JBI Evidence Implementation Training elevates the University of Mississippi Medical Center's School of Nursing DNP Program

In the face of today's increasingly complex healthcare challenges, the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree was developed to fill the need for expert knowledge and skills. Accordingly, prospective employers look for DNP graduates who possess "big-picture thinking" — leadership skills that include knowing how to implement quality improvement and evidence-based practice to improve patient outcomes.[1]

All DNP programs require the completion of a QI/EBP project that comprises roughly half of the hours spent in their course of study. However, several challenges plague those projects. National consensus does not exist on how to conduct them. Lack of standardization and difficulty securing quality preceptors can contribute to a lack of rigor and direction, low project completion rates, and questionable sustainability. In the eyes of potential employers, this can decrease the perceived value of a DNP.[2]

The problem

The DNP program within the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) School of Nursing was established in 2009. As enrollments grew and work stretched across every phase of students' DNP projects, oversight by a traditional committee became problematic. Infrastructure for guiding students through the DNP project needed standardization. To compound matters, the DNP project was some students' first experience with framing, researching, and implementing such an effort.

The school's accrediting body required at least 70% of DNP students to complete their project within 150% of the time specified for their plan of study. In 2020, that benchmark was not met.

Analyses of the shortfall identified multiple barriers to completing the project. In 2021, UMMC's former DNP program director adopted and integrated the JBI Evidence Implementation Training program into UMMC's curriculum as the students' DNP project. Additionally, JBI was engaged in delivering train-the-trainer for faculty and other facilitators.
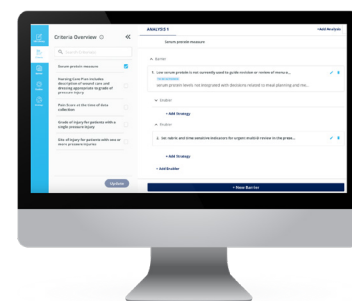
The solution: JBI

The JBI Evidence Implementation Training Program comprises two intensive, five-day, face-to-face training sessions to familiarize users with their seven-phase approach to quality improvement. JBI PACES, an evidence-based audit and feedback software solution for quality improvement, is included in this weeklong training program. Among other uses, its structured framework steps users through every task required for completing a DNP project — including analysis, facilitation of change, and evaluation of processes/outcomes.[3]

JBI PACES simplifies the process with user-friendly templates. For example, the GRiP (**G**etting **R**esearch into **P**ractice) table guides users through identifying barriers and enablers of change. JBI PACES also helps students compile and prepare their final report in a publication-ready format.

Michelle Palokas, Interim Associate Dean for Administration and Assistant Dean for Accreditation & Evaluation at UMMC, noted the numerous benefits they saw soon after launching JBI's Evidence Implementation Training Program, it:

Eliminated the guesswork of how to approach and pursue the project	Increased student engagement	Enabled working in teams on shared projects
Guided translation of clinical knowledge and research into practice	Ensured standardization with best practices	Supported scholarly writing
Improved efficiency in completing projects	Enhanced the students' clinical decision-making skills	Fostered a mindset of continuous learning and innovation.

For the duration of their coursework and up to a year afterward, UMMC DNP students have access to JBI PACES through UMMC's library. UMMC also provides these students with access to the JBI EBP Database, with 5,000+ evidence-based point-of-care resources. As a bonus, reports created with JBI PACES can be submitted to JBI's international journal, *JBI Evidence Implementation.*

The results

Over the past three years, UMMC's DNP project completion rate within the allotted timeframe has been 100%. More importantly, measurable, sustainable results have been realized.

One student's work with telehealth helped ensure that rural patients with diabetes received necessary monitoring and care. Another student's work with families of pediatric patients resulted in implementing a low-tech, low-cost solution to ensure they weren't disturbed during the night unless absolutely necessary.

One change was visibly sweeping in scale; the other was localized. However, both had a significant, sustainable impact on improving patients' health and outcomes.

The influence of these projects reaches beyond a single institution. Being able to publish project results in the *JBI Evidence Implementation* journal increases the dissemination of knowledge, enhances the students' hireability, and offers UMMC's DNP program a way to stand out in a competitive landscape.

Conclusion

JBI Evidence-Based Implementation training and its accompanying quality improvement software made demonstrable differences in the rigor, quality, and outcomes of DNP projects in UMMC's School of Nursing. Its ability to link the academic and clinical sides of DNP coursework makes it a standout for instituting and implementing those projects.

Request a free trial today, and empower your DNP students with proven success. Contact your JBI representative or email sales@ovid.com to learn how JBI's evidence-based training and software can unlock measurable outcomes in your quality improvement initiatives.

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Acknowledgments

References

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2. American Association of Colleges of Nursing. The State of Doctor of Nursing Practice Education in 2022. June 2022. Accessed May 20, 2024. https://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/42/News/Surveys-Data/State-of-the-DNP-Summary-Report-June-2022.pdf

3. Porritt K, McArthur A, Lockwood C, Munn Z. JBI's approach to evidence implementation: A 7-phase process model to support and guide getting evidence into practice. JBI Evid Implement. 2023; 21:3-13.

About The University Of Mississippi Medical Center School Of Nursing

The University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC), located in Jackson, is the state's only academic medical center and tertiary care center. The University of Mississippi School of Nursing, founded in 1948, is part of a five-member, statewide consortium that fosters academic programs leading to the Doctor of Nursing Practice. UMMC's DNP program currently serves 70 students. The program has been a JBI Centre of Excellence since 2019 and is also a U.S. Cochrane Center.