores Direct: NURS 740 Presentation Scores
Criteria & Targets	NURS 740 Clinical Experience Paper: Students will score of ≥ 80 of 100 pts on the Technology Clinical Experience Paper in NURS 740 (Technology). NURS 740 Presentation: Students will score of ≥ 42 of 50 pts on the NURS 740 presentation 92% average is the current target for this measurement.
Results & Conclusion	<u>Results - NURS 740 Clinical Experience Paper</u> 22-23AY = 100% n=9 with 9/9 scored above 80pts, average score 93.8. 23-24AY = 100% n=7 with 7/7 scored above 80pts, average score 95.4. 24-25AY = 100% n=4 with 4/4 scoring above 80pts, average score 92.3 <u>Results - NURS 740 Presentation Scores</u> 22-23AY = 100% n=9 with 9/9 scored above 42pts, average score 49.2. 23-24AY = 100% n=7 with 7/7 scored above 42pts, average score 49.4. 24-25AY = 100% n=4 with 4/4 scoring above 42pts, average score 48.7 <u>Conclusions:</u> The results for both measurement instruments aligned with expectations. Although the average scores for the Clinical Experience Paper showed some fluctuation over time, overall performance remained relatively stable and consistent, reflecting sustained student achievement in this area.
<u>**IMPORTANT - Plans for Next Assessment Cycle:</u>	After reviewing the results for Outcome 4 over the past three years, it appears appropriate to increase the performance benchmarks. Specifically, the target should be raised from 92% to 94% of students scoring 80 points or higher on the Clinical Experience Paper, and from 92% to 94% of students scoring 42 points or higher on the NURS 740 Presentation. Raising these benchmark targets will help ensure continued academic rigor in the DNP program, particularly given the high level of motivation and performance typically demonstrated by doctoral-level students.

Program Student Learning Outcome 5	
Program Student Learning Outcome	Demonstrate leadership in the critical analysis and application of economic, ethical, political, and social components of health care policy.
Evaluation	Outcome 5 remains highly relevant and should not be changed. The graduate nursing outcomes are aligned with the standards of the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), the accrediting body for WKU's nursing programs. Although this outcome is multi-barreled, it remains measurable through key assignments, including the Health Policy and Gap Analysis paper and the Analysis of DNP Portfolio – Essential V Summary paper. Both assessment measures are substantial in scope and serve as summative evaluations of the outcome.
Measurement Instruments	Direct: NURS 701 Health Policy and Gap Analysis Paper Scores Direct: Summary of Activities in DNP Essential V Scores
Criteria & Targets	NURS 701 Health Policy and Gap Analysis Paper: Students will score ≥ 80 of 100 pts on paper (changed from 100 out of 120 to 80 out of 100 pts Fa24) DNP Essential V: Students will score of ≥ 12.0 of 16 pts on the Essential III Summary Paper. 92% average is the current target for this measurement.
Results & Conclusion	<u>Results: NURS 701 Health Policy and Gap Analysis Paper Scores</u> 22-23AY = 100% n=5 with 5/5 scored above 100pts, average score 94.2 23-24AY = 100% n=7 with 7/7 scored above 100pts, average score 95.4. 24-25AY = 100% n=5 with 5/5 scoring above 80pts, average score 92.2 ** total point change on rubric <u>Results: Summary of Activities in DNP Essential V</u> 22-23AY = 100% n=11/with 11/11 scored above 12pts, average score 14.0. 23-24AY = 100% n=11/with 11/11 scoring above 12pts, average score 14.25 24-25AY = 100% n=7/with 7/7 scoring above 12pts, average score 14.4 <u>Conclusions:</u> The results for both measurement instruments aligned with expectations of doctoral students.
<u>**IMPORTANT - Plans for Next Assessment Cycle:</u>	The Health Policy and Gap Analysis Paper is a key component of the DNP program and serves as a meaningful outcome measure. It reflects students' ability to analyze and propose policy changes, identify relevant stakeholders and influencers, and consider social, economic, and legal factors that inform evidence-based practice. No changes are currently planned for this outcome or its associated measure. The DNP program will be moving away from Essentials and using Competencies in the future per accreditation guidelines (AACN). This measure will be removed or changed for 25-26AY.

Program Student Learning Outcome 6	
Program Student Learning Outcome	Analyze and apply advanced nursing practice concepts of clinical prevention and health promotion to improve health outcomes in relevant populations.
Evaluation	Outcome 6 remains highly relevant and should not be changed. The graduate nursing outcomes align with the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) standards which is the accrediting body for WKU's nursing programs and most are double or triple barreled. Although it is a double-barreled outcome, it remains clearly measurable through the use of action verbs consistent with Bloom's Taxonomy. Maintaining this outcome supports the program's commitment to preparing graduates who are both competent and responsive to the dynamic needs of the healthcare system.
Measurement Instruments	Direct: NURS 755 Quality Improvement Plan Direct: NURS 630 Advanced Epidemiology Paper
Criteria & Targets	NURS 755 Quality Improvement Plan: Students will score of ≥ 120 of 150 pts on the Quality Improvement Plan in NURS 755 (Quality Improvements) NURS 630 Advanced Epidemiology Paper: Students will score of ≥ 92 of 100 pts on the Epidemiology presentation. Previous rubric was 40 of 50 pts in 22-23AY 92% average is the current target for this measurement.
Results & Conclusion	<u>Results: NURS 755 Quality Improvement Plan</u> 22-23AY = 100% n=8 with 8/8 scored above 120pts 23-24AY = N/A% n=0 with no students enrolled 24-25AY = 100% n=10 with 10/10 scoring above 120pts, average score 137 <u>Results: NURS 630 Advanced Epidemiology Paper</u> 22-23AY = 100% n=8 with 8/8 scored above 40pts, average score 44.5. *rubric change 23-24AY = 100% n=5 with 5/5 scored above 92pts, average score 94. 24-25AY = 0% n=1 with 1/1 scoring less than 92pts, average score 90. <u>Conclusions:</u> The results of both the Advanced Epidemiology paper and the Quality Improvement Plan paper meet the expectations of doctoral-level work. However, fluctuations in DNP program admissions have impacted our ability to track data consistently, with some academic years showing low or no student submissions.
<u>**IMPORTANT - Plans for Next Assessment Cycle:</u>	The Advanced Epidemiology paper and the Quality Improvement Plan paper are essential components of the DNP program and serve as meaningful outcome measures. Together, they demonstrate students' ability to apply systems thinking; align quality improvement projects with organizational missions; and assess stakeholders, barriers, facilitators, and outcomes using the PDCA model and relevant QI tools. Additionally, students are expected to analyze key epidemiologic content, including disease processes, at-risk populations, prevalence and incidence, natural history, magnitude, screening methods, financial implications, treatment options, and policy considerations. No changes are currently planned for this outcome or its associated measures.

Program Student Learning Outcome 7	
Program Student Learning Outcome	Apply the relevant advanced practice role to improve patient health outcomes and health care systems.
Evaluation	Outcome 7 remains highly relevant and should not be changed. The graduate nursing outcomes align with the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) standards which is the accrediting body for WKU's nursing programs and most are double or triple barreled. Although this is a double-barreled outcome, it remains clearly measurable through the use of action verbs aligned with Bloom's Taxonomy. Retaining this outcome reinforces the program's commitment to preparing graduates who are both competent and adaptable to the evolving demands of the healthcare system while optimizing patient outcomes.
Measurement Instruments	Direct: BSN to DNP Family Nurse Practitioner certification examination first time pass rate Direct: Patient Centered Assessment Clinical
Criteria & Targets	BSN to DNP Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) certification examination first time pass rate: Students will pass on their first attempt of the Family Nurse Practitioner certification examination. Patient Centered Assessment Clinical: Students will complete required clinical documentation in NURS 547, 549, and 554. 92% average is the current target for this measurement.
Results & Conclusion	<u>Results: BSN to DNP Family Nurse Practitioner certification examination first time pass rate</u> 22-23AY = 100% n=10 with 10/10 passing FNP certification exam first attempt 23-24AY = 100% n=4 with 4/4 passing FNP certification exam first attempt 24-25AY = 100% n=3 with 3/3 passing FNP certification exam first attempt <u>Results: Patient Centered Assessment Clinical</u> 22-23AY = 100% n=16 with 16/16 successfully completed clinical documentation 23-24AY = 100% n=11 with 11/11 successfully completed clinical documentation 24-25AY = 100% n=11 with 11/11 successfully completed clinical documentation <u>Conclusions:</u> First-time pass rates exceeded expectations, demonstrating the effectiveness of the rigorous yet equitable clinical coursework embedded throughout the BSN-to-DNP FNP track. As expected, all BSN to DNP-FNP students completed reflections identifying their assessment of the patient's understanding and engagement in their health care, identified barriers to care, and reviewed the assessment with their clinical preceptor receiving 100% agreement with the assessment. High expectations for thorough clinical documentation are enforced beginning with the first clinical course.
<u>**IMPORTANT - Plans for Next Assessment Cycle:</u>	The FNP certification pass rate remains the gold standard for assessing readiness for safe entry into advanced family nurse practitioner practice and will continue to be used as a key measure. Reflective documentation, an essential component of APRN practice, will likewise remain an ongoing measure.

To add more outcomes, if needed, select the table above and copy & paste below.