

Policy on Doctoral Projects Related to Practice Documents

Background

Students enrolled in doctoral nurse anesthesia educational programs have approached the Practice Committee and Professional Practice staff to express interest in developing a doctoral (e.g., DNP, DNAP, PhD) project, with the intent to update an existing or develop a new Professional Practice document.

Purpose

To describe the process which doctoral students can take to present their quality improvement project, findings, and scholarly work to the Practice Committee.

To define the impact that doctoral students' projects have on the development and update of Professional Practice documents.

Process

If a doctoral student would like to conduct a quality improvement or other project and complete their scholarly work based on a Professional Practice document topic or recommend a new document, the student must work with their faculty advisor and/or advisory committee and follow the procedures and requirements as outlined by their nurse anesthesia educational program.

If the student is making a request to complete their scholarly work based on a Professional Practice document topic or recommend a new document, the topic and project need to be determined, evaluated, and planned by the student and their faculty advisor. The student should initially contact the AANA Sr. Director of Education and Practice, to discuss any potential involvement of the Practice Committee. It is at the Sr. Director of Education and

Practice and/or Practice Committee's discretion on whether to engage with the student in their project.

Students should not rely on direct involvement of the AANA Practice Committee for completion of their project. The role of the Practice Committee in this process is only as consultants to the AANA Professional Practice Division. Practice Committee members will not serve as academic advisors or project chairs and do not replace the role of a student's academic faculty. Their role does not involve review, evaluation, or approval of various phases of the project; providing technical, content, or methodological expertise; participation in any project team meetings; or evaluation of any final products (e.g., manuscripts, oral presentations, project portfolios). This list is not all encompassing.

The Practice Committee has a defined scope of work for each year. Therefore, the student's timeline and final work product should be independent of any document that exists or is proposed to be developed by the Practice Committee. Once a student has completed their work, they may be offered the opportunity to present their findings to the Practice Committee.

The Practice Committee makes recommendations for documents for the following fiscal year, as detailed in the Policy on Evidence-based Process for Practice-related Documents. The student's presentation and project may be considered for future committee work, although it is not guaranteed to be integrated into existing or developed into new documents. The timeframe for changes to be made, if applicable, is based on the AANA's project prioritization process.

Students are encouraged to publish their scholarly work in appropriate journals and the publications can be reviewed and cited in future Professional Practice document revisions or development, as applicable.