



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
MEDICAL CENTER

PhD Handbook

2011 - 2012

This PhD Program Advisement Handbook has been compiled to clarify Graduate College and College of Nursing requirements for the PhD Program. Policies, procedures, requirements herein are subject to change and may be superseded by action of the Doctoral Affairs Council or the Graduate Affairs Committee of the College of Nursing, or the Graduate College.



Please feel free to contact us for any questions you may have:

Ann M. Berger, PhD, APRN, AOCNS, FAAN

Professor and Dorothy Hodges Olson Endowed Chair in Nursing
Advanced Practice Nurse - Oncology

Director, PhD Program

(402) 559-4957 - office

(402) 559-8818 - FAX

aberger@unmc.edu

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MISSION AND VISION STATEMENT¹

The mission of the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing is "to improve the health of Nebraska through premier nursing education programs, innovative research, the highest quality patient care, and service to underserved populations." The goals of the College of Nursing reflect the mission statement and are embedded in the College of Nursing vision statement:

- Deliver state of the art nursing education that blends traditional learning approaches with emerging learning technologies;
- Offer health care and health systems solutions grounded in leading-edge nursing science;
- Promote health, reduce the burden of illness, and lessen health disparities in Nebraska and beyond.

PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT²

The philosophy statement of the College of Nursing is consistent with the overall role and mission of the University of Nebraska Medical Center, which emphasizes education, research, patient care and outreach to underserved populations. This philosophy of nursing and nursing education is embedded in a milieu of commitment to quality of work and learning environments, respect for diversity, and an appreciation of scientific inquiry.

HUMAN BEINGS

Clients, students, faculty, and co-workers are viewed as unique human beings who are intrinsically valued and worthy of respect. Human beings are embedded in a cultural milieu. They have inherent rights and reciprocal responsibilities. Humans are in the process of constantly evolving and have potential for growth.

ENVIRONMENT

The environment consists of economic, social, cultural, legal, ethical, technological, ecological, and political forces which interact at local, state, regional, national, and global levels. The environment influences health and how health care is organized and implemented. Human beings interact with, influence, modify, and adapt to the environment. Nursing practice, education, and research are affected by and affect the environment. Environmental forces at all geopolitical levels influence the health care system.

HEALTH

Health is a dynamic, multidimensional process of developing which is influenced by biological factors, individual perceptions, cultural norms, and environmental forces. It is an important part of human experience and quality of life. Health affects and is affected by human need, potential, behavior and choice. The aim of health care is achievement of a fuller measure of health for all members of society. Achievement of this goal requires an integrated approach and partnerships between clients, health care professionals and the community. This approach includes promoting wellness and positive lifestyle; facilitating coping; preventing disease, dysfunction, and/or injury; and caring for those who are experiencing health problems.

All members of society have a right to access health care.

NURSING

Nursing is a scholarly practice discipline which integrates both art and science in the care of human beings as individuals and aggregates. The goal of nursing is to promote client health using knowledge, clinical judgment, skills, experience, and leadership. Nursing involves an investment of self in the establishment of reciprocal trusting relationships with clients and health team members. Nurses have a responsibility for ethical awareness in the social, political, legal, ecological, and economic arenas to serve as advocates for client health. The body of nursing knowledge is both experientially and scientifically developed and validated through nursing research and practice.

NURSING EDUCATION

Nursing is practiced in a health care environment characterized by cultural diversity and rapid advances in knowledge and technology that challenge learned rules, values, and beliefs. Nursing education facilitates development of the critical thinking and creative problem solving skills and the personal and professional integrity essential for practicing nurses to continuously learn, question, and refine the knowledge, values, and beliefs that inform their practice. Nursing education fosters multiple ways of knowing in the development of nursing knowledge, including scientific or empirical knowing, ethical knowing, personal knowing, aesthetic knowing, and others. Thus, the educational process includes the interactions that occur between teachers, students, health team members and clients that promote the development in students of clinical reasoning; psychomotor, communication and technology skills; ethical reasoning; advocacy; and personal and professional integrity.

Both teachers and students are responsible for actively engaging as partners in learning and for acquiring the attitudes and skills of life-long expert learners. The different knowledge, skills, and experiences of individual students and faculty are acknowledged in developing learning activities. The practice of teaching in nursing is recognized as a scholarly endeavor.

Professional nursing education at the baccalaureate level prepares graduates for practice as beginning nurse generalists. Master's education in nursing prepares nurses for advanced practice roles (nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, and health systems nurse specialists). Doctoral education in nursing prepares nurses to assume leadership in the development of nursing knowledge.

¹ Approved: 02/2009

² Approved: 02/2009

PURPOSE, OUTCOMES, AND COMPETENCIES³

PURPOSE

The purpose of the doctoral program is to prepare nurse scientists to be transformational leaders in the discovery of knowledge to improve health and advance the profession of nursing. Nurse scientists improve the health of human beings through the development, testing, and dissemination of nursing science. The doctoral program is committed to quality graduate education and to a learning environment that prepares graduates for leadership roles in research, education, practice, policy, and academic administration.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Graduates of the doctor of philosophy in nursing program will be prepared to:

1. Master in-depth theoretical and research knowledge in an area of emphasis.
2. Generate and test knowledge for patient care, health systems, or nursing education.
3. Collaborate with interdisciplinary colleagues to conduct team science.
4. Utilize professional judgment in the conduct of research with regard to legal, ethical, political, cultural, and economic implications.
5. Analyze the evolution of nursing science and the implications for the roles and responsibilities of nurse scholars.
6. Demonstrate leadership in education, professional organizations, and various professional and public groups.
7. Communicate research findings, as well as their implications for policy, nursing practice, and the profession, to lay and professional audiences.

³ Approved 01/05/2011 by Doctoral Affairs Council

AREAS OF RESEARCH EMPHASIS⁴

The program is proud of its strengths in the broad areas of health promotion, illness management, health systems and quality, nursing education, health policy, health disparities, and rural populations.

The UNMC College of Nursing has faculty ready to serve on dissertation committees that focus on the following areas:

- Promoting and managing health in at-risk populations and in chronic illness
- Health Systems and Quality (leadership, policy, administration)
- Nursing Education (undergraduate and graduate)

¹ Approved: 06/2009

PHD STUDENT RESEARCH SEMINAR REQUIREMENTS

The Graduate College requires that all graduate students attend regular department research seminars. Research seminars, as defined by the College of Nursing, are interactive seminars in which theory, research, methods, instruments, in a substantive domain and other topics related to the conduct of research are reported and discussed. Examples of opportunities for seminar attendance by College of Nursing Doctoral students include:

1. Regularly advertised and special seminars arranged by the Graduate Program
2. Research Interest Groups
3. Seminars in other Departments of the UNMC campus
4. Fall or Spring Research Forums or Colloquia sponsored by the CON
5. Regional, National or International meetings (e.g. Midwest Nursing Research Society)

The Chair of the Supervisory Committee is responsible for approving attendance at regional, national or international meetings, assuring that the intent of the meeting in content and opportunity for interactive participation, are met.

Regular Attendance

Regular attendance is defined as attendance of 8 seminars per semester (Fall/Spring) for Full-time and 4 seminars per semester for part-time students. Seminars attendance is required from the first semester in the program through the semester of dissertation completion and defense.

Students receive credit for attendance at one seminar for each session attended. A maximum of 4 seminars may be credited in one semester for attendance at regional, national or International meetings. When a student has difficulty being present at seminars, not more than one half of the seminars may be viewed on tape.

Documentation of attendance

Students will keep a record of all seminars attended. The record will be appended to the portfolio each year. A list of the seminars attended will also be given to the Chair of the Supervisory Committee each semester. Students will file seminar attendance, along with their portfolio, on December 15th of each academic year. One copy of the portfolio is given to the College of Nursing Student Services Department for filing in the student records. One copy is given to the advisor for review.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PHD PROGRAM – 2009 AND PRIOR ACADEMIC YEARS⁵

See the end of this document

⁵ Updated:7/8/2011 by Ann Berger

PHD COURSES AND WHEN THEY ARE OFFERED

Summer	Fall	Spring	Continuous
NRSG 910 Health-Related Instrument Construction and Evaluation (E) (Starting 2012 even years)	NRSG 914 Self Management in Chronic Illnesses (E) (Starting Fall 2012 even years)	NRSG 909 Health Care Policy (C) (Starting Spring 2012 every year)	NRSG 916 Special Topics in the Management of Individual and Family Responses to Acute and Chronic Illnesses (I)
NRSG 930 Socialization to the Scholarly Role (C) (Started 2010 every year)	NRSG 928 Translational & Interdisciplinary Outcomes Research (E) (Starting Fall 2013 odd years)	NRSG 923 Rural Health Research: Considerations & Implications (E) (Starting Spring 2013 odd years)	NRSG 917 Special Topics in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (I)
NRSG 931 Transformational Leadership Amid Health Care Crisis and Reform: Bold Ideas, New Results, and Lasting Change (C) (Started 2010 every year)	NRSG 932 Philosophy of Science (C) (Started 2010 every year)	NRSG 934 Qualitative Research Methods (C) (Started 2011 every year)	NRSG 918 Special Topics in Health Systems (I)
NRSG 935 Quantitative Research Methods (C) (Started 2011 every year)	NRSG 933 Theory Development in Nursing & Health Sciences (C) (Starting 2010 every year)	NRSG 936 Research Practicum (C) (Starting Spring 2012 every year)	NRSG 970 Doctoral Research other than Dissertation (C) (For students admitted 2009 & prior years)
	NRSG 937 Proposal Development & Grant Administration (C) (Starting Fall 2011 every year)		NRSG 998 Doctoral Seminar (C)
(C) = Core Course, (E) = Elective Course, (I) = Independent Study			NRSG 999 Doctoral Dissertation (C)

REQUIREMENTS FOR PHD PROGRAM - 2011

DOCTORAL CURRICULUM REQUIRED COURSEWORK⁶

Courses	Credits
1 - Nursing Core (9 courses) 1. NRS 909 Health Care Policy 2. NRS 930 Socialization to the Scholarly Role 3. NRS 931 Transformational Leadership Amid Health Care Crisis and Reform: Bold Ideas, New Results, and Lasting 4. NRS 932 Philosophy of Science 5. NRS 933 Theory Development in Nursing & Health Sciences 6. NRS 934 Qualitative Research Methods 7. NRS 935 Quantitative Research Methods 8. NRS 936 Research Practicum 9. NRS 937 Proposal Development & Grand Administration	27
2 - Statistics Two doctoral level courses of 806 and 808 series (require statistics through multi-variate analysis) BIOS806 Biostatistics I & BIOS808 Biostatistics II, both offered through the College of Public Health (COPH)	6
3 - Cognates (4 courses) Courses from other disciplines and/or nursing in areas of concentration of study	12
Dissertation credits – NRS 999	15 (minimum)
Dissertation Seminar – NRS 998 Every semester between completion of coursework and final defense	2-3
Total credits	63 +

⁶ Approved: 05/17/2010 by the Doctoral Affairs Council

EXEMPLAR OF FULL-TIME MSN –PHD PROGRAM OF STUDIES⁷

Exemplar of full-time (FT) MSN-PhD Program of Study		
Summer 2011 (Year 1)		6/30/11
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 930	Socialization to the Scholarly Role	3
NRSG 931	Transformational Leadership Amid Health Care Crisis and Reform: Bold Ideas, New Results, and Lasting Change	3
		Subtotal
		6 (6)
Fall 2011		
Course #	Title	Credits
BIOS 806	Biostatistics I	3
NRSG 932	Philosophy of Science	3
NRSG 933	Theory Development in Nursing & Health Sciences	3
		Subtotal
		9 (15)
Spring 2012		
Course #	Title	Credits
BIOS 808	Biostatistics II	3
NRSG 934	Qualitative Research Methods	3
	Cognate #1	3
		Subtotal
		9 (24)
Summer 2012 (Year 2)		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 935	Quantitative Research Methods	3
	Cognate #2	3
		Subtotal
		6 (30)
Fall 2012		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 937	Proposal Development & Management	3
	Cognate #3	3
		Subtotal
		6 (36)
Spring 2013		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 909	Health Care Policy	3
NRSG 936	Research Practicum	3
	Cognate #4	3
		Subtotal
		9 (45)
Summer 2013 (Year 3)		
Course #	Title	Credits
	Comprehensive Exam	
NRSG 999	Doctoral Dissertation	1
		Subtotal
		1 (46)
Fall 2013		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 998	Doctoral Seminar	1
NRSG 999	Doctoral Dissertation	8
		Subtotal
		9 (55)

Spring 2014		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 998	Doctoral Seminar	1
NRSG 999	Doctoral Dissertation	7
Subtotal		8 (63)
Summer 2014		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 999	Doctoral Dissertation (<i>if needed</i>)	1-3
Total		63+

⁷ Although a full-time student could complete the program in 3 years, the actual length of the program will vary depending on the student's substantive area, the coursework needed to support the student's program of study, and the scope of the dissertation

EXEMPLAR OF FULL-TIME BSN –PHD PROGRAM OF STUDIES⁸

Exemplar Plan of Study Adult/BSN-PhD with – Full Clinical Req for APRN Certification		
Fall 2011 (Year 1)		6/30/11
Course #	Title	Credits
BIOS 806	Biostatistics I	3
NRSG 818	Pathophysiology	3
NRSG 811	Adult Health & Risk Management Clinical Practicum	2
NRSG 833	Advance Assessment Across the Life Span	3
Subtotal		11 (11)
Spring 2012		
Course #	Title	Credits
BIOS 808	Biostatistics II	3
NRSG 812	Management of Adult Clients with Health Problems I	3
NRSG 953/956	Clinical Practicum	3
NRSG 883	Applied Pharmacology for Advanced Practice Nurses	3
Subtotal		12 (23)
Summer 2012		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 930	Socialization to the Scholarly Role	3
NRSG 931	Transformational Leadership Amid Health Care Crisis and Reform: Bold Ideas, New Results, and Lasting Change	3
Subtotal		6 (29)
Fall 2012 (Year 2)		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 814	Management of Adult Clients with Health Problems II	2
NRSG 954/957	Clinical Practicum	3
NRSG 932	Philosophy of Science	3
NRSG 933	Theory Development in Nursing & Health Sciences	3
Subtotal		11 (40)
Spring 2013		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 955/958	Clinical Practicum	4
NRSG 934	Qualitative Research Methods	3
Subtotal		10 (47)
Summer 2013		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 935	Quantitative Research Methods	3
	Cognate #1	3
Subtotal		6 (53)
Fall 2013 (Year 3)		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 937	Proposal Development & Management	3
	Cognate #2	3
	Cognate #3	3

		Subtotal	9 (62)
Spring 2014			
Course #	Title	Credits	
NRSG 909	Health Care Policy	3	
NRSG 936	Research Practicum	3	
	Cognate #4	3	
		Subtotal	9 (71)
Summer 2014			
Course #	Title	Credits	
	Comprehensive Exam		
		Subtotal	0 (71)
Fall 2014 (Year 4)			
Course #	Title	Credits	
NRSG 998	Doctoral Seminar	1	
NRSG 999	Doctoral Dissertation	8	
		Subtotal	9 (80)
Spring 2015			
Course #	Title	Credits	
NRSG 998	Doctoral Seminar	1	
NRSG 999	Doctoral Dissertation	7	
		Subtotal	8 (88)
		Total Credits	88

⁸ Although a full-time student could complete the program in 4 years, the actual length of the program will vary depending on the student's substantive area, the coursework needed to support the student's program of study, and the scope of the dissertation. Also, the number of clinical hours earned in the MSN program

EXEMPLAR OF PART-TIME MSN – PHD PROGRAM OF STUDIES⁹

Exemplar of part-time (PT) MSN-PhD Program of Study		
Summer 2011 (Year 1)		
6/30/11		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 930	Socialization to the Scholarly Role	3
NRSG 931	Transformational Leadership Amid Health Care Crisis and Reform: Bold Ideas, New Results, and Lasting Change	3
Subtotal		6 (6)
Fall 2011		
Course #	Title	Credits
BIOS 806	Biostatistics I	3
NRSG 932	Philosophy of Science	3
Subtotal		6 (12)
Spring 2012		
Course #	Title	Credits
BIOS 808	Biostatistics II	3
NRSG 934	Qualitative Research Methods	3
Subtotal		6 (18)
Summer 2012 (Year 2)		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 935	Quantitative Research Methods	3
	Cognate #1	3
Subtotal		6 (24)
Fall 2012		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 933	Theory Development in Nursing & Health Sciences	3
	Cognate #2	3
Subtotal		6 (30)
Spring 2013		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 909	Health Care Policy	3
	Cognate #3	3
Subtotal		6 (36)
Summer 2013 (Year 3)		
Course #	Title	Credits
	Cognate #4	3
Subtotal		3 (39)
Fall 2013		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 937	Proposal Development & Management	3
Subtotal		3 (42)
Spring 2014		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 936	Research Practicum	3
Subtotal		3 (45)
Summer 2014 (Year 4)		

Course #	Title	Credits
	Comprehensive Exam	
NRSG 999	Doctoral Dissertation	3
Subtotal		3 (48)
Fall 2014		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 998	Doctoral Seminar	1
NRSG 999	Doctoral Dissertation	6
Subtotal		7 (55)
Spring 2015		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 998	Doctoral Seminar	1
NRSG 999	Doctoral Dissertation	6
Subtotal		7 (62)
Summer 2015 (Year 5)		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 999	Doctoral Dissertation (<i>if needed</i>)	1 - 3
Total		63 - 66

⁹ Although a part-time student could complete the program in 4 years, the actual length of the program will vary depending on the student's substantive area, the coursework needed to support the student's program of study, and the scope of the dissertation

HRSA NURSE EDUCATOR TRAINING¹⁰

COURSE	TITLE	CREDITS
NRSG 858	Designing and Evaluating Learner-Centered Curricula	3
NRSG 859	Teaching and Learning Strategies	3
NRSG 860	Using Technology to Enhance Teaching and Learning Strategies	3
NRSG 861	Implementation of the Educator Role: Practicum	3

Course offering schedule

NRSG		858	859	860	861
2011	Summer			X	X
	Fall	X	X		X
2012	Spring		X		X
	Summer			X	X
	Fall	X			X
2013	Spring		X		X
	Summer			X	X
	Fall	X			X

¹⁰ Updated: July 2011 S. Kotcherlakota

GRADUATE COLLEGE OF NURSING COURSE SCHEDULE FOR FALL 2011¹¹

O=Omaha, K=Kearney, S=Scottsbluff, L=Lincoln, N=Norfolk

Courses offered this semester:

http://www.unmc.edu/nursing/docs/Fall_2011_Graduate_Schedule.pdf

¹¹ Revised: 7/1/11 Dani Baxter

COMPREHENSIVE EXAM¹²

PURPOSE

The Comprehensive Examination, a doctoral program requirement, is a demonstration of the student's depth and breadth of understanding in his/her special field of knowledge.

PLANNING FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

1. The advisor initiates planning for the Comprehensive Examination near the end of the student's course work.
2. The UNMC Office of Graduate Studies' procedures for the Comprehensive Examination includes that it must be taken at least seven months before the final oral dissertation examination.
3. When planning the comprehensive examination documents, the student and advisor need to negotiate the format he/she plans to use for the dissertation proposal documents. The dissertation proposal can be written either in a traditional three chapter format, or in a manuscript format (minimum of two).
4. The advisor and student discuss a time line for the examination, including plans for communicating with the supervisory committee to agree upon the documents to prepare, the time line of dates for the examination, and the oral portion of the examination.
5. If indicated, the student and advisor can suggest alternative comprehensive examination formats to the committee. These suggestions should emerge from advisor/student discussions. The committee may select one of these options or create another option.

FORMAT OF WRITTEN AND ORAL COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

1. For the written portion of the examination, the student prepares documents demonstrating current content on the background/significance of the topic, a review of the literature on the major concepts to be studied, and detailed methods for the proposed dissertation study.
2. The dissertation advisor reviews the documents and decides whether or not it is ready to be distributed to the dissertation committee members. After distribution, the committee is given two week to review the document(s) to determine if the student's written work is at the level to proceed with the oral exam. Within the same two weeks after distribution, the advisor and committee members also develop three synthesis questions. These are sent to the student close to the end of the two week review period.

3. The student then has two additional weeks to prepare an oral response to the questions. One week prior to the oral exam, the student sends a reference list to committee members to support responses to the three synthesis questions.
4. The oral portion of the comprehensive exam is scheduled at approximately four weeks after the initial comprehensive exam documents have been distributed to committee members. The student first gives a brief presentation that outlines the proposed dissertation study. This is followed by the student responding to the three synthesis questions. The student's replies are expected to demonstrate in-depth theoretical and research knowledge in the selected area of emphasis. The committee members will ask additional questions based on the student's responses.

AUTHORIZATION AND REPORTING OF THE EXAMINATION

1. The form to request the Comprehensive Exam must be received by the Graduate Studies Office no later than two weeks prior to the examination.
2. A report of the outcome of the examination must be filed on the Examination Report Form and received in the Graduate Studies office within seven days following the examination.

RESULTS OF THE EXAMINATION

1. The student shall be considered to pass the examination if recommended by the Supervisory Committee.
2. The student shall be considered to have failed the examination if more than one member recommends failure.
3. In the event of failure, the Supervisory Committee shall recommend within seven days to the Dean for Graduate Studies whether the student should be given the option of retaking the examination and, if so, the Committee shall identify general areas of weakness which require special attention and any remedial actions that the student should complete prior to reexamination. No student shall be permitted to take either the written or oral portion of the comprehensive examination more than twice and reexamination must wait a minimum of three months before retaking. The same committee shall give the reexamination unless the committee responsible for the student's program recommends and the Dean for Graduate Studies approves a substitution.

See UNMC Graduate Studies Requirements for the PhD degree: <http://www.unmc.edu/gradstudies/phd.htm>

¹² Approved by the Doctoral Affairs Council May 5, 2011

ADMISSION TO CANDIDACY¹³

According to the Bulletin of the Graduate College, students are formally recognized as being admitted to candidacy on the date of completion of the comprehensive examination.

- A. Timing
 1. Students must be advanced to candidacy seven months prior to the final oral examination.
 2. The dissertation defense must be completed within three years of advancing to candidacy. If candidacy extends beyond three years, another comprehensive examination must be passed.
- B. During candidacy
 1. Students must be continuously enrolled throughout candidacy in NRS 998 and NRS 999.
 2. Candidacy will be terminated if continuous enrollment is not maintained.
 3. In the case of illness or other mitigating circumstances, if enrollment is not to be maintained, a leave of absence of a specified period may be requested in writing. A letter should be sent to the Chair who will seek approval of the Doctoral Advisory Council and the recommendation will be forwarded to the Dean for Graduate Studies.

¹³ Updated: 07/28/2010 by Ann Berger

DISSERTATION REQUIREMENT¹⁴

PURPOSE

The Dissertation is evidence of mastery of the field of study and “. . . should advance or modify former knowledge; i.e., it should treat new material, or find new results, or draw new conclusions, or it should interpret old material with new insights.”

REQUIREMENTS

College of Nursing and/or Graduate College requirements for the dissertation include:

1. Continuous enrollment in NRSG 999 from advancement to candidacy through defense of the dissertation for a minimum of 24 credit hours (students enrolled prior to 2010) or for a minimum of 15 credit hours (students enrolled 2010 and later).
2. Enrollment in NRSG 998 during Fall and Spring semesters throughout candidacy until the semester of graduation.
3. Submission of the dissertation to the Supervisory Committee two weeks prior to defense and application for oral examination.
4. Successful completion of a public oral defense.
5. Submission of final dissertation and abstract according to current Graduate College requirements. Following submission of dissertation in the library, a copy of the title page and abstract must be submitted to the Student Services Graduate Program staff in the College of Nursing.
6. Payment of fees related to graduation.
7. Evidence that a first-authored manuscript, based on dissertation material, has been submitted to a peer review journal. A letter (or email) from the journal acknowledging receipt of the manuscript is required. A copy of the title page of the manuscript and the letter acknowledging receipt must be submitted to the Graduate Studies Office. The student's research advisor must approve the manuscript to be submitted for publication to meet Graduate College requirements. Authorship should be negotiated by the student, advisor and committee members at the beginning of the dissertation. It is customary to acknowledge UNMC in the manuscript as the educational institution.

GRADUATE COLLEGE DOCUMENT ON DOCTORAL DISSERTATIONS

Graduate Studies Instructions for Preparation and Submission of Doctoral Dissertation:

<http://www.unmc.edu/gradstudies/docs/dissertationinstructions.pdf>

¹⁴ Updated: 10/28/2010 by Ann Berger

INITIAL PROGRAM PLANNING

1. An advisor is selected by the student based on recommendations from faculty upon admission to the program. The assignment is based on the student and the advisor's research interests and is mutually agreed upon by the student and advisor. Students admitted via the Fast-Track BSN to PhD option will also be assigned a clinical specialty advisor for the first two years of study. Faculty/student advisement will be highly variable. Characteristics of successful advisement are:
 - a. Faculty and student begin working together regularly from the first year.
 - b. Regular faculty/student meeting times are established at the beginning of each semester.
 - c. Time lines for expectations should be set and met throughout the process. Time lines should respect the capabilities and commitments of faculty and students.
2. Initial program planning is discussed with the advisor. Students take all required courses. Other courses are selected as cognates based on student goals and the objectives of the program.
3. During the required courses, the student and advisor meet regularly to discuss application of course content with student research goals and focus.
4. The advisor and the student form a Supervisory Committee following successful completion of the first year of full-time study or equivalent.

COMPOSITION OF THE SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE

1. The Chair of the Supervisory Committee, often the student's advisor, is a Graduate Faculty member in the College of Nursing.
2. At least three additional University of Nebraska system Graduate Faculty serve as members with one or more members from a field outside nursing.
3. Faculty outside the University of Nebraska may serve on the committee following appointment by the Dean for Graduate Studies.

PROCEDURES FOR APPOINTMENT OF THE SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE

1. The student works with the advisor to identify Graduate Faculty who will contribute to the overall effectiveness of the student's program.
2. The student submits a memo to the Director of the Doctoral Program and Doctoral Affairs Council members outlining:
 - a. The student's research interests.
 - b. The name, degrees, and expertise each nominated member will contribute to the student's research interests.
 - c. A letter of willingness to serve and a curriculum vitae should be included for nominees from other universities.
3. The Doctoral Affairs Council will vote on the proposed committee and make the final recommendation to the Dean for Graduate Studies.
4. The Chair of the Doctoral Affairs Council will forward the current [Appointment of Supervisory Committee form](#) to the Dean for Graduate Studies.

SUGGESTED TIMELINES AND GOALS

NOTE: Fast-track students study for one year before beginning this time line

YEAR 1

- a. Develop understanding of the problem area, related literature and conceptual base.
- b. Use understandings of above to inform selection of a committee, courses and projects for subsequent years.
- c. Submit an NRSA application (not required)

YEAR 2

- a. Obtain approval of supervisory committee.
- b. Develop the program of Studies and submit to Graduate College.
- c. Discuss how cognates and Research Practicum course lead to selection of measurement tools and refinement of research questions and methods.
- d. Begin plans for pilot work necessary to test tools, gain understanding of methods, and move toward proposal development.

YEAR 3

- a. Write sections of the dissertation proposal and lay out a plan for proposal completion, comprehensive examinations and data collection.
- b. Continue to relate knowledge from course work to process above.

YEAR 4

- a. Conduct dissertation study, dissertation writing and defense, and journal manuscript preparation and submission.

SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE GUIDELINES

Graduate Studies Supervisory Committee Guidelines:

http://www.unmc.edu/gradstudies/committee_guidelines.htm

¹⁵ Updated: 07/28/2010 by Ann Berger

INCOMPLETE GRADES

The grade of "Incomplete" is to be used by an instructor at the end of a term to designate incomplete work in a course. It is used when a student, due to extenuating circumstances such as illness, military service, hardship or death in the immediate family, is unable to complete the requirements of the course in the term in which the student is registered for credit. A grade of Incomplete is given only if a student has already substantially completed the major requirements of the course. Each instructor must judge each situation. The instructor must also indicate by a departmental record, with a copy to the student, how and by when the Incomplete is to be removed, and if she/he is at the University at the time of the removal, supervise the makeup work and report the permanent grade. In the event that the instructor is not available, the program director shall supervise the removal of the Incomplete and turn in the permanent grade for the student.

Grades of Incomplete must be completed within one semester after they have been awarded or they will be automatically changed to a grade of F. Any extensions to the one semester time frame must be arranged with the Dean for Graduate Studies prior to the Incomplete being changed to a grade of F. A student with two or more current grades of Incomplete will not be permitted to enroll in any new courses until the number of current incomplete grades becomes less than two.

All grades of Incomplete on courses which are part of the degree requirements must be removed at least one month before the final oral/written examination for the Ph.D. degree.

UNSATISFACTORY SCHOLARSHIP

A student failing to receive a minimum acceptable grade in a course for graduate credit may not continue his/her program of studies without permission of the Supervisory Committee or the Doctoral Affairs Council. The council's decision, along with any appropriate explanation and justification, must be filed in the Graduate Studies Office. To receive credit in didactic and seminar-type graduate level courses, it is expected that students will perform at the level of B or above in any courses that are offered for graduate credit. However, a minimum grade of C may be acceptable for graduate level courses, but receipt of two grades of C may be cause for dismissal. Any grade below C is not acceptable for graduate credit. A student who fails to maintain an overall grade point average of at least 3.0 in any given semester will automatically be on academic probation and may not continue his/her program of study without special permission of the Dean for Graduate Studies acting on the recommendation of the appropriate graduate or supervisory committee. The recommendation must include a review of the student's status and a program of remediation. To continue in the Graduate Studies Program, the student must remove the probationary status (i.e., return to an overall 3.0 grade point average) within the next twelve (12) months.

Because research activities comprise a major part of the endeavors of graduate students, excellence in research is expected of all students. Therefore, a failing grade in any research activity (non-thesis research, Master's Thesis, or Doctoral Dissertation) may be grounds for dismissal.

A student may repeat a course in which he/she has previously received an unsatisfactory grade with the approval of the student's advisor, course instructor, and the Dean for Graduate Studies. A student registering for such a course should notify the Office of Academic Records of registration in the course. Both grades will appear on the transcript but only the last grade will be used in determining the grade point average.

APPEALS PROCESS

Under the provision of the By-laws of the Board of Regents, students may appeal grades or other evaluations of their academic progress which they believe to have been prejudiced or capricious.

1. Initially, an attempt should be made to resolve the matter through discussion with the instructor of the course for which the grade was received.
2. If the matter is not resolved satisfactorily, the appeal may be submitted in writing to the Chairperson of the Graduate Affairs Committee.
3. If the matter is not resolved satisfactorily, the appeal may be submitted in writing to the Graduate Faculty-Student Appeals Committee within two weeks following reporting or posting of the grade. This committee may change a student's evaluation if there is sufficient evidence that the evaluation of a student by a faculty member has been improper.
4. The Graduate Faculty-Student Appeals will be the final authority in resolution of grade appeals, except that either the student or the faculty member issuing the grade may within 10 days submit an appeal in writing to the Dean for Graduate Studies setting forth his/her reasons for believing he/she was not accorded a fair hearing. The Dean shall review the record and facts of the case and may return the matter to the committee for reconsideration. The decisions of the Dean as to whether the case should be reopened shall be final.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Graduate students may, under exceptional circumstances, be granted a Leave of Absence (LOA) from the College of Nursing, as noted in the UNMC Student Handbook.

An LOA is defined as non-enrollment during a term and is determined by a withdrawal from all courses at any point during a term or a request not to enroll for a term.

The granting of any such LOA shall be solely within the discretion of the College of Nursing, based upon the merits of the request and evaluated on a case-by-case basis. The student who is considering a request for LOA must first discuss the request with his or her faculty advisor. In addition, if the student is receiving financial aid, the student must contact the UNMC Office of Financial Aid before formally requesting the LOA.

The following guidelines apply to all requests for LOA:

1. Student must request the LOA in writing.
2. Request should describe, in detail, the rationale for requesting LOA.
3. Request is to be addressed to the student's faculty advisor and the Student Services Graduate Coordinator.

If granted, an LOA will apply to the remainder of a term. The student may take an LOA for up to two consecutive terms, not including summer sessions, after which time the student will be required to return to the program or withdraw if unable to attend. Students may be granted an LOA for a **total** of two terms throughout the duration of his or her program, consecutive or non-consecutive.

Students will be responsible for working with their advisor to identify an eligible time to return. Students who have been granted LOA are responsible for notifying the Student Service Graduate Coordinator of their intention to return to classes on the appointed date six weeks prior to the start of classes or as soon as possible. If the student does not return on the appointed date, the student's place in the class or program cohort cannot be guaranteed.

Students who do not notify the Student Services Graduate Coordinator or his/her advisor, and do not return within two terms, may be administratively withdrawn from the program. Re-entry into the College of Nursing will require re-application to the program. Students who withdraw from the College of Nursing without official LOA, and would later like to continue their education, will be required to reapply through the regular admissions/applications process and meet the established admissions criteria in place at that time.

Re-enrollment is dependent upon available slots in the class or cohort. In the event no room is available in the class or cohort during the term in which the student plans to re-enroll, an extension of the LOA past two terms may be granted, but only under exceptional circumstances.

Upon re-enrollment following an LOA, the student will be subject to all rules and regulations which pertain to the class he or she is joining. Those rules and regulations may differ from those applying to the class into which the student initially matriculated.

A student who is the subject of an involuntary dismissal from the College of Nursing, for any reason including, but not limited to, academic performance or disciplinary action is not eligible to invoke the procedures contained in this policy.

GUIDELINES TO CHAIR/SERVE ON DOCTORAL COMMITTEES AND DISSERTATIONS

Chair

1. Rank of Associate Professor or Professor
2. Graduate Faculty Member or meets all criteria for Graduate Faculty Membership.
3. Record of faculty effectiveness in teaching and mentoring graduate students.
4. Demonstrates a program of research (and experience as P.I. on at least one Extramurally-funded grant).
5. Experience as a dissertation committee member.
6. Record of 1-2 peer-reviewed publications of research and scholarly work each year.
7. Involvement in scientific and/or editorial review activities.
8. The Chair and the committee members must be approved by the Doctoral Affairs Council. Please submit a biosketch or equivalent document for each member when seeking approval of the Chair and the committee.

Committee member

1. Rank of Assistant Professor or higher
2. Graduate Faculty Member or meets all criteria for Graduate Faculty Membership
3. Record of faculty effectiveness in teaching and mentoring students.
4. Demonstrates a program of scholarship

Approved by the Doctoral Affairs Committee on 05/5/2011

UNMC INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD

All research conducted as a student at UNMC must be approved by the UNMC IRB (even if the data will be collected in the community or another institution). All research proposals (including exempt) must have peer review in the College of Nursing before transmittal to the UNMC IRB office. Peer review is conducted by the CON Research Committee. Contact your advisor regarding specific requirements for IRB proposals.

Graduate students should submit their IRB application to the Niedfelt Nursing Research Center (NNRC) research office before submitting them to the IRB. Contact the NNRC office for current information.

Note: If a doctoral student has an NRSA or other research support where a portion of the monies are paid back to the NNRC for research support, the NNRC will provide full services, similar to what we provide for faculty, for submission of the student's IRB application.

On June 5, 2000, the National Institute of Health (NIH) mandated investigator education in the protection of human subjects. This requirement represents a partial response on the part of the Federal government to the serious compliance problems which have arisen at a number of institutions during the last two years. *"Beginning on October 1, 2000, the NIH will require education on the protection of human research participants for all investigators submitting NIH applications for grants or proposals for contracts or receiving new or non-competing awards for research involving human subjects."*

(NIH Guide, June 9, 2000).

The Association of American Universities (AAU) Task Force on Research Accountability which was co-chaired by President L. Dennis Smith issued a report on June 28, 2000 which stated that *"Universities must ensure that all personnel (faculty, researchers, management, administrative staff) directly involved in human subjects research understand the applicable laws, regulations and ethical standards governing the protection of human subjects. All personnel engaged in the direct conduct of such research should be required to receive appropriate education designed for their level of involvement. Upon completion of training, an examination geared to each person's level of involvement should be administered, resulting in a designation (e.g., credentialing or certification) that the individual may engage in human subjects research."*

In response to the NIH mandate and the AAU Task Force recommendations UNMC/NHS/UNO will require all key personnel involved in the conduct of human subjects research to be certified by CITI training. Key personnel are considered to be the following: (1) Principal Investigators, (2) Secondary Investigators, (3) Participating Physicians/Health Care Personnel and (4) Research Coordinators. **This applies to all faculty, staff and students who fall into any of these categories.**

Required web-based training program is on-line at www.unmc.edu/irb. The UNMC/NHS/UNO IRB does not approve research proposals unless all key personnel listed in Section 1 of the IRB application are certified.

RESEARCH AND OTHER PROPOSALS FOR EXTERNAL FUNDING

ALL proposals for external funding for students' research which is being conducted as part of their academic program MUST be submitted through UNMC, beginning with the College of Nursing. Funding needs to be to UNMC and to be governed by UNMC regulations, except in instances where the funding agency sends awards directly to the student. In these latter instances, the student's advisor needs to play an integral part in the managing of the award and in the supervision of the research.

¹⁶ Updated: 10/28/2010 by Ann Berger

SOCIAL SECURITY & MEDICARE TAX EXEMPTION POLICIES FOR STUDENT EMPLOYEES

See *Student handbook* Pg. 57

<http://net.unmc.edu/care/docs/handbook.pdf>

DOCTORAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

DOCTORAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS¹⁷

- The American Assembly for Men in Nursing
 - <http://aamn.org/scholarships.shtml>
- American Association of Colleges of Nursing
 - <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/Government/opps.htm>
 - <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/Education/financialaid.htm>
- American Association of Critical-Care Nurses
 - <http://www.aacn.org/WD/Memberships/Content/bsngradschship.pcms>
- AACN Omaha-Council Bluffs Chapter
 - Each year the Omaha-Council Bluffs Chapter of AACN offers scholarship money to its members for education, books, workshops, etc. Address: Omaha-Council Bluffs AACN P. O. Box 31215 Omaha, NE 68131
- American Association of University Women
 - http://www.aauw.org/learn/fellows_directory
 - AAUW offers scholarships to women for graduate study or advanced research.
- American Cancer Society-Oncology Nursing
 - http://www.nlnac.org/ACS_Ad.htm
 - The American Cancer Society sponsors scholarships to support nurses who are earning either a master's or doctoral degree with a specialty in oncology nursing.
- American Holistic Nurses Association
 - <http://www.ahna.org/Resources/ScholarshipsandAwards/tabid/3796/Default.aspx>
- American Mensa Education and Research Foundation
 - AMER gives the Rita Levine Memorial Scholarship to women who are returning to school after an absence of 7 or more years and is enrolled in an accredited college or university.
 - <http://www.mensafoundation.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Scholarships1>
- American Nurses Foundation
 - <http://www.anfonline.org/MainCategory/NursingResearchGrant.aspx>
- Business and Professional Women's Foundation (BPW)
 - <http://www.bpwfoundation.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=1>
 - BPW offers several different scholarships for women. The scholarships are need-based.
- Educational Loan Forgiveness Information
 - <http://www.hrsa.gov/loanscholarships/repayment/nursing/>
 - <http://www.finaid.org/loans/forgiveness.phtml>
- Health Professions Prep Scholar Program for Native Americans
 - <https://www.cfda.gov/?s=program&mode=form&tab=step1&id=6831087ac1fa9b7eacba5f1102c5de7e>
- Indian Health Service Loan Repayment
 - <http://www.loanrepayment.ihs.gov/>
- International Chapter P.E.O. Sisterhood
 - <http://www.peointernational.org/>
 - Local P.E.O. Chapters sponsor female students for a variety of scholarship and financial aid projects.

- La Unidad Latina Foundations Scholarships
 - <http://www.lulfoundation.org/>
- Munroe-Meyer Institute
 - <http://www.unmc.edu/mmi>
 - Occasionally MMI will have traineeship available for graduate nursing students. Call the Director of Nursing at MMI (402) 559-5144) to see if funds are available.
- NAACP Scholarships
 - <http://www.naacp.org/pages/naacp-scholarships>
- National Association of Catholic Nurses
 - <http://www.nacn-usa.org/>
- National Association of Hispanic Nurses
 - [http://www.thehispanicnurses.org/scholarship /](http://www.thehispanicnurses.org/scholarship/)
- National Health Services Corp
 - <http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/>
- National Student Nurses Association
 - <http://www.nсна.org/FoundationScholarships.aspx>
- Nurses Educational Funds, Inc.
 - These scholarships are given to candidates for master's and doctoral degrees who are deemed to have the highest potential for leadership in the profession of nursing.
 - <http://www.n-e-f.org/>
- Phi Delta Gamma - NU Chapter
 - Nu Chapter, Phi Delta Gamma, an honorary organization for persons with advanced degrees, will provide an annual scholarship for a student enrolled in the Graduate Nursing Program at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.
- Sigma Theta Tau International
 - Monies are available for research from Headquarters and local chapters. Gamma Pi Chapter-at-Large at the UNMC College of Nursing also provides some scholarship monies.
 - <http://www.nursingsociety.org/default.aspx>
- Udall Scholarship
 - www.udall.gov/
- Additional information is available at Graduate Program orientation site.
 - http://www.unmc.edu/nursing/Graduate_Financial_Resources.htm

¹⁷ Updated: 6/8/2011 by Christine Rumery

CHECKLIST AND TIMELINE FOR PHD STUDENTS IN NURSING¹⁸

¹ All Required forms can be obtained from the Graduate Studies website: http://www.unmc.edu/gradstudies/phd_forms.htm

Approved 10/15/09 by doctoral affairs council of the CON/updated 01/13/2011 by Ann Berger

Requirement	Timing	Necessary Documentation	Date Completed
Select Major Advisor	Prior to actual admission to the program	Doctoral Advisory Council recommends and Director of PhD program submits the approval for admission to Graduate Studies Office (GSO). Copy sent to PhD program Student Services Associate. Admission paperwork proceeds.	
Prepare Graduate Student Portfolio (Modules 1-4)	By the end of the 1 st semester of graduate study	Submit to Graduate Studies Office (GSO).	
Annual Update Portfolio	During the spring semester of each academic year	Submit to GSO.	
Appointment of Supervisory Committee (SC)	After 1 year of study	Complete form (on web), send to PhD program Student Services Associate; secure Advisor and Director of PhD program signatures; forward to GSO.	
Initial meeting of SC (to designate a proposed program of study)	Within 4 weeks of final approval and appointment of the SC	Form (<i>Report of the Supervisory Committee on Program of Studies for the PhD Degree</i>) must be submitted to GSO prior to completing more than half of the degree requirements.	
Routine meetings of the SC	During EVERY semester	Written summary of progress provided by student to SC; SC to append comments; Minutes with copies of final document shall be provided to the student, PhD program Student Services Associate, Chair, and GSO.	
Research Plan Approval by SC	Before beginning the dissertation research project	Submit with minutes of SC that approves it to PhD program Student Services Associate and GSO.	
Ethics Training (1 day workshop)	Offered annually by UNMC	Submit to GSO.	
Approval of Comprehensive Topic by SC	When didactic program is nearing completion	Filed with minutes of SC meeting.	
Schedule Comprehensive Examination	No later than 2 weeks prior to the examination	Form (<i>Request for Scheduling Comprehensive Examination</i>) must be signed by Advisor and submitted to GSO.	
Comprehensive Examination	At least 7 months (but no more than 3 years) prior to Defense of Dissertation; after completing nearly all didactic coursework	<i>Examination Report Form</i> must be signed by SC members and submitted to GSO within 7 days of completing the exam.	

Requirement	Timing	Necessary Documentation	Date Completed
Admission to Candidacy	After passing Comprehensive Examination <u>and</u> completing all required coursework.	Form (<i>Application for Admission to Candidacy</i>) must be signed by all members of the SC and submitted to the GSO.	
Distribute Dissertation to the SC	At least 4 weeks prior to the Defense of Dissertation	Members of SC must provide feedback to the student within 2 weeks of receiving the document.	
Application for Final Oral Examination (Defense of Dissertation)	At least 2 weeks prior to Defense of Dissertation, <u>and</u> if no serious objections to the Dissertation are raised by SC	Form (<i>Application for Final Oral Examination for the Ph.D. Degree</i>) must be signed by student and Advisor and submitted to the GSO.	
Final Update of Graduate Student Portfolio	Two weeks prior to Defense of Dissertation	Submit to GSO.	
Approval of Dissertation	Upon successful Defense of Dissertation	Form (<i>Report on Doctoral Degree</i>) submitted to GSO within 7 days following the examination. Signed <i>Title Sheet for Dissertation</i> to be included as the 1 st page of the Dissertation.	
Awarding of the Ph.D. Degree	Upon successful Defense of Dissertation	At least 1 week before the end of the semester, submit copies of the Dissertation to the GSO and McGoogan Library of Medicine (with agreement for publication of the abstract and microfilming of the Dissertation).	

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY PROGRAM 2009 AND PRIOR ACADEMIC YEARS

SAMPLE PLANS OF STUDY

When developing the Plan of Studies, the Supervisory Committee should consider the student's need for role development and consider supplemental activities to support these goals.

FULL TIME STUDENT

Exemplar of full-time (FT) MSN-PhD Program of Study For students entering the program in 2009 and prior years		
Fall - Year 1		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 902	Theory Development in Nursing and Health Care	3
NRSG 904	Concepts in Health and Illness I	3
	Statistics	3
Spring		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 901	Research Design and Methods I	3
NRSG 907	Concepts in Health and Illness II	3
	Statistics	3
	Qualifying Exam in May	
Summer		
Course #	Title	Credits
	Statistics (<i>if needed</i>) or Cognate	3
Fall – Year 2		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 908	Research Design and Methods II	3
	Statistics (<i>if needed</i>) or Cognate	3
Spring		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 920	Grant Application and Management	2
NRSG 970	Doctoral Research Other than Dissertation	1-6
	Cognate	3

Summer		
Course #	Title	Credits
	Cognate	3
Fall – Year 3		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 970	Doctoral Research Other than Dissertation	1-6
NRSG 998	Doctoral Seminar	1
	Cognate	3
	Comprehensive Exam	
Spring		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 998	Doctoral Seminar	1
NRSG 999	Doctoral Dissertation	1-9
Summer		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 999	Doctoral Dissertation	1-9
Fall – Year 4		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 998	Doctoral Seminar	1
NRSG 999	Doctoral Dissertation	1-9
	Oral defense of dissertation	
	Manuscript submission	

PART TIME STUDENT WITH STATISTICS PRIOR TO ENROLLMENT

Exemplar of part-time (PT) MSN-PhD Program of Study For students entering the program in 2009 and prior years		
Prior to enrollment		
Course #	Title	Credits
	Statistics: ANOVA	3
	Statistics: Correlation/Regression	3
Fall - Year 1		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 902	Theory Development in Nursing and Health Care	3
NRSG 904	Concepts in Health and Illness I	3

Spring		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 901	Research Design and Methods I	3
NRSG 907	Concepts in Health and Illness II	3
	Qualifying Exam	
Summer		
Course #	Title	Credits
	Statistics or Cognate	3
Fall – Year 2		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 908	Research Design and Methods II	3
	Cognate	3
Spring		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 920	Grant Application and Management	2
	Cognate or Statistics	3
Summer		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 970	Doctoral Research Other than Dissertation	1-6
Fall – Year 3		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 970	Doctoral Research Other than Dissertation	1-6
NRSG 998	Doctoral Seminar	1
	Cognate	3
Spring		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 998	Doctoral Seminar	1
	Cognate	3
	Comprehensive Exam	3
Summer		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 999	Doctoral Dissertation	1-9
Fall/Spring– Year 4		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 998	Doctoral Seminar	1
NRSG 999	Doctoral Dissertation	1-9
Summer		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 999	Doctoral Dissertation	1-9

Fall/Spring – Year 5		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 998	Doctoral Seminar	1
NRSG 999	Doctoral Dissertation	1-9
	Oral defense of dissertation	
	Manuscript Submission	

DEFINITION OF COGNATES AND REQUIREMENTS

A cognate is defined as a graduate level course that contributes to the depth and breadth of the student's understanding within his/her chosen focus of study. Cognates can be taken from nursing and other departments; some should be from outside of nursing. The course of study, including cognate courses, is approved by the supervisory committee. It is the responsibility of the committee to determine that courses offering depth and breadth are selected as cognates. Students may need to take more than the minimum of 5 cognates to acquire sufficient depth and breadth for their program of study. Courses may be specifically designed to meet students needs (e.g., special topics or readings courses). Methods courses that predominately teach how to use research methods, instruments or tools to conduct research should not be considered to be cognates. Students may need to take additional methods courses (e.g., qualitative, modeling, epidemiology, measurement) to support their research.

NRSG 970 DOCTORAL RESEARCH OTHER THAN DISSERTATION

This course was devised to give the student experience in research beyond their own dissertation. The course is a hands-on practical research experience other than dissertation arranged between a student and faculty member. A contract is made between the faculty member directing the NRSG 970 and the student, defining the hands-on research experience. The course grade is assigned by the faculty member based on stated expected outcomes.

Students have engaged in the following types of activities: worked in a faculty member's laboratory collecting physiological data, revised and briefly tested a tool with a new population, worked in a laboratory learning how to assay biological samples, collaborated with a faculty member analyzing data, determined the concordance between gold standard invasive procedures and non-invasive procedures.

STATISTICS REQUIREMENT

Statistics courses through multivariate analysis are required. All doctoral students will take ANOVA and Correlational statistics courses as prerequisite to or concurrent with NRSG 901. Multivariate statistics is pre/corequisite to NRSG 908. The sequence of courses most appropriate for the student should be determined by the student and the Supervisory Committee. Below are a number of options which have been taken by other doctoral students. Please check the respective campus class schedules for availability.

1. UNMC Statistical Courses for Doctoral Students

P-SM 806 Biostatistics I, 3 cr. The objective is to learn correct use of statistical methods for design and analysis of biomedical investigations. Topics include probability distributions, parametric/nonparametric tests, survival analysis, types of errors, and sample size determination.

P-SM 808 Biostatistics II, 3 cr. A continuation of 806. Topics include repeated measures anova, odds ratio in 2x2 tables, confounding, log-linear models, multiple linear and logistic regressions, survival analysis, multivariate methods, and covariance analysis.

2. UNO Statistical Courses for Doctoral Students

PSYC 9010 Proseminar: Statistical Methods I, 3 cr. This course is intended for graduate students in psychology as a part of a core requirement in statistics. It is appropriate for persons in other disciplines interested in a correlational approach to the study of relationships among variables. Prereq: Graduate and an undergraduate course in basic statistics which included an introduction to correlation and linear regression.

PSYC 9020 Proseminar: Statistical Methods II, 3 cr. This course is designed to fully satisfy the graduate degree requirements for most students in the master's degree program and partially satisfy the graduate degree requirements in the doctoral degree program in the Department of Psychology. Prereq: Graduate and undergraduate course in basic statistics which included a broad introduction to inferential statistics and the analysis of variance model.

PSYC 9120 Multivariate Statistical Analysis, 3 cr. An examination of statistical techniques for describing and analyzing multivariate data commonly collected in behavioral research. Analytic techniques derived from general linear model will be considered, focusing on proper interpretation and use. The course is intended for doctoral students in psychology and (selectively) for advanced masters students in behavioral sciences. Prereq: PSYC 9090, 9100, and 9110 or permission of instructor.

Other Related Courses:

PSYC 9090 Theory of Measurement and Design, 3 cr. Study of theoretical and practical problems related to the development and use of psychological measures and research designs covering such topics as scaling, test development, reliability, validity, interpretation of results and generalizability. Prereq: PSYC 2130 or equivalent.

3. UNL Statistical Courses for Doctoral Students

The 900-level courses below have been taken by doctoral students as part of their plan of study and are highly rated by former students. The courses are in the Educational Psychology Department.

EdPsyc 941. Intermediate Statistics: Experimental Methods, 3 cr. Computation, interpretation, and application of analysis of variance techniques, including factorial and mixed model designs. Computer and microcomputer software will be accessed. Prereq: EdPsyc 859.

EdPsyc 942. Intermediate Statistics: Correlational Methods, 3 cr. Various correlational-based statistical procedures will be presented, including linear and nonlinear regression, multiple regression, statistical control, analysis of interactions, the general linear model, factor analysis, and discriminant analysis. Prereq: EdPsyc 859 or equivalent.

EdPsyc 972. Multivariate Analysis, 3 cr. The course is designed to teach the techniques of multivariate analysis, including multivariate analysis of variance and covariance, multivariate multiple regression, multigroup discriminant analysis, canonical analysis, repeated measures (Multivariate model), and time series. Mathematical models will be presented and analyzed. Instruction will be complemented by appropriate statistical software packages. Prereq: EdPsyc 941, 942.

Other Courses:

EdPsyc 969. Nonparametric Statistical Methods, 3 cr. Presentation of statistical procedures that do not require fundamental assumptions about the distribution property of the variables to be analyzed. Included are Chi Square tests, rank tests of location (Wilcoxon, Mann Whitney, Kruskal-Wallis, Friedman) tests of goodness of fit (Chi Square, Kolmogorov-Smirnoff), tests of randomness (Runs). Prereq: EdPsyc 850 or equivalent

4. Kansas State University - Correspondence courses approved for doctoral students.

STAT 704-The Analysis of Variance, 2 cr. This course is an introduction to analysis of variance techniques. Computation and interpretation for two and three-way analysis of variances; multiple comparisons, applications including use of computers.

STAT 705-Regression and Correlation Analyses, 2 cr. Continuing computation and interpretation for two and three-way analysis of variances; multiple comparisons, applications including use of computers.

5. University of Michigan, Institute for Social Research and School of Public Health

There is a lengthy list of statistics and data analysis courses offered in the Summer, usually in blocks of time over a week or two. The School of Public Health and the Institute for Social Research both offer excellent courses which may meet student needs.

EPID 701 Fundamental Biostats, (3 cr)

EPID 741 Anl. Epid. Measurements, (1 cr)

EPID 742 Intro. Logist. Model, (1 cr)

The above courses are offered through the School of Public Health and Epidemiology. Other statistics courses are offered through the Institute of Social Research. Please call the University of Michigan to inquire about available courses.

RESEARCH SEMINAR REQUIREMENT

The Graduate College requires that all graduate students attend regular department research seminars. Research seminars, as defined by the College of Nursing, are interactive seminars in which theory, research, methods, instruments, in a substantive domain and other topics related to the conduct of research are reported and discussed. Examples of opportunities for seminar attendance by College of Nursing Doctoral students include:

1. Regularly advertised and special seminars arranged by the Graduate Program
2. Research Interest Groups
3. Seminars in other Departments of the UNMC campus
4. Fall or Spring Research Forums or Colloquia sponsored by the CON
5. Regional, National or International meetings (e.g. Midwest Nursing Research Society)

The Chair of the Supervisory Committee is responsible for approving attendance at regional, national or international meetings, assuring that the intent of the meeting in content and opportunity for interactive participation, are met.

Regular Attendance

Regular attendance is defined as attendance of 8 seminars per semester (Fall/Spring) for Full-time and 4 seminars per semester for part-time students. Seminars attendance is required from the first semester in the program through the semester of dissertation completion and defense.

Students receive credit for attendance at one seminar for each session attended. A maximum of 4 seminars may be credited in one semester for attendance at regional, national or International meetings. When a student has difficulty being present at seminars, not more than one half of the seminars may be viewed on tape.

Documentation of attendance

Students will keep a record of all seminars attended. The record will be appended to the portfolio each year. A list of the seminars attended will also be given to the Chair of the Supervisory Committee each semester. Students will file seminar attendance, along with their portfolio, on February 1st of each academic year. One copy of the portfolio is given to the College of Nursing Student Services Department for filing in the student records. One copy is given to the advisor for review.

PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENT

The Graduate College, in response to North Central Accreditation requirements, implemented a portfolio requirement. The portfolio is a summary of student learning experiences and accomplishments and is due February 1st annually. The portfolio is updated annually while the student is in the program. The portfolio requirement is implemented thorough the development and updating of a curriculum vitae (CV). The curriculum vitae serves two purposes for students: 1) to provide the core for a professional curriculum vitae that they will use throughout their career; and 2) to list key activities and learning's throughout their graduate study to track the completeness of their education experience. One copy of the portfolio is given to the College of Nursing Student

Services Department for filing in the student records. One copy is given to the advisor for review. After appointment of the supervisory committee, the committee should review the annual portfolio and this review should be noted in the minutes of the supervisory committee meeting.

"RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT IN RESEARCH" PROGRAM REQUIREMENT

UNMC offers a training program on matters of responsible conduct in research (formerly known as the ethics workshop). The Graduate College requires all doctoral students to attend at least one series during their program. The format is web-based followed by a face-to-face, faculty-led discussion of a series of cases on scientific integrity and responsible conduct in research. Participation in this seminar will satisfy the requirements for Ph.D. students as stated in the Graduate Studies Bulletin. (http://www.unmc.edu/gradstudies/graduate_studies_bulletin.htm)