

Policy G-5  
FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF NURSING

- TITLE:** Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Project Guidelines for Designation of the Major Professor
- POLICY:** DNP Students will be required to complete the DNP Project as a condition of graduation. This will be accomplished, in part, through the supervision of the Major Professor. The student's major professor is a faculty member with research and content area expertise that applies to the students selected field of inquiry for the DNP Project. The student maintains the responsibility of meeting with the major professor and gaining their consent to act as the students Major Professor for the entirety of the DNP Project development and the associated course sequence.
- RATIONALE:** The DNP is a practice doctorate that does not require a formal dissertation. As such, it does not fall under the university criteria and policies regarding the designation of major professors. Thus, it is essential to facilitate a clearly communicated formal pathway within the College of Nursing through which to formalize the relationship between student and Major Professor.
- PROCEDURE:**
1. Beginning with the DNP Roles and Leadership course, students will begin to develop their DNP project. During this phase, students are to begin to explore possible Major Professor candidates based upon faculty member's expertise, field of study, and availability for participation.
  2. Students are encouraged to meet with and gain guidance from multiple faculty members prior to formally contracting with their Major Professor.
  3. The Assistant Dean for Graduate Programs and Major Track coordinators serves a vital role in the selection of a student's Major Professor. During student annual review by program coordinators deliberations regarding selection of a Major Professor will take place.
  4. Faculty members are eligible to serve as Major Professor if they have Graduate Teaching Status.

5. Each faculty member may have a maximum of 6 DNP project students at any given time. This number can be decreased based upon faculty workload and ability to manage multiple research students based upon the judgment of the Dean.
6. Students must, at minimum, develop and formalize the relationship with their Major Professor prior to taking the DNP Project Seminar course.
7. Students will complete the form contained in Appendix A of this document. The form is to be signed by the student, the Major Professor and the Assistant Dean for Graduate Programs.
8. The signed forms will be placed in the student's file in Student Services.
9. Students electing to change their Major Professor will be required to complete the form contained in Appendix B, sign it, have it signed by the current and prospective Major Professor and forward it to the Assistant Dean for Graduate Programs for signature.

Approved:

Faculty: 8/17/16 1/24/2020

Dean: 8/17/16 1/24/2020

APPENDIX A

DESIGNATION OF MAJOR PROFESSOR FOR THE DNP PROJECT  
FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF NURSING

STUDENT \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby request that \_\_\_\_\_ act the *Major*

*Professor* for my DNP Project. The Title/Field of Study for my project is:

---

I understand that this is a formal relationship. I bear the responsibility of communicating with my Major Professor throughout my period of study by providing my Major Professor consistent updates as I develop my project throughout the DNP Project course series.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I \_\_\_\_\_ do hereby agree to act as the Major Professor for the above named student, in the designated area of scholarship.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (Major Professor)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (Director of the Graduate Program)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

APPENDIX B

CHANGE OF MAJOR PROFESSOR FOR THE DNP PROJECT  
FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF NURSING

STUDENT \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby request that \_\_\_\_\_ act the *Major Professor* for my DNP Project. The Title/Field of Study for my project is:

---

I understand that this is a formal relationship. I bear the responsibility of communicating with my Major Professor throughout my period of study by providing my Major Professor consistent updates as I develop my project throughout the DNP Project course series.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I \_\_\_\_\_ do hereby relinquish my obligation to act as the Major Professor for the above named student, in the designated area of scholarship.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (Former Major Professor)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I \_\_\_\_\_ do hereby agree to act as the Major Professor for the above named student, in the designated area of scholarship.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (Major Professor)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (Director of the Graduate Program)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date