# **Logo, UofSC College of Nursing. Description automatically generated**

# **Procedure for DNP FINAL/PROJECT Defense**

1. Final/Project defense must be completed by the deadline established by the College of Nursing. Typically, this is one week before the end classes each semester.

2. In consultation with Program Directors, the Student Affairs team will identify potential dates for Final/Project Defenses for the next semester. Dates will be shared with students and faculty and posted in the Blackboard Virtual Communities.

3. After the DNP Project Committee indicates the student is ready to defend, the student completes a doodle poll to schedule the Final/Project Defense date. The program advisor reserves the room for the defense, or schedules the meeting via Zoom, and submits an IT support request to include laptop, clicker (if needed).

4. The student submits the Project Title to the DNP committee chair for approval. Once approved, student forwards the title to the program advisor at least 2 ½ weeks prior to the final defense date. The advisor will send the student defense date, title, committee chair name and meeting details to the appropriate person in the CON to be included as an announcement in the weekly College of Nursing communications.

5. Attendees at the DNP Final/Project Defense include: the student; DNP Project Committee; a College of Nursing Administrator (a Program Director for one of the specialty programs or the Associate Dean for Academics, or their designee); faculty; the University family; and other invited guests. All committee members must receive the final project paper (APA format required) at least 2 weeks before the final defense. All committee members must be present for the final defense, either in person or via remote access. Student must inform the program advisor at least 1 week prior to the defense if any members will not be present in person and provide the email address and name to the program advisor.

6. Student presents a 20-25-minute PowerPoint presentation describing the DNP Project and responds to questions from the audience.

7. The DNP Project Committee Chair closes the discussion and asks the audience to leave (if in person, or to log off if by Zoom. The defense process continues with the student and their DNP Project Committee.

8. When questioning is completed, the student is asked to leave the room (if in person, or will be moved to a waiting room if via Zoom) while the Committee determines if the student has successfully defended the DNP project and met project requirements. After the committee concludes their conference, the student is invited back to the room or is returned to the zoom meeting from the waiting room. The DNP Project Committee tells the student the decision.

9. If the student is successful, the program advisor submits the Dissertation Signature and Approval Form to the DNP Project committee for signature and then forwards to Graduate School. If unsuccessful, the student will receive a grade of U for the semester and repeat the process above.