

Culminating Project Brief Description

Purpose of the Project

The Culminating Project (CP) is designed to provide students with an opportunity to develop, implement, and evaluate a real-world, applied study. The results are subsequently used to inform the development of a proposal that is focused on developing or modifying policies, programs, or services in a healthcare setting.

Timeframe

The CP is offered in three sequential cohorts throughout a student's program of study. Each cohort occurs during a semester that is aligned with other course learning in the course carousel.

Instructor/Advisor Coordinated Instruction and Support

Each cohort is offered as a standard 1-credit, required course that includes mini-lectures, weekly webinars, readings, discussion boards, assignments, and instructor support. The course will provide instruction on topics related to the principles of applied research, site assessments, data analyses, and presentation skills. The work that is completed during each cohort incrementally leads the student through the process of developing an applied study.

During cohorts 2 and 3, the student's Program Advisor will provide additional support with the development of the student's unique project.

Learning Objectives – Applied Skills Development

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| Cohort 1 | 1. Synthesize and critique current, relevant research literature. |
| | 2. Use library research resources including search engines (e.g., PubMed, Google Scholar) and reference management (e.g., EndNote, RefWorks, Interlibrary Loan). |
| | 3. Describe the key clinical, operational and financial aspects of an integrated behavioral health primary care clinic and complete a research question designed to evaluate a component of the integrated care program. |
| | 4. Complete a research design, data analysis and reporting approach to evaluate an integrated care research question |
| | 5. Evaluate the results of a research project in a quality improvement model |
| Cohort 2 | 1. Establish professional relationships to identify appropriate relevant research question(s) based on site needs |
| | 2. Select, design, and implement applied research methods through proposal approval based on identified question |
| | 3. Write a focused (4-5 page) literature review on an identified topic |
| | 4. Determine and complete application for IRB approval if necessary for a project or quality improvement plan |

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| Cohort 3 | 1. Prepare and analyze dataset using a statistical package (Excel or SPSS) |
| | 2. Accurately interpret statistical results of study data |
| | 3. Report the results of the data analysis |
| | 4. Critically analyze and evaluate the research design and implementation |
| | 5. Identify and target peer-reviewed journal for manuscript development |
| | 6. Develop and present a persuasive presentation to key stakeholders |
| | 7. Create a final paper reflective of the research results and process in journal submission format |