

List of Easy DNP Project Ideas for Students

DNP Project Ideas for Primary Care

Best suited for FNP and adult-gerontology students working in outpatient or clinic settings.

1. Implement a standardized SDOH (social determinants of health) screening tool at intake and track referral completion rates.
2. Launch a nurse-led hypertension self-monitoring program using home BP cuffs with weekly telehealth check-ins.
3. Create a diabetes foot-check reminder workflow embedded in the EHR to reduce missed annual exams.
4. Design a same-day walk-in triage protocol to cut unnecessary ED referrals for low-acuity visits.
5. Build a pre-visit questionnaire that flags patients overdue for cancer screenings (mammogram, colonoscopy, Pap smear).
6. Pilot a shared medical appointment model for patients managing prediabetes.
7. Develop a medication reconciliation checklist for patients transitioning from hospital to primary care follow-up.
8. Create a patient portal message-triage protocol to reduce nurse response time for non-urgent questions.
9. Implement a smoking-cessation brief-intervention script and track quit-attempt rates at 90 days.
10. Design a fall-risk screening tool for patients over 65 and link it to a referral pathway for PT.
11. Build a telehealth follow-up protocol for post-hospitalization patients to reduce 30-day readmissions.

12. Create an obesity counseling workflow using motivational interviewing and track BMI trends over 6 months.
13. Pilot a group visit model for patients with well-controlled chronic conditions to increase access.
14. Develop a standing order set for adult immunizations to reduce missed vaccination opportunities.
15. Design a patient education handout in plain language (and Spanish) for newly diagnosed hypertension.
16. Implement a no-show reduction protocol using automated reminder calls/texts and track appointment adherence.
17. Create a depression screening (PHQ-9) workflow integrated into annual wellness visits.
18. Build a care coordination checklist for patients with multiple chronic conditions seeing several specialists.
19. Pilot a nurse-driven anticoagulation monitoring clinic for patients on warfarin.
20. Design a protocol to identify and address medication non-adherence using pharmacy refill data.
21. Create a pre-diabetes referral pathway to community diabetes prevention programs.
22. Implement a standardized handoff tool between primary care and specialty referrals to reduce lost referrals.
23. Build a telehealth visit satisfaction survey and use results to refine virtual care workflows.
24. Design a chronic pain management protocol emphasizing non-opioid first-line treatment.
25. Create a workflow for identifying uninsured/underinsured patients and connecting them to enrollment assistance.

26. Pilot an asynchronous e-visit option for routine medication refills to reduce clinic volume.
27. Develop a standardized template for annual wellness visits to improve preventive care documentation.
28. Implement a protocol for screening and managing metabolic syndrome in adult patients.
29. Create a patient-reported outcome measure (PROM) tool for tracking chronic disease self-management progress.
30. Design a workflow to reduce lab result turnaround communication time to patients.

DNP Project Ideas for Mental Health

Best suited for students integrating behavioral health into primary or community care.

1. Implement routine PHQ-9 and GAD-7 screening at every primary care visit and track referral follow-through.
2. Design a warm hand-off protocol between primary care and behavioral health for same-day consults.
3. Create a relapse-prevention plan template for patients discharged after a psychiatric hospitalization.
4. Pilot a group-based cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) skills program for patients with mild-to-moderate anxiety.
5. Build a suicide risk stratification and safety-planning protocol for outpatient behavioral health.
6. Develop a stigma-reduction education program for staff working with patients with substance use disorders.
7. Implement a measurement-based care workflow using standardized outcome tools at every follow-up.

8. Design a telepsychiatry access protocol for rural or transportation-limited patients.
9. Create a peer-support referral pathway for patients newly diagnosed with a mood disorder.
10. Pilot a mindfulness-based stress reduction (MBSR) group for patients with generalized anxiety.
11. Build a medication adherence tracking tool for patients on long-term psychiatric medications.
12. Develop a caregiver education program for families supporting a loved one with a serious mental illness.
13. Implement a trauma-informed care training module for front-desk and clinical staff.
14. Create a screening and referral protocol for postpartum depression at pediatric well-child visits.
15. Design a crisis line follow-up protocol to close the loop after ED discharge for suicidal ideation.
16. Pilot a collaborative care model integrating a behavioral health care manager into primary care.
17. Build a substance use screening (SBIRT) workflow for adolescent primary care visits.
18. Develop an educational toolkit to reduce provider burnout and secondary traumatic stress.
19. Create a discharge follow-up call protocol for patients leaving inpatient psychiatric care within 7 days.
20. Implement a shared decision-making tool for antidepressant selection based on patient preference and side-effect profile.
21. Design a workflow to screen caregivers of chronically ill patients for compassion fatigue.

22. Pilot a digital mental health app referral program and track patient engagement rates.
23. Build a protocol for identifying and supporting first-episode psychosis patients early.
24. Develop a culturally responsive mental health intake process for immigrant and refugee populations.
25. Create a nurse-led anxiety management education series for patients with chronic illness.
26. Implement a school-based referral pathway for adolescents screening positive for depression.
27. Design a relapse-tracking dashboard for patients in outpatient substance use recovery programs.
28. Pilot a family therapy referral protocol for adolescents with co-occurring behavioral health needs.
29. Build an education program for reducing benzodiazepine reliance in anxiety management.
30. Create a workplace mental health resource guide and track staff utilization after rollout.

DNP Project Ideas for Education

Best suited for nurse educators, staff development specialists, and academic-clinical partnership roles.

1. Develop a simulation-based orientation program for new nursing graduates and measure confidence pre/post.
2. Design a competency checklist for preceptors supervising DNP or BSN students in clinical settings.
3. Implement a standardized patient-teach-back protocol for discharge education and track comprehension scores.

4. Create an evidence-based practice journal club to increase staff research literacy.
5. Build a mentorship program pairing new-to-practice nurses with experienced clinicians.
6. Pilot a microlearning module series (5-minute videos) for annual clinical skills competency updates.
7. Design a cultural competency training curriculum for staff serving diverse patient populations.
8. Develop an interprofessional education (IPE) simulation combining nursing, pharmacy, and medical students.
9. Create a health literacy assessment tool for patient education materials and revise accordingly.
10. Implement a debriefing protocol after high-stakes simulations to improve clinical reasoning.
11. Build a self-paced onboarding curriculum for telehealth technology competency among new staff.
12. Design a patient education video series for chronic disease self-management (diabetes, COPD, heart failure).
13. Pilot a flipped-classroom model for continuing education modules on infection control.
14. Create a standardized orientation checklist to reduce new-hire turnover in the first 90 days.
15. Develop a nurse residency program evaluation tool measuring retention and job satisfaction.
16. Implement a just-in-time training module for rarely used but high-risk procedures (e.g., code response).
17. Design an education program on implicit bias for clinical staff and measure attitude shifts.

18. Build a competency validation program for point-of-care ultrasound use among APRNs.
19. Create a preceptor feedback tool to standardize evaluation of student clinical performance.
20. Pilot a gamified learning module to improve staff compliance with hand hygiene protocols.
21. Develop an education series on documentation best practices to reduce charting errors.
22. Design a training program for recognizing and responding to clinical deterioration (early warning signs).
23. Implement a peer-teaching model where senior nursing students mentor incoming cohorts.
24. Create a continuing education tracker dashboard for licensure renewal compliance.
25. Build an onboarding curriculum specifically for nurses transitioning from acute care to primary care.
26. Design a health equity curriculum module integrated into new employee orientation.
27. Pilot a virtual reality simulation for de-escalation training in high-acuity behavioral health units.
28. Create a train-the-trainer program to expand reach of evidence-based practice education.
29. Develop an assessment tool measuring student readiness for independent clinical practice.
30. Implement a structured feedback loop between faculty and clinical preceptors to improve student outcomes.

CRNA DNP Project Ideas

Best suited for CRNA students working in perioperative and anesthesia settings.

1. Implement a standardized preoperative fasting protocol and measure compliance with ERAS guidelines.
2. Design a multimodal, opioid-sparing pain management protocol for post-surgical patients.
3. Create a perioperative handoff checklist to reduce communication errors between OR and PACU.
4. Pilot a preoperative anxiety-reduction protocol combining education and relaxation techniques.
5. Develop a difficult-airway documentation and alert system to improve future case preparation.
6. Implement a malignant hyperthermia readiness drill and measure staff response times.
7. Design a postoperative nausea and vomiting (PONV) risk-stratification and prevention protocol.
8. Create an enhanced recovery after surgery (ERAS) pathway for a specific surgical population.
9. Pilot a regional anesthesia checklist to standardize block technique documentation and safety checks.
10. Build a protocol for perioperative normothermia management to reduce surgical site infections.
11. Develop a pre-anesthesia risk assessment tool incorporating frailty scoring for elderly patients.
12. Implement a structured debrief process after critical intraoperative events.
13. Design an education program on sugammadex use to reduce residual neuromuscular blockade.
14. Create a protocol for anesthesia handoff during shift changes to reduce information loss.

15. Pilot a goal-directed fluid therapy protocol for major abdominal surgery patients.
16. Build a checklist to standardize anesthesia machine and equipment checks before each case.
17. Develop a training module on crisis resource management for anesthesia emergencies.
18. Implement a protocol to reduce unnecessary preoperative testing for low-risk surgical patients.
19. Design a patient education tool explaining anesthesia types and setting expectations before surgery.
20. Create a quality improvement initiative to reduce OR turnover time without compromising safety.
21. Pilot a standardized approach to managing intraoperative hypotension.
22. Build a protocol for safe opioid prescribing at discharge following outpatient surgery.
23. Develop a competency checklist for CRNA students learning ultrasound-guided regional anesthesia.
24. Implement a postoperative delirium screening and prevention protocol for older surgical patients.
25. Design a simulation-based training program for managing local anesthetic systemic toxicity (LAST).
26. Create a data dashboard tracking anesthesia-related adverse events for continuous quality improvement.
27. Pilot a protocol for reducing case cancellations due to incomplete preoperative workups.
28. Build an education program on burnout and fatigue management for anesthesia providers.
29. Develop a standardized informed consent process to improve patient understanding of anesthesia risks.

30. Implement a checklist-driven approach to pediatric anesthesia induction to reduce emergence agitation.

Pediatric DNP Project Ideas

Best suited for pediatric NP students in primary care, hospital, or school-based settings.

1. Implement a standardized developmental screening (ASQ-3) protocol at well-child visits and track referral rates.
2. Design a vaccine hesitancy counseling script for parents and measure changes in immunization uptake.
3. Create a childhood obesity screening and family counseling protocol using BMI percentile tracking.
4. Pilot a school-nurse partnership program for chronic condition management (asthma, diabetes) plans.
5. Build a postpartum depression screening protocol integrated into infant well-child visits.
6. Develop an asthma action plan template and measure ED visit reduction over 6 months.
7. Implement a lead screening protocol for children in high-risk zip codes.
8. Design a telehealth follow-up program for children with chronic conditions to reduce missed visits.
9. Create a bilingual patient education toolkit for common pediatric illnesses.
10. Pilot a structured handoff protocol between NICU and outpatient pediatric follow-up.
11. Build a screening tool to identify adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) at well visits.
12. Develop an education program for parents on safe sleep practices to reduce SIDS risk.

13. Implement a standardized pain assessment tool for pediatric patients across developmental stages.
14. Design a protocol to improve HPV vaccination rates among adolescents.
15. Create a care coordination checklist for children with medical complexity seeing multiple specialists.
16. Pilot a group well-child visit model for infants to increase parent education and support.
17. Build a screening protocol for food insecurity at pediatric visits with direct referral pathways.
18. Develop a transition-of-care checklist for adolescents moving from pediatric to adult primary care.
19. Implement a nurse-led asthma education class for families of newly diagnosed children.
20. Design a protocol for early autism screening (M-CHAT) and streamlined referral to early intervention.
21. Create a dental referral pathway integrated into pediatric primary care visits.
22. Pilot a text-message reminder system to improve well-child visit attendance.
23. Build an education program for foster/kinship caregivers on managing children's health needs.
24. Develop a standardized discharge instruction template for pediatric ED visits.
25. Implement a screen-time counseling protocol for families during annual wellness visits.
26. Design a protocol to identify and support children of parents with substance use disorders.

27. Create a vision and hearing screening compliance tracker for school-age children.
28. Pilot a breastfeeding support protocol integrated into newborn follow-up visits.
29. Build a standardized approach for managing pediatric obesity comorbidities (e.g., prediabetes).
30. Develop an education series for parents on recognizing pediatric mental health warning signs.

PMHNP DNP Project Ideas

Best suited for psychiatric-mental health NP students in outpatient or integrated care settings.

1. Implement measurement-based care using standardized rating scales at every psychiatric follow-up.
2. Design a medication-assisted treatment (MAT) induction protocol for opioid use disorder in outpatient psychiatry.
3. Create a metabolic monitoring protocol for patients on second-generation antipsychotics.
4. Pilot a collaborative care model embedding psychiatric consultation into primary care.
5. Build a suicide safety-planning intervention and track follow-up completion rates.
6. Develop a shared decision-making tool for psychotropic medication selection.
7. Implement a telepsychiatry protocol to expand access for rural or homebound patients.
8. Design a deprescribing protocol for long-term benzodiazepine users.

9. Create a relapse-prevention education program for patients with bipolar disorder.
10. Pilot a group therapy adjunct program for patients with treatment-resistant depression.
11. Build a screening protocol for co-occurring substance use disorders in psychiatric intake.
12. Develop a caregiver education and support program for families of patients with serious mental illness.
13. Implement a structured follow-up protocol after ED discharge for psychiatric crises.
14. Design a medication adherence intervention using pillboxes and reminder apps for patients with schizophrenia.
15. Create a trauma screening protocol integrated into new psychiatric patient intake.
16. Pilot a nurse-led psychoeducation group for newly diagnosed anxiety disorder patients.
17. Build a standardized handoff tool for psychiatric inpatient-to-outpatient care transitions.
18. Develop an early intervention protocol for identifying first-episode psychosis in young adults.
19. Implement a culturally responsive assessment tool for diverse psychiatric patient populations.
20. Design a protocol to reduce polypharmacy in elderly patients with psychiatric comorbidities.
21. Create a digital therapeutics referral pathway and measure patient engagement outcomes.
22. Pilot a perinatal mental health screening and referral protocol for OB practices.

23. Build a competency training module for de-escalation techniques in outpatient psychiatric settings.
24. Develop a protocol for monitoring and managing antidepressant side effects in the first 8 weeks.
25. Implement a wellness recovery action plan (WRAP) program for patients with chronic mental illness.
26. Design a protocol addressing treatment gaps for LGBTQ+ patients in psychiatric care.
27. Create an education program reducing stigma around ADHD diagnosis and treatment in adults.
28. Pilot a structured approach to managing insomnia without long-term hypnotic reliance.
29. Build a data dashboard tracking no-show rates and interventions to improve follow-up adherence.
30. Develop a protocol integrating peer support specialists into outpatient psychiatric care teams.

DNP Project Ideas for Leadership

Best suited for students in nurse executive, administrator, or unit management tracks.

1. Implement a structured nurse residency mentorship program and measure first-year retention rates.
2. Design a shared governance model to increase frontline nurse participation in unit-level decisions.
3. Create a staffing acuity tool to better match nurse-to-patient ratios with patient complexity.
4. Pilot a rounding leadership protocol to improve real-time issue resolution and staff engagement.

5. Build a burnout screening and intervention program for nursing staff using validated tools.
6. Develop a succession planning framework for charge nurse and unit leadership roles.
7. Implement a TeamSTEPPS communication training program and measure handoff error reduction.
8. Design a recognition program tied to quality metrics to boost staff morale and retention.
9. Create a data dashboard tracking key quality indicators for leadership decision-making.
10. Pilot a flexible scheduling model to address staffing shortages and improve work-life balance.
11. Build a conflict resolution training module for charge nurses and unit managers.
12. Develop a diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) action plan with measurable staffing and culture goals.
13. Implement a structured onboarding program for newly promoted nurse leaders.
14. Design a budget-tracking tool for unit managers to better forecast staffing and supply costs.
15. Create a protocol for reducing nurse-sensitive adverse events through leadership rounding.
16. Pilot a peer-review process for evaluating clinical performance and professional growth.
17. Build a change-management framework for implementing new EHR workflows smoothly.
18. Develop a crisis leadership simulation training for unit managers preparing for emergencies.

19. Implement a structured exit-interview process to identify and address root causes of turnover.
20. Design an interprofessional rounding model to improve care coordination and reduce delays.
21. Create a mentorship matching program pairing emerging leaders with senior executives.
22. Pilot a program to reduce moral distress among nursing staff in high-acuity units.
23. Build an evaluation framework measuring the ROI of leadership development programs.
24. Develop a communication protocol for delivering organizational change updates transparently.
25. Implement a nurse-led quality improvement council to sustain frontline-driven initiatives.
26. Design a workload redistribution model to reduce overtime reliance and staff fatigue.
27. Create a leadership competency assessment tool aligned with organizational strategic goals.
28. Pilot a cross-training program to build staffing flexibility across related units.
29. Build a psychological safety assessment and improvement plan for clinical teams.
30. Develop an evaluation tool measuring the impact of leadership rounding on patient satisfaction scores.