

**APPENDIX D**  
**USC College of Nursing**  
**RESEARCH UTILIZATION PROJECT GUIDELINES**  
*Revisions Approved by Curricular Committee 5/8/05*

**INTRODUCTION**

The DNP student is required to conduct a research utilization project under the supervision of a research utilization committee while enrolled in NURS 821 for a minimum of 6 credit hours which may be completed over a period of two or more semesters. Enrollment in NURS 821 may begin upon completion of NURS 790 and 793; however, part of the credit hours must be completed concurrently with enrollment in NURS 820 as final requirements of the DNP program. Enrollment in more than 6 credit hours may occur; however, only 6 credit hours will be applied toward the DNP degree.

**APPROVAL OF THE RESEARCH UTILIZATION PROJECT COMMITTEE AND RESEARCH PROJECT TOPIC**

The Department Chair and Graduate Director of the College of Nursing shall approve the membership of the committee (**See RUPG Attachment 1**). After the research utilization project committee has been selected, and there is acceptance of the topic and proposal, the student must complete the Approval of Research Utilization Project Proposal Committee form (**See RUPG Attachment 2**), which is to be signed by the committee members, Chair of the Faculty, Graduate Director of the College of Nursing and the student's advisor.

**IMPLEMENTATION AND DOCUMENTATION OF THE RESEARCH UTILIZATION PROPOSAL**

The research utilization proposal is to be implemented in the appropriate clinical setting which may be the same site in which the leadership residency is practiced. Appropriate IRB (Institutional review board) approval(s) must be obtained prior to implementation. The written project must conform to the USC thesis guidelines and manuscript submission criteria as indicated in the NURS 821 course syllabus.

**GUIDELINES FOR PRESENTATION OF RESEARCH UTILIZATION PROJECT**

In coordination with the student's research utilization committee chair, the student will select an appropriate professional and/or clinical forum for the presentation of findings from the clinical research utilization project. The presentation(s) or oral defense will be scheduled toward the end of the semester in which the student completes NURS 821 no less than thirty days before the date on which the candidate expects to receive the DNP degree. Three signed copies of the research utilization project must be filed with the Dean of the Graduate School at least twenty days prior to the date on which the degree is to be conferred.

**EVALUATION OF RESEARCH UTILIZATION PREPARATION**

The student's research utilization committee will evaluate the student's achievement of the course objectives or satisfactory progress toward the course objectives for each term

in which the student enrolls for NURS 821 and assign a grade of “T” or “U” for the term. Two grades of U render the student ineligible to continue in the program.

### ***SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF RESEARCH UTILIZATION PROJECT***

When the Committee is in agreement that the research utilization project is complete, the Research Utilization Committee signs the "Successful Completion of Research Utilization Project" form (**See RUPG Attachment 3**). The student is responsible for completing the Research Utilization Project form and submitting it to the Office of Student Services which notifies the Graduate School of the student’s achievement.

### ***COMMITTEE CHANGES AND/OR CHANGES IN THE RESEARCH UTILIZATION PROJECT PLAN***

On occasion, students may find themselves in need of a new committee member because of faculty illness or because faculty have left their position at the University. In most cases, faculty who leaves the University will not be able to continue on the committee. When the new committee member is the chairperson, there may be particular difficulties for the students since the new chairperson may have different expectations of the research utilization project. If committee replacements become necessary, the student will be required to file a new Approval of Committee for Research Utilization Project form (**RUPG Attachment 1**) signed by the new committee members and submitted for all the required college signatures.

### ***CONFLICTS BETWEEN THE STUDENT AND THE COMMITTEE***

Students and faculty are normally expected to resolve conflicts within the Committee. In the event of serious differences within the Committee, grievance channels are always open to students and/or committee members; however, a joint conference of the student and the committee may resolve differences of opinion. If necessary to reach a positive outcome, the student may need to name a new committee and begin again on the research utilization project.





**RUPG ATTACHMENT 2**  
**University of South Carolina**  
**College of Nursing**

**APPROVAL OF RESEARCH UTILIZATION PROJECT PROPOSAL**

Name of Principal Investigator:

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone

\_\_\_\_\_

Address

\_\_\_\_\_

Graduate Major

\_\_\_\_\_

Research Utilization Project Topic:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Approvals:

\_\_\_\_\_

Research Utilization Project Chairperson's Signature

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Committee Member  
Date

Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Committee Member

*Additional Approvals:*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Chair of the Faculty

Date

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Graduate Director

Date

Submit form to the Office of Student Services for student file.

**RUPG Attachment 3**

**Successful Completion of Research Utilization Project**

Date:

To: Christine Ebert  
Dean, Graduate School

Peggy Hewlett  
Dean, College of Nursing

From: JoAnne Herman  
Graduate Director, College of Nursing

Re: Research Utilization Project

This is to confirm that \_\_\_\_\_  
**Student Name SS#**

has successfully completed the Research Utilization Project entitled:

Signatures of Research Utilization Committee Members:

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Chair Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Member Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Member Date**  
**(if 3d member applicable)**

Copy: Student file