

DNP Clinical Mentor Role Responsibilities

Thank you for agreeing to support a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) student during the completion of their DNP Scholarly Project. We hope you will find this experience rewarding and meaningful to your work.

The role of the DNP Clinical Mentor is to provide support to the student completing a quality improvement or program evaluation project within the clinical area. The student has an academic adviser for their project at the College of Nursing to assist with meeting program outcomes as well as academic requirements for the project. Please refer to the Doctor of Nursing Practice Information Sheet for further information on each course of the project series.

One does not need to be knowledgeable about quality improvement or program evaluation methodology to serve as a quality clinical mentor, as the faculty academic adviser provides this content. The purpose of the clinical mentor role is to assist the student in navigating through challenges at the project site, help facilitate processes and flow, support the leadership role of the student, discuss ideas and site needs, and act as a champion for their project. While faculty academic advisers are the experts in the methods, the clinical mentors are the experts in the clinical area where the student is completing the project.

As no two projects are the same, the relationship between the student and clinical mentor can vary from site to site, as can the time commitment. One can consider 2 hours a month a reasonable amount of time. This time may vary depending on phase of the project. Listed below are common activities where clinical mentors participate with the student. In addition to the suggested activities, the clinical mentor is required to complete a one-page student evaluation at the end of each semester (please see additional evaluation document).

Common activities include, but are not required or limited to:

- Meeting with student and stakeholders to determine needs for project
- Developing specific goals for the project depending on facility/system needs
- Connecting student to resources (people, technology) that can assist in project process
- Supporting the role of the student in leading an interdisciplinary team
- Troubleshooting issues that may arise with facilitation of change or evaluation

Benefits to participating as a DNP clinical mentor include access to the University of Colorado Strauss Health Sciences Library as well as documentation of clinical hours precepted for use in recertification and annual merit review. Many students also publish their work and may collaborate with you in this endeavor.

If you have any questions, concerns, or would like to discuss the role further, please do not hesitate to contact me at laura.rosenthal@cuanschutz.edu or call me at 303-724-6375. The University of Colorado, College of Nursing appreciates your willingness to guide and mentor the new generation of leaders in health care.