

# NUR 440 Final Project Guidelines and Rubric

## Overview

The world of professional nursing practice and health policy is ever-evolving to meet the new dynamics of care needs in every setting. All nurses are accountable and responsible for making decisions that are consistent with safe, competent, and ethical practice on a daily basis. You will face complex issues that impact the delivery of your nursing care.

A professional practice issue is any issue or situation that either compromises client care/service by placing a client at risk, or affects a client's care/service consistent with standards and guidelines, and agency or organization policies or procedures.

For this final project, you will develop an integrative review of literature about a clinical problem or issue of your choosing encountered in practice. The purpose of an integrative review of literature assignment is to assist in preparing a scholarly paper that systematically collects, classifies, and synthesizes research evidence about a clinical topic in order to make evidence-based practice recommendations for a practice change.

The project is divided into **four milestones**, which will be submitted at various points throughout the course to scaffold learning and ensure successful submissions. These milestones will be submitted in **Modules One, Two, Four, and Five**. The final product will be submitted in **Module Six**.

In this assignment, you will demonstrate your mastery of the following course outcomes:

- Assess diverse ways of knowing in nursing for their appropriateness in conducting nursing research and evidence-based nursing practice
- Critique relevant primary research sources for their potential to provide evidence-based solutions to clinical nursing problems
- Employ principles of ethical conduct of research in seeking evidence-based resources that support professional nursing practice changes
- Propose evidence-based recommendations for practice changes that address clinical nursing problems for improving quality of care

## Prompt

Choose a clinical problem or issue, with your instructor's approval, that might be encountered in nursing practice. For this assessment, prepare an integrative review of the literature that will support a recommendation for a practice change to solve or improve the identified clinical problem. In the appropriate range of the research, you should search for and retrieve six current and relevant nursing research studies from primary sources related to your clinical topic of interest (these should be the articles from your annotated bibliography). Follow the assignment guidelines below to complete your integrative review of the research literature you retrieved.

Specifically, your integrative review of the literature should include the following critical elements:

- I. **Introduction**
  - A. What is the **purpose** of the integrative review?

- B. Clearly **articulate** the topic of interest, problem statement, and the research question being studied.
- C. What **variables** of interest (such as concepts, target population, setting, interventions, etc.) will be used to guide the review of literature?
- D. Discuss the **background and significance** of the problem to nursing. Be sure to substantiate your claims with specific examples.

## II. Literature Search Methods

- A. Identify **keywords**, subject headings, and combinations used in the initial search.
- B. Which **databases** were searched?
- C. State the **inclusion/exclusion criteria** for the sample of research reports. In other words, how did you make decisions to narrow the literature review? How was the final sample of research reports determined?

## III. Data Analysis and Critical Appraisal

- A. Analyze the **quality** of each study. In other words, is the problem well formulated and the purpose of the study clear? Is the study designed and executed? Does the study demonstrate understanding of related studies? Do the findings advance knowledge?
- B. Note each study's **strengths and limitations**.
- C. Identify **gaps** in the literature and reflect on why these may exist.
- D. Identify **similarities and inconsistencies** across the studies.

## IV. Synthesis, Interpretation and Presentation of Results

- A. Develop an **evidence table** of your results that addresses the following criteria for each study: report citation, design, method, data analysis, validity, and reliability of the findings. This table should appear in the Appendix of your paper.
- B. Identify **major trends** or patterns in the research reviewed.
- C. Can you make **generalizations** across the studies? Why or why not?
- D. What **conclusions** can you draw? Be sure to use a logical chain of evidence to support them.
- E. Provide a scholarly **summary** of the research reviewed that describes the "state of the science" presented by the research reports.
- F. Make practice **recommendations** based on the research reviewed.

## V. Conclusions

- A. Identify the **limitations** of the literature review.
- B. Discuss the **relevance** of the results of your literature review to clinical practice.
- C. Discuss **implications** of the recommended practice change on future nursing practice and research.

## VI. Abstract: Include an abstract at the beginning of your paper that summarizes each of the following elements:

- A. Aims and objectives
- B. Background
- C. Methods
- D. Results
- E. Conclusions

F. Relevance to clinical practice

VII. **Appendix:** Provide an appendix at the end of your paper that includes the following elements:

G. Search method flow chart

H. The table of evidence that you developed in Step IV.A

## Milestones

Milestone One: Topic Proposal

In **Module One**, you will submit your topic proposal for instructor approval. You will briefly explain your interest and what you hope to gain from the literature. **This milestone will be graded with the Milestone One Rubric.**

Milestone Two: PICO(T) Question

In **Module Two**, you will submit your PICO(T) question, which will guide your research and review of the literature. **This milestone will be graded with the Milestone Two Rubric.**

Milestone Three: Annotated Bibliography

In **Module Four**, you will submit an annotated bibliography to help gather resources for your final project. **This milestone will be graded with the Milestone Three Rubric.**

Milestone Four: Evidence Table

In **Module Five**, you will submit an evidence table to organize your resources and as part of your final project. **This milestone will be graded with the Milestone Four Rubric.**

Final Submission: Integrative Review of the Literature

In **Module Seven**, you will submit your final project. It should be a complete, polished artifact containing **all** of the critical elements of the project and reflect the incorporation of feedback gained throughout the course. **This submission will be graded with the Final Project Rubric.**

## Deliverables

Milestone	Deliverable	Module Due	Grading
One	Topic Proposal	One	Graded separately; Milestone One Rubric
Two	PICO(T) Question	Two	Graded separately; Milestone Two Rubric
Three	Annotated Bibliography	Four	Graded separately; Milestone Three Rubric
Four	Evidence Table	Five	Graded separately; Milestone Four Rubric
	Final Submission: Integrative Review of the Literature	Seven	Graded separately; Final Project Rubric

## Final Project Rubric

**Guidelines for Submission:** Your paper should be a maximum of 12 pages, exclusive of the title page, abstract, references, and appendix, formatted with one-inch margins and 12-point Times New Roman font, and all citations must appear in proper APA format.

Critical Elements	Exemplary (100%)	Proficient (85%)	Needs Improvement (55%)	Not Evident (0%)	Value
<b>Introduction: Purpose</b>	Meets “Proficient” criteria and description is in depth and includes scholarly detail	Accurately describes the purpose of the integrative review	Describes the purpose of the integrative review, but with gaps in accuracy	Does not describe the purpose of integrative review	4.8
<b>Introduction: Article</b>	Meets “Proficient” criteria and uses scholarly, industry language to demonstrate expertise	Clearly articulates topic of interest, problem statement, and research question	Articulates topic of interest, problem statement, or research question, but with gaps in clarity or detail	Does not articulate topic of interest, problem statement, and research question	4.8
<b>Introduction: Variables</b>	Meets “Proficient” criteria and variables identified demonstrate keen insight into the literature review process	Comprehensively identifies variables of interest used to guide the review of literature	Identifies variables of interest used to guide the review of literature, but identification is not comprehensive	Does not identify variables of interest used to guide the review of literature	4.8
<b>Introduction: Background and Significance</b>	Meets “Proficient” criteria and makes nuanced connections between concepts	Discusses the background and significance of the problem to nursing, and substantiates claims with specific examples from research	Discusses the background and significance of the problem to nursing, but does not substantiate claims with specific examples from research	Does not discuss the background and significance of the problem to nursing	4.8
<b>Literature Search Methods: Keywords</b>	Meets “Proficient” criteria and demonstrates keen insight into scholarly search methods	Accurately identifies keywords, subject headings, and combinations used in the initial search	Identifies keywords, subject headings, or combinations used in the initial search, but with gaps in accuracy or detail	Does not identify keywords, subject headings, and combinations used in the initial search	4.3
<b>Literature Search Methods: Databases</b>	Meets “Proficient” criteria and databases identified demonstrate keen insight into the literature review process	Identifies databases appropriate to the issue that were used in the initial search	Identifies databases that were used in the initial search, but databases are not appropriate to the issue	Does not identify databases that were used in the initial search	4.3
<b>Literature Search Methods: Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria</b>	Meets “Proficient” criteria and description is in depth and includes scholarly detail	Describes inclusion and exclusion criteria appropriate to the issue for the sample of research reports	Describes inclusion and exclusion criteria for the sample of research reports, but criteria are not appropriate to the issue	Does not describe inclusion and exclusion criteria for the sample of research reports	4.8
<b>Analysis and Appraisal Quality</b>	Meets “Proficient” criteria and analysis is exceptionally well informed and well supported	Accurately analyzes the quality of each study	Analyzes study quality, but with gaps in accuracy or detail	Does not analyze the quality of each study	4.3

<b>Analysis and Appraisal: Strengths and Limitations</b>	Meets “Proficient” criteria and demonstrates novel, scholarly insight into research study characteristics	Accurately identifies each study’s strengths and limitations	Identifies study strengths and limitations, but with gaps in accuracy or detail	Does not identify each study’s strengths and limitations	4.3
<b>Analysis and Appraisal: Gaps</b>	Meets “Proficient” criteria and draws nuanced connections between concepts	Accurately identifies gaps in literature and reflects on why they may exist	Inaccurately identifies gaps in literature, or does not reflect on why they may exist	Does not identify gaps in literature	4.3
<b>Analysis and Appraisal: Similarities and Inconsistencies</b>	Meets “Proficient” criteria and demonstrates novel, scholarly insight into research study characteristics	Accurately identifies similarities and differences across the studies	Identifies similarities or differences across the studies but with gaps in accuracy or detail	Does not identify similarities and differences across the studies	4.3
<b>Results: Evidence Table</b>	Meets “Proficient” criteria and presentation of data is exceptionally clear and logical	Develops a comprehensive evidence table	Develops an evidence table, but with gaps in detail	Does not develop an evidence table	4.8
<b>Results: Major Trends</b>	Meets “Proficient” criteria and draws nuanced connections between concepts	Accurately identifies major trends or patterns in the research	Identifies trends or patterns in the research, but with gaps in accuracy	Does not identify trends or patterns in the research	4.3
<b>Results: Generalizations</b>	Meets “Proficient” criteria and draws nuanced connections between concepts	Accurately determines if generalizations can be made across studies, and justifies position	Inaccurately determines if generalizations can be made across studies, or does not justify position	Does not determine if generalizations can be made across studies	3.5
<b>Results: Conclusions</b>	Meets “Proficient” criteria and draws nuanced connections between concepts	Explains appropriate conclusions that can be drawn, and uses a logical chain of evidence to support them	Explains conclusions that can be drawn, but they are not appropriate, or does not use a logical chain of evidence to support them	Does not explain conclusions that can be drawn	4.8
<b>Results: Summary</b>	Meets “Proficient” criteria and articulation is exceptionally clear and logical	Provides a scholarly summary of research that describes the “state of the science” presented by the research reports	Provides a summary of the research that is not scholarly, or does not describe the “state of the science” presented by the research reports	Does not provide a summary of the research	4.8
<b>Results: Recommendations</b>	Meets “Proficient” criteria and provides detailed examples of how the recommendation(s) will fill the gaps in practice	Makes appropriate practice change recommendation(s) based on the research reviewed	Makes practice change recommendation(s) that are not appropriate, or are not based on the research reviewed	Does not make practice change recommendation(s)	4.8
<b>Conclusions: Limitations</b>	Meets “Proficient” criteria and demonstrates novel, scholarly insight into the literature review process	Accurately identifies limitations of the literature review	Identifies limitations of the literature review, but with gaps in accuracy or clarity	Does not identify limitations of the literature review	4.8

<b>Conclusions: Relevance</b>	Meets “Proficient” criteria and draws nuanced connections between concepts	Discusses the relevance of the results of literature review to clinical practice	Discusses the relevance of the results of literature review to clinical practice, but with gaps in detail or clarity	Does not discuss the relevance of the results of literature review to clinical practice	4.8
<b>Conclusions: Implications</b>	Meets “Proficient” criteria and draws nuanced connections between concepts	Discusses implications of the recommended practice change on future nursing practice and research	Discusses implications of the recommended practice change on future nursing practice or research, but with gaps in detail	Does not discuss implications of the recommended practice change on future nursing practice or research	4.8
<b>Abstract</b>	Meets “Proficient” criteria and uses scholarly, industry language to demonstrate expertise	Includes a comprehensive abstract	Includes an abstract, but with gaps in detail	Does not include an abstract	4.8
<b>Appendix</b>	Meets “Proficient” criteria and presentation of data is exceptionally clear and logical	Provides a comprehensive appendix	Provides an appendix, but with gaps in detail	Does not provide an appendix	2
<b>Articulation of Response</b>	Submission is free of errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, and organization and is presented in a professional and easy-to-read format	Submission has no major errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization	Submission has major errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization that negatively impact readability and articulation of main ideas	Submission has critical errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization that prevent understanding of ideas	2
<b>Earned Total</b>					<b>100%</b>

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<b>Conclusions: Relevance</b>	Meets “Proficient” criteria and draws nuanced connections between concepts	Discusses the relevance of the results of literature review to clinical practice	Discusses the relevance of the results of literature review to clinical practice, but with gaps in detail or clarity	Does not discuss the relevance of the results of literature review to clinical practice	4.8
<b>Conclusions: Implications</b>	Meets “Proficient” criteria and draws nuanced connections between concepts	Discusses implications of the recommended practice change on future nursing practice and research	Discusses implications of the recommended practice change on future nursing practice or research, but with gaps in detail	Does not discuss implications of the recommended practice change on future nursing practice or research	4.8
<b>Abstract</b>	Meets “Proficient” criteria and uses scholarly, industry language to demonstrate expertise	Includes a comprehensive abstract	Includes an abstract, but with gaps in detail	Does not include an abstract	4.8
<b>Appendix</b>	Meets “Proficient” criteria and presentation of data is exceptionally clear and logical	Provides a comprehensive appendix	Provides an appendix, but with gaps in detail	Does not provide an appendix	2
<b>Articulation of Response</b>	Submission is free of errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, and organization and is presented in a professional and easy-to-read format	Submission has no major errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization	Submission has major errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization that negatively impact readability and articulation of main ideas	Submission has critical errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization that prevent understanding of ideas	2
<b>Earned Total</b>					<b>100%</b>