

PhD in Nursing Program Student and Advisor Handbook

2025 - 2026

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 Policies, procedures, and requirements herein are subject to change and may be superseded by action of the PhD Affairs Council or the Graduate College.



This Handbook is a supplement to the UNMC Graduate Studies Guidelines and Policies which can be accessed on Grad Studies Webpage: <https://www.unmc.edu/gradstudies/>

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PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT OF COLLEGE OF NURSING

The PhD in Nursing Program is consistent with the organizing framework and philosophy of the College of Nursing which can be viewed via the following links: https://wiki.unmc.edu/index.php/Organizing_Framework and https://wiki.unmc.edu/index.php/Philosophy_Statement

PHD PROGRAM PURPOSE, OUTCOMES, COMPETENCIES AND ATTRIBUTES OF NURSE SCHOLARS

PURPOSE

The purpose of the PhD program is to prepare nurse scientists to educate 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. Faculty members are committed to quality graduate education and to a learning environment that prepares graduates for roles in research, education, practice, policy, and academic administration.

GRADUATE STUDIES STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Graduates of the Doctor of Philosophy in nursing program will:

1. Demonstrate broad knowledge of the discipline, and deep knowledge of at least one subject matter.
2. Critically analyze and synthesize new and complex information from diverse sources.
3. Independently identify significant unanswered questions in their discipline, and to both propose and execute original research that addresses those questions using appropriate methodologies.
4. Demonstrate a commitment to integrity within all aspects of their chosen profession and abide by existing professional standards. They will be able to work in teams and assume responsibility for their actions and career aspirations.
5. Demonstrate effective oral, written, and visual communication skills appropriate to their discipline for professional publications and presentations, teaching, grant writing, and engagement with lay audiences.

Approved by Graduate Council, 5-10-2018

COLLEGE OF NURSING PROGRAM COMPETENCIES (BASED ON AACN RESEARCH DOCTORATE COMPETENCIES)

UNMC PhD in Nursing Program Competencies

1. Synthesize in-depth knowledge and theoretical underpinnings in a substantive area.
2. Integrate philosophy, ethics, and the responsible conduct of research into scholarly works.
3. Appraise the role of precision health in the care of individuals and society.
4. Forecast the impact of climate change on health.
5. Prioritize the determinants of health, health equity and social justice. Collaborate with others to ensure health equity.
6. Integrate health economics, patient-reported outcomes, health promotion and awareness, promotion of cultural safety, military, and LGBTI health into scholarly works.
7. Create opportunities for improvement in global and rural health, and lead through advances in nursing science.
8. Execute scientific methods, and model team-based science.
9. Critique advanced research designs and statistical methods. Compare and utilize advanced research designs and statistical methods as appropriate.
10. Synthesize data methods, management, data analytics, and big data.

11. Communicate concepts and components of scholarship, design thinking, and innovation.
12. Engage effectively in mentored research experiences, including interdisciplinary mentors and teams.
13. Critically analyze extant literature.
14. Generate competencies in grantsmanship and dissemination, both written and oral, to various audiences.
15. Advocate for and engage in strategies in health policy and healthcare systems.
16. Facilitate skill-building in leadership through didactic and non-course elements to prepare the next generation of nurse leaders.
17. Design effective teaching and learning experiences using cognitive science.

Approved by PhD Affairs Council January 11 2023

LINKING PHD COMPETENCIES TO UNMC GRADUATE STUDIES COMPETENCIES

UNMC GS Competencies	CON PhD Program Competencies
The student demonstrates broad knowledge of the discipline, and deep knowledge of at least one subject matter.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synthesize in-depth knowledge and theoretical underpinnings in a substantive area. • Integrate philosophy, ethics, and the responsible conduct of research into scholarly works.
Critically analyze and synthesize new and complex information from diverse sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Execute scientific methods, and model team-based science.
Recipients of the PhD degree will be able to independently identify significant unanswered questions in their discipline, and to both propose and execute original research that addresses those questions using appropriate methodologies. They will understand and comply with accepted standards for responsible conduct of research.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate concepts and components of scholarship, design thinking, and innovation. • Critically analyze extant literature. • Execute scientific methods, and model team-based science. • Prioritize the determinants of health, health equity and social justice. Collaborate with others to ensure health equity. • Integrate health economics, patient-reported outcomes, health promotion and awareness, promotion of cultural safety, military, and LGBTI health into scholarly works. • Integrate philosophy, ethics, and the responsible conduct of research into scholarly works.
Students completing the PhD degree must demonstrate a commitment to integrity within all aspects of their chosen profession and abide by existing professional standards. They will exhibit knowledge of and success in both roles within mentor-mentee relationships. They will be able to work in teams, evaluate the performance of self and others, and assume responsibility for their actions and their career aspirations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Execute scientific methods, and model team-based science. • Communicate concepts and components of scholarship, design thinking, and innovation. • Facilitate skill-building in leadership through didactic and non-course elements to prepare the next generation of nurse leaders. • Engage effectively in mentored research experiences, including interdisciplinary mentors and teams. • Create opportunities for improvement in global and rural health, and lead through advances in nursing science. • Design effective teaching and learning experiences using cognitive science.
Students demonstrate effective oral, written, and visual communication skills appropriate to their discipline for professional publications and presentations, teaching, grant writing, and dissemination of knowledge to lay audiences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate research findings to lay and professional audiences and identify implications for policy, nursing practice, and the profession. • Communicate scholarship including peer- refereed publications and presentations for professional interdisciplinary audiences.

PHD PROGRAM FOCUS AND CURRICULUM

AREAS OF RESEARCH EMPHASIS

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

- Cardiovascular health
- Symptom science
- Cancer survivorship
- Social determinants of health
- Health disparities
- Health promotion and wellness
- Health systems and quality
- Nursing education

Research Focus Areas: [PhD in Nursing](#) | [Office of Graduate Studies](#) | [University of Nebraska Medical Center](#)

PHD NURSING COURSE SEQUENCING

Yr.	Fall	Spring	Summer
1	NRSG 930 Socialization NRSG 929 Philosophy and Theory Development in Health Sciences BIOS 806 Biostatistics (or equivalent)	NRSG 935 Quantitative Research Methods NRSG 934 Qualitative Research Methods BIOS 808 Biostatistics (or equivalent)	
2	NRSG 905 Research Immersion in Nursing NRSG 937 Proposal Development Elective # 1	NRSG 909 Health Policy Elective #2 Elective #3	NRSG 918 State of the Science
3	NRSG 998 Doctoral Seminar NRSG 999 Dissertation	NRSG 998 Doctoral Seminar NRSG 999 Dissertation	NRSG 908 Transformational Leadership and Complex Systems Comprehensive Exam
4	NRSG 999 Dissertation	NRSG 999 Dissertation	NRSG 999 Dissertation

Note: **Variations in POS:** This is the sequencing for a full time POS for Master's-PhD. Part time Master's-PhD and full-time BSN-PhD POS will vary. Students need to develop POS with research and clinical advisors and within context of pre-requisites for courses.

Electives: Three total electives taken. Electives taken in individualized Plan of Study (POS) to augment student research interest.

Core PhD Nursing Courses are: NRSG 930, NRSG 929, NRSG 918, NRSG 934, NRSG 935, NRSG 909, NRSG 908, NRSG 905 and NRSG 937.

Core PhD Nursing courses, Biostats and Electives need to be taken prior to Comprehensive Exam.

NRSG999: A minimum of 12 dissertation credits are needed. Number of credits may vary based upon dissertation project and student progress.

NRSG998: A minimum of 2 credits required. Number of credits may vary based upon dissertation project and student progress.

Program of Study Beyond Core PhD courses above**General****EPI 820 Epidemiology in Public Health****3 credits**

To see course descriptions, you can either go to Appendix B in this Handbook or click the following link, which will take you to the Graduate Studies Webpage: <http://catalog.unmc.edu/graduate-studies/course-descriptions/nrsg/>

NRSG 802 Foundations of Quality, Safety, Informatics and Finance**4 credits****NRSG 803 Foundations of Theories and Evidence-Based Practice****3 credits****NRSG 804 Foundations of Population Based-Health Policy****3 credits****NRSG 891 Teaching and Learning Strategies for the Classroom****3 credits****NRSG 893 Using Technology to Enhance Teaching and Learning Strategies****3 credits**

LINKING PHD COMPETENCIES TO PHD IN NURSING COURSES

Course #	NRSG 930	NRSG 929	NRSG 918	NRSG 934	NRSG 935	NRSG 909	NRSG 908	NRSG 908	NRSG 905	NRSG 998	NRSG 999
PhD in Nursing Competencies											
Synthesize in-depth knowledge and theoretical underpinnings in a substantive area.	x	x	x								x
Integrate philosophy, ethics, and the responsible conduct of research into scholarly works.	x	x	x	x			x				
Appraise the role of precision health in the care of individuals and society.											
Forecast the impact of climate change on health.						x					
Prioritize the determinants of health, health equity and social justice. Collaborate with others to ensure health equity.						x		x			
Integrate health economics, patient-reported outcomes, health promotion and awareness, promotion of cultural safety, military, and LGBTI health into scholarly works.						x					
Create opportunities for improvement in global and rural health, and lead through advances in nursing science.						x					
Execute scientific methods, and model team-based science.				x	x						
Critique advanced research designs and statistical methods. Compare and utilize advanced research designs and statistical methods as appropriate.											
Synthesize data methods, management, data analytics, and big data.											x
Communicate concepts and components of scholarship, design thinking, and innovation.	x	x									
Engage effectively in mentored research experiences, including interdisciplinary mentors and teams.											x
Critically analyze extant literature.		x	x								
Generate competencies in grantsmanship and dissemination, both written and oral, to various audiences.		x					x				
Advocate for and engage in strategies in health policy and healthcare systems.		x				x					
Facilitate skill-building in leadership through didactic and non-course elements to prepare the next generation of nurse leaders.								x			
Design effective teaching and learning experiences using cognitive science.											

PHD NURSING COURSES AND WHEN THEY ARE OFFERED

CORE COURSES

Fall	Spring	Summer	Continuous
NRSG 930 (2 credits) Socialization to the Scholarly Role	NRSG 908 (3 credit) Transformational Leadership and Complex Systems		NRSG 999 (variable credits) Doctoral Dissertation Instructor: PhD Advisor
NRSG 929 (4 credits) Philosophy and Theory Development in Health Science	NRSG 934 (3 credits) Qualitative Research Methods		NRSG 905 (3 credits) Research Immersion in Nursing
NRSG 937 (3 credits) Proposal Development & Grant Administration	NRSG 935 (3 credits) Quantitative Research Methods	NRSG 918 (4 credits) State of the Science	
NRSG 998 (1 credit) Doctoral Seminar	NRSG 909 (3 Credits) Health Policy and Global Health Issues		
	NRSG 937 (3 credits) Proposal Development & Grant Administration		
	NRSG 998 (1 credit) Doctoral Seminar		

NURSING ELECTIVES (Students should consider outside electives as well)

Fall	Spring	Summer	Continuous
		NRSG 910 (3 credits) Health-Related Instrument Construction and Evaluation (Summer EVEN years when have a certain # of students)	NRSG 916 (1-6 credits) Independent Study in Nursing Science – Consultation with advisor on enrolling in course and identifying topic/objectives
		NRSG 923 (3 credits) Rural Health Research: Considerations & Implications (Summer ODD Years when have a certain # of students)	

Fall	Spring	Summer	Continuous
		NRS 914 (3 credits) Self-Management in Chronic Illnesses (Fall EVEN years when have a certain # of students)	

Note: PhD Core courses are usually held on Thursdays. PhD in Nursing Elective courses are usually held on Tuesdays.

DEFINITION OF ELECTIVES

An elective is a graduate level course, contributing to the depth and breadth of the student's understanding within his/her chosen study focus. Electives can be taken from nursing and other departments; however, some should be from outside of nursing. The course of study, including elective courses, is approved by the supervisory committee. It is the responsibility of the committee to determine that courses address the student's content or methodological dissertation needs. Courses may be specifically designed and offered via independent study, if applicable (e.g., special topics or reading courses).

All electives are required to be completed before or during the semester in which the comprehensive exam is completed. Additional courses after the comprehensive exam may be subject to full tuition charges and might not be covered by any GA/TA positions without special permission from graduate studies.

RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT IN RESEARCH - ETHICS

Completing an Ethics/Responsible Conduct in Research (RCR) 8-hour training session is a requirement for UNMC graduate students (this is in addition to CITI & IRB training). This 8-hour training session will be held in the fall. Once a date has been identified, information will be sent to students who have not yet fulfilled the requirements.

UNMC also offers a single 8-hour course which can be substituted, if needed.

This will need to be reflected in your Plan of Study in Seguidor.

RESEARCH SEMINAR REQUIREMENT

The College of Nursing requires that all PhD students attend research seminars. Research seminars, as defined by the College of Nursing, are interactive seminars in which theory, research, methods, instruments, or other topics related to the research, are reported and discussed. The purpose of the seminars is to expose students not only to science and research, but to enhance networking and professionalism.

Examples of opportunities for seminar attendance by College of Nursing Doctoral students include:

1. Regularly advertised and special seminars arranged by the College of Nursing
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)
6. Other research events

The Chair of the SC 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 a minimum of **4 hours of seminars/research presentations per semester (Fall/Spring) for full time and part-time** students. Seminar/research 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. All seminars offered by Zoom count for attendance, but students are encouraged to be present in the room when possible. Distance students may attend by Zoom but are also encouraged to attend events near their home. 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 curriculum vitae (CV) each year. This revised CV will be uploaded into Seguidor annually (by the end of spring semester). One copy is given to the PhD Program Office Associate for filing in the student records. One copy is given to the Advisor/Chair.

COLLEGE OF NURSING GRADUATE COURSE SCHEDULE

Current course schedules can be found on the College of Nursing home page by choosing the red Current Student link. This will take you to a page with various important links. Go here: [Current Students | College of Nursing | University of Nebraska Medical Center](#). You will also find current student policies.

GUIDELINES FOR COORDINATOR PHD COURSES

1. Rank of Assistant Professor or higher.
2. Graduate Faculty Member.
3. Record of faculty effectiveness in teaching and mentoring doctoral students.
4. Progressive program of research and experience as P.I. on at least one grant.
5. Sustained record of peer-reviewed publications of research and scholarly work.
6. Involvement in scientific and/or editorial review activities.
7. Involvement in professional organizations in research-related activities.
8. Demonstrates expertise in course content.

Approved by PhD Affairs Council, 9-11-19

ONLINE EDUCATION AND ZOOM TECHNOLOGY

We offer a wide variety of courses utilizing a combination of in-class and technologies. It should be noted none of our courses are completely online. Students in a distance location attend via Zoom. Courses may be accessed using Zoom at one of our 5 campuses across the state, located in Omaha, Kearney, Lincoln, Norfolk, and Scottsbluff, in student homes and offices and where there is a strong Internet connection.

Technology Information

Computer Requirements and technology help information is available on the UNMC College of Nursing website: [Device and Software Specifications | College of Nursing | University of Nebraska Medical Center](#)

EXEMPLAR OF NURSE EDUCATOR TRAINING

NURSE EDUCATOR COURSES AND THE NURSE FACULTY LOAN PROGRAM (NFLP)

The Nurse Faculty Loan Program is a grant that the College of Nursing has been a recipient. When monies are available, they are administered through UNMC Financial Aid Department.

To fulfill the Educator Component/Coursework required for the Nurse Faculty Loan Program (NFLP), you will be required to take two of the courses listed below (NRSB 892 and NRSB 894) or their equivalent.

NURSE EDUCATOR COURSES

COURSES	TITLE	CREDITS
NRSB 890	Designing and Evaluating Learner-Centered Curricula Pre-requisites: Admission to Professional Nursing Graduate Program or with permission of instructor. Cross listed with NRSB 690.	3
NRSB 891	Teaching and Learning Strategies for the Classroom Cross listed with NRSB 691	3
NRSB 892	Teaching and Learning Strategies in Clinical and Simulation Cross listed with NRSB 692	3
NRSB 893	Using Technology to Enhance Teaching and Learning Strategies Co-requisites: NRSB891. Cross listed with NRSB 693.	3
NRSB 894	Implementation of the Educator Role: Practicum Prerequisites NRSB 891; NRSB 892; NRSB 893. Cross listed with NRSB 694.	3

Please note as PhD students you need to take 800 level courses.

STEPS IN PHD PROGRAM PLANNING AND PROGRESSION

PHD IN NURSING INITIAL PROGRAM PLANNING

- A. An advisor is based on faculty recommendations upon admission to the program and approved by the PhD Affairs Council. The assignment is based on the student and the advisor's research interests and is mutually agreed upon by the student and advisor. Faculty/student advisement will be variable. Characteristics of successful advisement are:
 1. Faculty and student begin working together regularly the first year. Faculty and student must review and complete the Graduate Studies Compact [UNMC Compact Between Graduate Students and Their Research Advisors_Feb2024](#). Student submits Compact to Seguidor.
 2. Regular faculty/student meeting times are established at the beginning of each semester, with expectations and timelines.
- B. Advisor and student collaborate on initial program planning and set weekly or every two-week meetings so that students are supported through required coursework.
- C. The advisor and the student consult to confirm a Chair, then form a Supervisory Committee (SC).
- D. The timeline for forming SC and submission of Program of Studies is recommended by UNMC Graduate Studies as follows:
 1. within 12 months after matriculation for full-time MSN-PhD students
 2. within 18 months for part-time MSN-PhD students

3. within 24 months for BSN-PhD students
4. within 1 month of appointment of SC, students submit to Seguidor their committee-approved Program of Studies.

REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO COMPOSITION OF AND PROCEDURE FOR APPOINTMENT OF THE SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE (SC)

The CON PhD in Nursing Program follow the requirements outlined by Graduate Studies for Advisor/chair and SC are outlined in Graduate Studies Bulletin which can be found on the Graduate Studies website: [Requirements for Graduate Degrees < University of Nebraska Medical Center](#)

However, CON PhD Program requires the SC be approved by the PhD Advisory Council (PAC) and follows the guidelines for who can be an advisor/chair and members. The approval process is for appointment of chair and committee as well as for any changes in advisor and/or members made during student's program of study.

Chair

1. Rank of Assistant Professor or higher.
2. Graduate Faculty Member.
3. Record of faculty effectiveness in teaching and mentoring doctoral students.
4. Demonstrates a program of research and experience as P.I. on at least one extramurally funded grant.
5. Experience as a member and/or co-chair of a dissertation committee for one year.
6. Sustained record of 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 PhD Affairs Council.

Eligibility Guidelines Approved by PhD Affairs Committee on 10-9-19

Committee Members

1. Rank of Assistant Professor or higher.
2. Graduate Faculty Member or Graduate Faculty Associate Member.
3. Record of faculty effectiveness in teaching and mentoring students.
4. Demonstrates a program of scholarship (presentations, publications, and/or grant submissions).

Eligibility Guidelines Approved by PhD Affairs Committee on 10-9-19

Other Considerations when developing a Supervisory Committee

- All committee members must have graduate faculty or Graduate Faculty Associate status.
- One committee member may be an emerging nursing faculty member who has not served on supervisory committees.
- Students are encouraged to have an interdisciplinary team member on each committee.

Procedure

- Student, in consultation with Advisor/Chair, submits a 1-2-page document to Office Associate and Director of PhD Program. The document provides brief information on student's dissertation focus (title of dissertation or 1-2 sentences describing dissertation focus). A paragraph on the chair/advisor and each committee member, noting

credentials, graduate faculty status, a description of each proposed member's expertise, and how each person will contribute to the dissertation.

- A letter of willingness to serve, statement of graduate faculty status, and curriculum vitae should be included for nominees from other universities.
- Once SC approved by PAC, the student places information in Seguidor. It then goes through a Graduate Studies approval process.
- Graduate studies will notify student, advisor program director when there is final approval of the committee.
- After approval by graduate studies, a committee meeting should be set up.
- Any changes to the committee must go through PAC and have final approval from graduate studies.

The CON PhD in Nursing program suggests the following:

1. The SC Chair serves as the Chair of the student's comprehensive examination and assumes primary responsibility for mentoring the student throughout the dissertation process:
 - selecting and delimiting the research topic;
 - developing the written proposal for the research project;
 - carrying out the research as proposed and approved; and
 - developing the dissertation.
2. SC members are responsible for providing input and feedback related to the dissertation according to their area of expertise.
3. The SC also is responsible for serving on the student's comprehensive examination committee and conducting the final oral defense and determining acceptability of written dissertation.

GUIDELINES FOR SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE

The Supervisory Committee must meet every six months (or twice each year) to review with the major advisor the progress of the student in the program and to aid the major advisor and student. Minutes of the supervisory committee must be entered into Seguidor within one week of the meeting. At the beginning of the next semester, a hold will be placed on the student record if the minutes are not received by Graduate Studies.

SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA TEMPLATE

The items below should be on the Agenda for all Supervisory Committee meetings as appropriate. Students are responsible for preparing minutes of every supervisory committee meeting. Students need to maintain a record of all supervisory committee meetings. Please send a copy of the approved minutes to the PhD Program Office Associate, your SC Chair, and all committee members and uploaded on Seguidor.

1. Introduction of committee members (1st meeting) – greetings & welcome at all other meetings
2. Review current PhD student portfolio or CV and future scholarly opportunities – every meeting
3. Timeline review - every meeting
4. Approval of Plan of Study – 1st meeting and if any changes are made
5. Comprehensive Exam – as needed
6. Plan for Dissertation – as needed
7. Next Meeting
8. Adjournment

DOCTORAL DEGREE TIMELINE AND GOALS

Please see Doctoral Degree Timeline from Graduate Studies which outlines timing which the CON PhD program follows. The link is: <https://www.unmc.edu/gradstudies/programs/phd-timeline.html>

The following is a guideline toward meeting goals in the PhD in Nursing Program. There may be individual differences.

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).
- d. Begin to develop scientific writing skills

YEAR 2

- a. Obtain approval of Supervisory Committee.
- b. Develop the program of studies and submit to Graduate College.
- c. Discuss how electives 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.

Approved by PhD Affairs Council, 11/2011

COMPREHENSIVE EXAM AND ADMISSION INTO CANDIDACY

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. Graduate Studies guidelines are found in the online UNMC CourseLeaf Catalog: <http://catalog.unmc.edu/graduate-studies/requirements-degrees/>.

According to Graduate Studies guidelines, full-time PhD students must attempt the exam before the end of their third year of study. Part-time students must attempt the exam before the end of their fourth year of study.

Core PhD Nursing courses need to be taken prior to Comprehensive Exam. Core PhD Nursing Courses are: NRSG 930, NRSG 918, NRSG 929, NRSG 934, NRSG 935, NRSG 909, NRSG 908, NRSG 905 and NRSG 937.

CON PHD PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION (CE)

1. The SC Chair initiates planning for the CE near the end of the student's course work.
 - FT students take CE before end of 3rd year and PT students before end 4th year
 - The CE is an integrative experience, assessing the student's ability to process and utilize information from course work, and to analyze and synthesize this material in relation to the chosen research area.
 - The CE consists of both written and oral components.
 - When planning the CE documents, the student and the Supervisory Committee need to negotiate the format he/she plans to use for the dissertation proposal. (See DISSERTATION OPTIONS below).
2. The Chair of the SC and student discuss a timeline for the CE, including plans for communicating with the Supervisory Committee to agree upon the documents to prepare (chapters, grant proposal, IRB application and/or manuscripts), the timeline of dates for the CE, and the oral portion of the examination.
3. Once a time has been agreed upon, the student will reserve a room. All information including room, date and time should be loaded into Seguidor two weeks prior to the CE.
4. If indicated, the student and SC can suggest alternative CE formats to the committee. These suggestions should emerge from the SC/student discussions. The committee may select one of these options or create another option.
5. For the CE written portion (the dissertation proposal), the student prepares a combination of documents (chapters, grant proposal, IRB application and/or manuscripts) demonstrating current content on the background/significance of the topic, a review of the literature on the major concepts to be studied and/or detailed methods for the proposed dissertation study.
6. The SC Chair reviews the documents and decides whether they are ready to be distributed to the SC members. After distribution, the SC is given two weeks 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 Chair and SC members will develop three synthesis questions to be used for the oral examination and sent to the student close to the end of the two-week review.
7. The student then has two additional weeks to prepare a focused oral response to the questions. One week prior to the oral exam, the student sends a reference list to SC members to support responses to the three synthesis questions.
8. The oral portion of the CE is scheduled at approximately four weeks after the initial CE documents have been distributed to SC members. The meeting begins by the student responding to the three synthesis questions. It is recommended that a PowerPoint presentation be used for responding to the questions. The student's responses 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.
9. If possible, time should be allocated for approval of the dissertation proposal. If there is not sufficient time, another committee meeting will need to be scheduled to do this.
10. The student shall be considered to pass the CE if recommended by the SC.
11. Work on the dissertation can continue only AFTER the SC has approved the proposal, which may include recommendations given to the student at the time of the comprehensive examination. Upon successful completion of the comprehensive examination, the doctoral candidate will also obtain approval of the SC for the dissertation format using one of two options; (see DISSERTATION OPTIONS below and attached Table).
12. To provide feedback on further development, Graduate Studies and PAC have adopted the CE Rubric in Appendices.

ADMISSION TO CANDIDACY

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.

DURING CANDIDACY

1. Students must be continuously enrolled throughout candidacy in NRSG 998 (offered fall and spring and not required the semester the student is graduating) and NRSG 999.
2. Full time enrollment after CE is one credit.
3. A minimum of 7 months is required between successful completion of CE and the final oral defense of the dissertation. The time frame from candidacy to graduation is 4 years.
4. Candidacy will be terminated if continuous enrollment is not maintained. (Part time students do not have to enroll in the summer unless University Resources are used including faculty time). Full time students do have to enroll in the summer.
5. If enrollment is not possible due to illness or other mitigating circumstances, a leave of absence (LOA) of a specified period may be requested. Student, in consultation with chair of supervisory committee, requests the LOA in writing to Director of PhD program who will forward the request to Graduate Studies.

DISSERTATION REQUIREMENT

REQUIREMENTS FROM GRADUATE STUDIES FOR DISSERTATION AND FINAL ORAL EXAM

Graduate Studies guidelines are found in the online UNMC CourseLeaf Catalog via <http://catalog.unmc.edu/graduate-studies/requirements-degrees/>

CON PHD PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS RELATED TO DISSERTATION AND FINAL ORAL EXAM

Purpose: A dissertation is based on original research by the student and demonstrates competence in scientific writing and the student's ability to communicate the results of scientific research.

General Overview: The dissertation is required for satisfactory completion of the requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy Degree (PhD). The student's program of study should support the dissertation research. The Chair of the Supervisory Committee will help the student plan a program of study appropriate to the student's specific research interest. The dissertation is a written report of an individual student's investigation of a significant research question. Dissertations address a substantive issue through theoretically based research relevant to nursing practice or education and may serve as a preliminary study in developing a program of research.

The dissertation process:

1. Supervisory Committee selection and formation
2. Proposal development
3. Proposal approval at or after CE completion
 - a. The approved dissertation proposal constitutes an agreement with the student regarding the proposed research for the dissertation.
 - b. Any major modifications in the dissertation proposal must be approved by the entire Supervisory Committee.
4. After the Supervisory Committee has approved the proposal, appropriate Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval must be obtained before beginning the study.

5. Data collection and analysis
6. Scholarly written outcome of the investigation
7. Oral defense and committee approval of dissertation.

DISSERTATION COURSES, PROCESSES AND REQUIREMENTS

1. At least **12 credits** in the doctoral dissertation course (NRSB 999) are required prior to the oral defense and submission of the dissertation and graduation. Continuous enrollment in NRSB 999 (minimum of Fall and Spring semesters) from advancement to candidacy through defense of the dissertation is required for all doctoral students.
2. When core course work has been completed, the student must also enroll in NRSB 998 in Fall and Spring semesters throughout candidacy up until the last semester of anticipated dissertation completion and graduation. A minimum of two credits of NRSB 999 is required.
 - a. The purpose of NRSB 998 Doctoral Seminar is to provide opportunities for peer learning, problem-solving and support.
3. In the semester of anticipated dissertation completion, the doctoral candidate, with approval of the Chair of the SC will:
 - a. Complete and prepare the dissertation document to be distributed to the SC.
 - b. Submit the dissertation to the SC four weeks (minimum) prior to defense and application for oral examination
 - c. The student should submit the date, time and room to Seguidor within two weeks prior to the oral defense.
 - d. Successfully complete a public oral defense
 - The final defense meeting date should be scheduled at a time that all SC members are available. All dissertation defenses will be publicized well in advance and to be open to all faculty and graduate students. The candidate may wish to distribute copies of the abstract(s) of the research and/or handouts of the slides to be presented to the faculty and students in attendance.
 - Ideally the defense is scheduled on a day other than Thursday, class day, so that other doctoral students can attend.
 - The format for the oral defense will be planned by the Chair of the SC and the candidate.
 - Typically, the candidate will open the defense with a brief (no more than 30 minute) presentation with appropriate slides, after which the SC Chair will open the examination to appropriate questions from the SC first and then those in attendance. The public questioning will last no more than 30 minutes. The candidate is expected to respond to substantive and methodological questions related to the research.
 - At the end of the questioning, the SC Chair will excuse everyone except the SC members. The candidate will be evaluated both upon the quality and significance of the dissertation and the oral defense of the findings. The SC will have primary responsibility for evaluating the candidate's research, including the written dissertation, the formal oral presentation, and the candidate's responses to questions. The SC members will be polled for their vote (pass or fail). Approval of the SC, with no more than one dissenting vote, is necessary for the recommendation for awarding the degree.
 - e. Upon successful defense, the student will have committee members sign the *Dissertation Approval Form*. After a successful defense, the candidate will edit the dissertation based on recommendations, completing all edits to the satisfaction of the SC members. The Chair of the SC will maintain the forms until all edits are completed to the satisfaction of the committee members. If the student fails to pass the final oral examination (defense of dissertation), his/her committee must report to the Graduate Studies Office within 7 days of the examination, the failure together with the committee's recommended action.
 - The decision of the SC will be forwarded to the Director of the PhD Program via e-mail.
 - f. Submit the final dissertation and abstract according to the UNMC Graduate College requirements. Specific procedures and forms are provided by Graduate Studies via https://www.unmc.edu/gradstudies/_documents/dissertation-graduation-instructions-phd-candidates.pdf

- g. Following deposit of dissertation in the library, a copy of the title page and abstract must be turned in to the PhD Program Office Associate in the College of Nursing.
- h. Consult with chair of the SC regarding the total number of dissertation copies to be prepared.
- i. Pay fees for microfilming and graduation
- j. Provide evidence that a first-authored manuscript, based on dissertation material has been submitted to a peer review journal. A letter or e-mail from the journal acknowledging receipt of the manuscript is required.
 - i. A copy of the title page of the manuscript and the letter/e-mail acknowledging receipt must be submitted to the Graduate Studies Office. The Chair of the students SC must approve the manuscript to be submitted for publication to meet Graduate College requirements.
 - ii. Authorship of manuscripts submitted based on dissertation work should be negotiated by the student, Chair of the SC and SC at the beginning of the dissertation. It is common practice that the student will invite their expertise in the writing of any publishable articles. It is expected that the authors in co-authored articles take full responsibility to work together in terms of the substance of the article.
 - iii. It is customary to acknowledge UNMC in the manuscript as the educational institution.

DISSERTATION OPTIONS

The doctoral candidate will obtain approval of the SC at the time their dissertation proposal is accepted to complete the dissertation using one of two options:

1. **Traditional Dissertation:** Option 1 is the traditional multiple chapter manuscript. If the student selects Dissertation Option 1, the product is an integrated, scholarly report. This report includes the essential components of a dissertation (i.e., the introduction to the question, review of the literature, subjects and methodology, results of study, and discussion of the results). However, the organization and emphasis may vary depending on the particular research question, methods selected, and SC preference. Typically, the dissertation will include five chapters including revisions of the three chapters that constituted the proposal as well as chapters four and five addressing the results and the discussion and implications of the results. References and appendices are also included. The format of the required manuscript must adhere to the guidelines in the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*.
2. **Manuscript Format:** Option 2 is a minimum of three (3) first authored manuscripts based on and related to the student's research prepared for, submitted to, or published in peer-reviewed journals while a matriculated student in the College of Nursing PhD program. The submission of an introductory chapter and a summary chapter synthesizing the three (3) manuscripts as well as the overall limitations of the research and future research is recommended and at the discretion of the SC. The three manuscripts should follow a logical plan on the selected research topic of the dissertation and must adhere to the guidelines in the most current edition of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*. The specific number of articles suitable for a particular dissertation report is based on the agreement of the PhD candidate and the SC. The student must be the first author and original scholar of the work. The articles will require approval by the SC for inclusion in the dissertation compendium and must contribute to a unified work. One manuscript must be data-based and report the results of the student's dissertation research. The other manuscripts may be of other types, such as an integrative review of the literature pertinent to the program of study, instrument development, methodological issues, conceptual analysis and/or theory application related to the study, clinical application of the findings to practice (significance to nursing). The format of the manuscripts will be dictated by the guidelines of the peer reviewed journal to which it is submitted. The journals selected need to be approved by the SC Chair.

Students, whose manuscripts are accepted for publication before completion of the dissertation, should be aware of the agreement that is signed when a journal (hard copy or electronic) accepts an article for publication. At that time, the student assigns rights to the journal as publisher. The student must obtain written permission from the copyright holder to include the material in the dissertation. Failure to do so would be breaking U.S. copyright

laws. All copyright permissions should be secured before finalizing the formatting of the dissertation.

The format for the manuscript option must follow the requirements of UNMC Graduate Studies Instructions for Preparation and Submission of Doctoral Dissertation. (The candidate may include other sections as approved by the SC.)

Approved by PhD Affairs Council, 4/2013

Dissertation Options and Documents

(All must be approved by student's dissertation committee and prepared in APA format)

Chapter	Traditional Dissertation	Manuscript Format prepared for, submitted to, or published in peer-reviewed journals
1	<u>Introduction to Chapters</u> Background and Significance Conceptual Definition of Key Concepts Theoretical Foundations Purpose and Specific Aims Summary References	<u>Introduction to Chapters</u> Background and Significance Conceptual Definition of Key Concepts Theoretical Foundations Purpose and Specific Aims Summary References
2	<u>Review of the Literature (ROL) on Primary Concept</u> Text, Tables, Figures References	<u>Manuscript #1</u> Examples include: Conceptual Analysis Integrate ROL Theoretical paper on model Prepared according to information for Authors of selected journal Text, Figures Tables References
3	<u>Methods</u> Text, Tables, Figures References	<u>Manuscript #2</u> Paper focused on an aspect of Methods section/tool/design, analysis Prepared according to information for Authors of selected journal Text, Tables, Figures References
4	<u>Results</u> Text, Tables, Figures References	<u>Manuscript #3</u> Data-based manuscript that reports results of student's dissertation research Intro/Methods/Results/ Discussion sections Prepared according to information for Authors of selected journal Tables & Figures References
5	<u>Summary/synthesis of:</u> 1. Results and expanded discussion 2. Review of each aim dissertation 3. Implications for future Research, Education, Practice Conclusion References	<u>Summary/synthesis of:</u> 1. Results and expanded discussion 2. Review of each aim dissertation 3. Implications for future Research, Education, Practice Conclusion References
Appendices	Additional files as committee approves	Additional files as committee approves

GRADUATE STUDIES REQUIREMENTS FOR DOCTORAL DISSERTATIONS

Graduate Studies Instructions for Preparation and Submission of Doctoral Dissertation:

https://www.unmc.edu/gradstudies/_documents/dissertation-graduation-instructions-phd-candidates.pdf

OTHER ACADEMIC PROCESSES AND REQUIREMENTS

GRADUATE STUDIES FORMS

Seguidor is the repository system for UNMC Graduate Students. The timeline for submission of materials is outlined in the doctoral degree timeline along with the link to Seguidor and any required forms such as the Program of Study via: <https://www.unmc.edu/gradstudies/programs/phd-timeline.html>

INDIVIDUALIZED DEVELOPMENT PLAN (IDP)

Graduate Studies requires completion of an Individual Development Plan (IDP) and accepts the CON guidelines of a CV and goals in place of an IDP.

The College of Nursing requires that the student develop their curriculum vitae (CV) in NRS 930 (offered fall- first course in program).

For development of the Individual Development Plan, the student will meet with their advisor in the spring after NRS 930. They will develop at least 3 smart goals (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and timely). Each year the student will meet with their advisor to revise their smart goals and update their CV which includes the required research seminars (4 each for fall and spring semester). This revised CV will be uploaded into Seguidor annually (by the end of spring semester. This should be completed by 8 months after matriculation.

The link to Seguidor for uploading the CV and CV goals is via the following link:
[Seguidor | UNMC Graduate Studies](#)

NIH grantees: Investigators receiving NIH support (regardless of funding mechanism) should report the use of IDPs in the Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR) SECTION B. ACCOMPLISHMENTS, QUESTION B.4 for all graduate students and/or postdoctoral researchers reported in SECTION D. PARTICIPANTS or on a STATEMENT OF APPOINTMENT FORM (PHS2271). The report should outline current practices that document that IDPs are used to help manage the training for those individuals. Investigators are not required to submit the actual IDPs in progress reports to NIH. <http://myidp.sciencecareers.org/>

INCOMPLETE GRADES

Graduate Studies requirements for incomplete grades are outlined in Graduate Studies Bulletin which can be found in the online UNMC CourseLeaf Catalog: <http://catalog.unmc.edu/graduate-studies/scholarship-requirements/>. The student must contact the instructor prior to the end of the semester/session and request a grade of "I", and at that time arrangements must be made as to how and when the work will be completed.

PROGRESSION POLICY (POLICY 5.4.7)

Graduate students in the College of Nursing PhD program are expected to perform at the level of B (3.00) or above in any course that is offered for graduate credit. A grade of B- (2.67) or below is not acceptable in the PhD program core courses and any course offered through the College of Nursing master's program (800 level courses).

A grade of C (2.00) may be acceptable for elective courses but a grade of C- (1.67) or below is not acceptable.

A failing grade in any pass/fail research or non-research activity, or non-didactic course may be grounds for dismissal.

For additional information go to https://wiki.unmc.edu/index.php/CON_PhD_Progression_Policy

SCHOLARSHIP REQUIREMENTS

The CON PhD Program follows the Graduate Studies scholarship requirements found in Graduate Bulletin: <http://catalog.unmc.edu/graduate-studies/scholarship-requirements/>

APPEALS PROCESS

The CON PhD Program follows the Graduate Studies guidelines for grade appeals and for appeals for matters other than grades as outlined in Graduate Bulletin: <http://catalog.unmc.edu/graduate-studies/academic-grade-appeals/>

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

CON Policy 5.4.4., the policy for Leave of Absences and Deferral of Admission is as follows:

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

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

A LOA is defined as non-enrollment during a fall or spring semester or a withdrawal from all courses at any point during a semester.

The granting of any such LOA shall be solely within the discretion of the College of Nursing PhD in Nursing Program and UNMC Office of Graduate Studies, 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 Coordinator.

The student may be granted a LOA for a total of two semesters throughout the duration of his or her program, consecutive or non-consecutive.

The student will be responsible for working with his/her advisor to identify an eligible time to return. A student who has been granted a LOA is responsible for notifying the Student Service Coordinator of the intention to return to classes six weeks prior to the start of classes or as soon as possible. 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 semester in which the student plans to re-enroll, an extension of the LOA past two semesters may be granted.

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

Upon re-enrollment following a 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.

FINANCIAL AID CONSEQUENCES OF LOA

The student is responsible for contacting the UNMC Office of Financial Aid to determine the financial consequences of taking a LOA. For example, financial obligations regarding tuition payment and/or loan repayment, as well as scholarships and grants, need to be reviewed with the UNMC Office of Financial Aid prior to approval of the LOA. Significant financial consequences may result if courses are dropped during a semester. Further information can be found in the UNMC Student Handbook.

DEFERRAL OF ADMISSION

A student may defer admission for one or two semesters. Requests must be received in writing and addressed to the student's faculty advisor and/or the Student Services Coordinator. The request must indicate to which semester the student would like to defer admission and include a detailed description of the rationale for requesting the deferral. **The student is responsible for contacting the UNMC Office of Financial Aid to determine the financial consequences of deferring admission.** After one year (two semesters, not including summer sessions) of deferral, a student must withdraw and re-apply.

A student who has been granted a deferral is responsible for notifying the Student Services Coordinator of the intention to begin classes six weeks prior to the start of classes or as soon as possible.

Future 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 semester in which the student plans to enroll, an extension of the deferral past two semesters may be granted. Upon enrollment following a deferral of admission, 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 was accepted.

IMMUNIZATION AND COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW STUDENTS

There are compliance requirements, including immunizations, that are on the following site:

<https://www.unmc.edu/student-success/academic-success/onboarding/index.html>

If you need to contact student health, their email address is studenthealth@unmc.edu.

INFORMATION ON RESEARCH

NIEDFELT NURSING RESEARCH CENTER (NNRC)

Niedfelt Nursing Research Center (NNRC) Services Available: All grant applications must be submitted through the NNRC. If you are interested in submitting a grant application, the first step you need to take is to discuss **with your advisor or dissertation chair** your research idea(s).

After you and **your advisor or dissertation chair** have identified the appropriate grant mechanism for which to apply, you contact the NNRC Administrator who will work with you throughout the grant process. The NNRC needs ample time (10-12 weeks, if possible) to help you in the preparation and submission of your grant project.

The support that the NNRC can provide includes:

- Review of grant guidelines

- Review of, and support in, completion of all grant documents
- Assistance with budget development and budget justification support
- Liaison with Sponsored Programs Administration
- Post-Award Support

If submitting a grant or scholarship application:

You and your advisor need to check with NNRC so that they look at the guidelines to determine if the application needs to be routed through NNRC and/or Sponsored Programs. Every granting agency and/or foundation can be different in their guidelines. Of course, it is between you and your advisor on development and writing of the application.

Of note, this is just a few of the services that the NNRC can offer to you so please do not hesitate to contact the NNRC with any research related questions you may have. Please visit our website for more information at

<https://www.unmc.edu/nursing/research/index.html>

RESEARCH AND OTHER PROPOSALS FOR EXTERNAL FUNDING

UNMC INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD (IRB)

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 be reviewed by one or more dissertation committee members, one of whom must sign the IRB proposal before transmittal to the UNMC IRB office. Contact your chair regarding specific requirements for IRB proposals and prior to transmittal to the UNMC IRB office.

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 at a number of institutions. *"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, and 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 subject's 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.

In addition, UNMC requires all students to attend 8 hours of discussion-based training in Ethics. Attendance is tracked to notify UNMC Graduate Offices when students have met this graduation requirement.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES GUIDE

Financial Aid

- As a College of Nursing Graduate student, your financial aid will come from the University of Nebraska Medical Center Financial Aid Office. Questions concerning any federal loans or grants should be directed to Paula Kohles, Director of Financial Aid (pkohles@unmc.edu or 402-559-6409). Their offices will be able to provide more specific details on the resources listed below.
- Be sure you have filed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as well as the UNMC Scholarship Application with the UNMC Financial Aid Office within 30 days of your admission. The FAFSA must be completed annually, no later than July 1. These applications, as well as further financial aid information, can be found at the following website: <https://www.unmc.edu/financialaid/index.html>

UNMC Financial Resources

Non-resident Tuition Scholarship

A limited amount of funds may be available each year to reduce the difference between resident and non-resident tuition. Award amounts are determined by the College of Nursing. Students are not required to apply for this scholarship. More information will be provided to you upon admission.

Graduate Assistantships

If available, graduate assistantships are offered to eligible students. Graduate assistants in the PhD program receive an annual salary. All tuition, minus fees, is waived if you are hired prior to the start of the semester. Contact CON Student Services at graduatenursing@unmc.edu or 402-559-4110.

Scholarships and Fellowships Determined by CON Scholarship Committee

The College of Nursing has a number of scholarships for the pool of professional and graduate students (MSN, DNP, and PhD) who have demonstrated exemplary academic achievement. Students may be either full-time or part-time to be eligible for scholarships, unless the scholarship criteria specify a minimum number of credit hours. Students are automatically included in the award evaluation process, there is no separate action required of students to be considered for this funding. However, it is strongly encouraged that newly admitted students complete the **UNMC Scholarship Application**, the application assists the committee in matching students to scholarship criteria. To be considered for need based awards, students must submit a completed **FAFSA** to the Financial Aid Office (see Financial Aid section above for both forms).

Scholarships are financed primarily through the fund-raising efforts of the University of Nebraska Foundation and a variety of private donors (including CON Alumni). The number of scholarships awarded, and the amount of each scholarship are dependent upon the amount of contributions available for distribution. The allocation of funds is determined by the CON Professional and Graduate Scholarship Committee in June for the upcoming academic year. Scholarship recipients are notified through the student's UNMC Outlook email account. Scholarships are applied directly to students' accounts.

Scholarships Include (but not limited to):

Christine Heide Sorensen Scholarship: This scholarship is awarded to a current full-time graduate student with superior academic achievement. Student must maintain a 3.6 or above to be eligible.

Dr. Jeannene Boosinger Memorial Scholarship: This one-year scholarship is available to current full-time graduate students in the College of Nursing.

Ann Malone Berger, Ph.D. & Thomas Berger Nursing Scholarship: This scholarship is awarded annually or otherwise for one or more scholarships to regularly enrolled students in the PhD program in the UNMC College of Nursing.

Nancy Bergstrom Graduate Nursing Fellowship: This one-year fellowship is awarded annually to a current full-time MSN or PhD student enrolled in the College of Nursing. To be considered, a student must have a cumulative GPA of 3.2 or above and be working less than 20 hours per week. Preferable research areas include nutrition, prevention of pressure ulcers or incontinence, immobility or other problems of institutionalized elderly.

Jim D & Faye D Rasmussen College of Nursing Future Faculty Fellowship Fund: This fellowship is awarded annually or otherwise for one or more fellowships to regularly enrolled graduate students in the College of Nursing. It may be renewed upon continued maintenance of all criteria. Candidates must be pursuing a master's or Doctoral Nursing degree and have expressed a desire to pursue a career as faculty in a Nursing program in Nebraska.

Claramary Smith UNMC Fellowship NU Chapter, Phi Delta Gamma Scholarship: This scholarship is awarded annually for one or more scholarships to regularly enrolled graduate students in the College of Nursing. Eligible students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above and shall have completed a minimum of nine credit hours of graduate coursework at UNMC and be enrolled or intending to enroll in at least six credit hours of graduate coursework.

Competitive Scholarships or Fellowships Reviewed Initially within CON

Nellie House Craven Scholarship

Eligible students must be full-time PhD students in the fall, spring and summer of the school year in which the award is given. The award is intended for high-achieving nursing students with a strong interest in an academic nursing career and a commitment to research. The award covers the cost of tuition and may include a living stipend and funds for research expenses.

Jonas Scholar Program

The goal of the Jonas Nurse Leaders Scholar Program is to increase the number of doctorally prepared faculty available to teach in nursing schools nationwide. Every other year, the Jonas Center for Nursing Excellence has provided selected nursing students in doctoral programs financial support. The institution in which the student is enrolled provides matching financial support. At least one scholarship will be awarded for each state. The call to apply will come from the PhD in Nursing Program and competitively reviewed by a panel of PhD in Nursing Program faculty.

National Foundation/Center Scholarships and Fellowships

Other national scholarships (such as Johnson and Johnson Minority Scholar) may be available from time to time. Students need to work with advisors and discuss their intent with Director of PhD program, especially if there are criteria for number of students who can be funded from an institution and if the institution needs to provide matching funds.

Kate Field Fellowship

Students who rank in the upper one-fourth of their respective class may request to be nominated as the College of Nursing representative in university wide competition for this scholarship. Guidelines to select recipient are leadership, active participation in college and/or extracurricular activities, nominee should demonstrate presentation of research at scientific meetings on a local, regional or national level, and letters of recommendation outlining qualities and strengths of the individual. One \$5000 scholarship is awarded each year. Information is made available to CON in early spring prior to the awarding year.

UNMC Excellence Scholarship for a Northeast Nebraska Academic Nursing Career

The purpose of this scholarship is to develop future academic nurse leaders with a strong emphasis in the scholarship of teaching. Master's- or PhD-level students who are interested in nursing education and plan to teach in an academic nursing program in northeast Nebraska are eligible to apply. Applicants must reside in one of the counties in northeast Nebraska. More information and applications are available from the College of Nursing Student Services Office (contact at 402-559-4110). For more information, please visit [Scholarship - Northeast Nebraska | College of Nursing | University of Nebraska Medical Center](https://www.unmc.edu/gradstudies/admissions/costs-funding/assistantships-fellowships.html)

Competitive Assistantships/Fellowships via Graduate Studies

Graduate Fellowships and Regents Tuition Fellowships

Graduate Studies funds a number of fellowships for full-time (9 credits/semester) doctoral students each year with a GPA of 3.0 or higher. For more information, contact Graduate Studies at unmcgraduatestudies@unmc.edu or 402-559-6531.

Website: <https://www.unmc.edu/gradstudies/admissions/costs-funding/assistantships-fellowships.html>

Programs based upon Grant Applications made by CON

Nurse Faculty Loan Program- <https://bhw.hrsa.gov/loansscholarships/schoolbasedloans>

The CON may have limited funds. The above web site details on student eligibility and other information.

Other

Occasionally CON will be notified of new opportunities for scholarships which require an application. The College of Nursing faculty and/or CON Student Services will notify students of opportunities to apply.

Additional Financial Aid Resources

American Association of Colleges of Nursing - <https://www.aacnnursing.org/Students/Financial-Aid>

Various financial aid resources, including scholarships can be found here.

Information on loan forgiveness program - <http://www.lrp.nih.gov/>

National Institute of Nursing Research- Information on pre- and postdoctoral training opportunities, including the Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award for Individual Predoctoral Fellows in Nursing Research can be found via <http://www.ninr.nih.gov/Training/TrainingOpportunitiesExtramural/>

Websites

College of Nursing

- College of Nursing: www.unmc.edu/nursing
 - College of Nursing tuition and fees: [Tuition & Fees | College of Nursing | University of Nebraska Medical Center](#)

Informative UNMC sites for all students

- Academic Calendar: <https://www.unmc.edu/gradstudies/current-students/academic-calendar.html>
- UNMC Graduate Studies: <http://www.unmc.edu/gradstudies/>
- Tuition and funding info: <https://www.unmc.edu/gradstudies/admissions/costs-funding/index.html>
- Assistantship/Fellowship Information: <https://www.unmc.edu/gradstudies/admissions/costs-funding/assistantships-fellowships.html>
- UNMC Student Services: <http://www.unmc.edu/student-services/>
- UNMC Student Bias Reporting: <https://www.unmc.edu/student-success/support-services/safety/non-discrimination-bias.html>

Other

Students can request funds through the Dean for special events such as conferences where they will be presenting. They can request this form through the PhD Program Director.

CHECKLIST AND TIMELINE FOR PHD STUDENTS IN NURSING

The checklist and timeline for Graduate Studies PhD Students in nursing can be found at:

<https://www.unmc.edu/gradstudies/programs/phd-timeline.html>

The checklist below is a tool for you to use.

Overview of Progression and Graduate Studies Guidelines

The PhD in Nursing Program follows Graduate Studies policies, guidelines, and rules; however, the PhD in Nursing Program can have more rigorous policies, guidelines, and rules. Please see the CON PhD Student and Faculty Advising Handbook and Grad Studies' webpage for full delineation of policies, guidelines, and rules.

Timeline of Major Progression Elements

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7
Advisor Meetings							
Review and complete compact with chair. Upload to Seguidor	x						
Weekly basis with agenda and goals	x						
Regular basis with agenda and goals		x	x	x	x	x	x
Formation of Supervisory Committee (SC)* 1. Work with chair to identify members. 2. Submit to PAC for approval 3. Once PAC approved, enter names into Seguidor							
FT MSN-PhD within 12 mo.	x						
PT MSN-PhD within 18 mo.		x					
FT BSN-PhD within 24 mo.		x					
Approval of Program of Study (POS)* 1. Work with chair and SC to develop POS. 2. SC approves POS. Once committee approves, enter names into Seguidor							
FT MSN-PhD 1 mo. Post SC		x					
PT MSN-PhD 1 mo. Post SC		x					
FT BSN-PhD 1 mo. Post SC			x				
SC Meetings* 1. Schedule twice a year post formation SC 2. Develop agenda for meeting. 3. Takes minutes and obtain advisor approval of minutes. Upload minutes into Seguidor							
Spring semester SC meeting and IDP* 1. Have IDP plan discussed at meeting. 2. Upload IDP plan to Seguidor after SC meeting		x	x	x	x	x	x
Fall semester		x	x	x	x	x	x
Comprehensive Exam** 1. Identify potential date - to be taken after or last semester of core courses. 2. In collaboration with chair, identify documents to be sent to committee. 3. Send documents to committee 4-5 weeks. 4. 2 weeks later, committee identifies exam questions based upon documents. 2 weeks prior to CE date, chair sends synthesis of questions							
FT MSN-PhD			x				
PT MSN-PhD				x			
FT BSN-PhD			x				
Dissertation Defense** 1. Prepare the dissertation document to be distributed to the SC. 2. Submit the dissertation to the SC 4-6 weeks (4 week minimum) prior to defense and application for oral examination. 3. The student should submit the date, time, and room to Seguidor within two weeks prior to the oral defense.							

4. Successfully complete a public oral defense
5. Upon successful defense, the student will have committee members sign the *Dissertation Approval Form* (during Pandemic and social isolation, there is another way of documentation)
6. After a successful defense, the candidate will edit the dissertation based on recommendations, completing all edits to the satisfaction of the SC members.

Follow Grad Studies dissertation guidelines and timeline for submission of dissertation and forms.

FT MSN-PhD				X			
PT MSN-PhD					X		
FT BSN-PhD					X		

Note. Timeline may vary depending on PT or FT, BSN-PhD or MSN-PhD, when electives are offered, dissertation design and implementation, and life events. Graduate Studies has timelines on their webpage.

***= see full details in Handbook and GS Webpages.**

****=see full details in Handbook and GS Webpages, particularly timelines.**

STUDENT RESOURCES

POTENTIAL WRITING RESOURCES FOR ADVISORS AND STUDENTS

UNMC/UNO RESOURCES

CTR 901 SEMINAR IN CLINICAL & TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH GRANTSMANSHIP I 2 Credit Hours

Typically Offered: FALL

This course is designed to understand the concepts and guidelines involved in the writing of clinical and translation research grant applications. Emphasis will be given to learning the art and science of grant writing using the NIH format. Detailed discussions of sample funded K, R21, and R01 grants will be performed. Elements of NIH grant applications will be discussed from research strategy, subject recruitment, IRB regulations, and budget.

Prerequisite: This course is only open to faculty admitted to the CTR Mentored Scholars Program or permission of Instructors.

<https://catalog.unmc.edu/search/?search=ctr+901>

HPR0 925 SCIENTIFIC WRITING FOR PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH 3 Credit Hours

Typically Offered: SPRING

This course will provide doctoral students an opportunity to develop and apply scientific writing skills. All students will identify a potential paper that can be moved towards submission to a peer-reviewed journal before the end of the semester. Prerequisites: Doctoral student in good standing; instructor permission. <https://catalog.unmc.edu/search/?search=hpro+925>

CPH 710 RESEARCH GRANT PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT 3 Credit Hours

Prerequisite: **CPH 504** or equivalent introductory epidemiology course, **CPH 506** or equivalent introductory biostatistics course. Crosslisted: **EPI 910**. Typically Offered: SPRING

This course offers graduate students and health professionals a practical experience writing a research grant proposal for submission to the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Students will learn how to formulate research questions, develop study aims, and build research designs closely tied to analysis plans and research outcomes. Students will learn how to find and respond to various federal and non-federal funding mechanism opportunities. Students will participate in a mock NIH study section, during which they will learn the NIH peer review process and they will critique research grant proposals. Throughout the course, students will work interactively with faculty members who have successfully served as principal investigators and co-investigators of multiple federally funded research proposals or contracts in different disciplines.

<https://catalog.unmc.edu/search/?P=CPH%20710>

McGoogan Library resources - <http://www.unmc.edu/library/>

UNO Writing Center - <http://www.unomaha.edu/writingcenter/resources.php#thesis>

SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the coordinator of each course for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation. It is the policy of the University to provide flexible and individualized accommodation to students with documented disabilities; however, faculty are not required to provide accommodation without prior approval. To be eligible to receive reasonable accommodation, students must be registered with the Accessibility Services Center (ASC) by completing a self-identification form. Once the request has been approved, an individualized accommodation plan will be formulated and an official Letter of Disability Accommodation will be issued to the student. For more information on the Accessibility Services Center: <https://www.unmc.edu/student-success/support-services/accessibility/index.html>

STATISTICS RESOURCES

Resources available to assist PhD students with statistics requirements include computers with SPSS software in Omaha in the LRC and CNS 50105. SPSS tutorials, instructional videos, sample data file, and codebook and data entry practice documents are posted on the CON Research website: [Statistical Package for the Social Sciences | College of Nursing | University of Nebraska Medical Center](#). For resources at the Lincoln, Kearney, Norfolk, and Scottsbluff Division, contact the PhD program director.

SOCIAL SECURITY & MEDICARE TAX EXEMPTION POLICIES FOR STUDENT EMPLOYEES

See Student handbook: <http://catalog.unmc.edu/general-information/student-policies-procedures/ss-medicare-tax-exemption/>

APPENDIX B

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS AND PREREQUISITES

NRSG 905 RESEARCH IMMERSION IN NURSING

Course Description	During the research immersion, students in the nursing PhD program will have the opportunity to work closely with College of Nursing scientists with active programs of research and engage in cutting-edge research projects. These projects may or may not be congruent with the students' selected area of inquiry. This course will enhance students' nursing research skills, expand their knowledge base and foster critical thinking and independent inquiry. Distinctions applicable to nursing science will be emphasized.
Prerequisites	Admission to Nursing PhD program and permission of the PhD program director

NRSG 908 TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND COMPLEX SYSTEMS

Course Description	This course introduces the student to the concepts and principles of transformational leadership within the healthcare context and focuses on navigating complex adaptive systems to achieve transformative outcomes. Major constructs of transformational leadership are explored and applied to complex dilemmas in healthcare.
Prerequisites	Prerequisites Admission to the MSN, DNP or PhD program or permission of instructor.

NRSG 909 HEALTH CARE POLICY AND GLOBAL ISSUES

Course Description	This course introduces students to health policy and global health, examining the role of governments in healthcare systems. Issues such as quality access, health care cost, diversity, equity and inclusion, climate change, and issues relative to global health will be discussed. The role of research in shaping health policy will be addressed. Students will critically appraise a policy relevant to an area of research or practice and plan implementation strategies for policy change at the appropriate level of government or system. Students will develop verbal and written communication skills for effective advocacy and translation of research and policy implications to lay and professional audiences.
Prerequisites	Admission to PhD program or permission of instructor

NRSG 910 HEALTH-RELATED INSTRUMENT CONSTRUCTION AND EVALUATION

Course Description	The course provides a knowledge base and experience in the inductive and deductive process for constructing and evaluating instruments to measure psychosocial, behavioral, biophysiological and clinical phenomena. Content encompasses a wide variety of instrument scaling methods with appropriate psychometric evaluation techniques. Students will propose a design and evaluation strategy for an instrument.
Prerequisites	Two statistics courses: either BIOS 806 and BIOS 808 or two courses that meet requirements of the doctoral program or permission of instructor.

NRSG 914 MANAGEMENT OF CHRONIC ILLNESSES

Course Description	This course is designed to prepare the graduate student to have knowledge of chronic disease frameworks and models and research methods to prepare for a program of research that addresses the management of chronic illnesses. Major topics to be covered include healthy lifestyle behaviors, adherence to medical regimen, patient activation to adhere to therapeutic regimen, patient and family resilience, caregiving, risk, vulnerability and disability, symptom management, economic considerations, and planning for the future. Creative and innovative ways to promote patients' self-management of chronic illnesses will be explored.
Prerequisites	Multivariate statistics, or permission of the instructor.

NRSG 916 INDEPENDENT STUDY IN NURSING SCIENCE

Course Description	Independent Study in Nursing Science.
Prerequisites	Admission to PhD program or permission of instructor.

NRSG 918 STATE OF THE SCIENCE

Course Description	This course focuses on facilitating the student scholar's understanding and skill in conducting a rigorous systematic search, analysis, and synthesis of academic literature. Students will prepare a manuscript that provides a state of the science of their proposed dissertation research topic for submission at a later date. This course will include key components of scientific writing for publication.
Prerequisites	NRSG 930, NRSG 934, NRSG 935

NRSG 923 RURAL HEALTH: PRACTICE, POLICY AND RESEARCH

Course Description	This course focuses on understanding the issues related to conducting research in rural and disparate populations. Specifically, this course will emphasize content related to challenges and disparities in rural health, health care access, health care policy, and strategies for conducting research in rural areas such as the use of technology, considerations of the environment and community needs. Legal, ethical, political and economic indications for research in rural areas will be discussed.
Prerequisites	Admission to PhD program or permission of instructor.

NRSG 928 TRANSLATIONAL AND INTERDISCIPLINARY OUTCOMES RESEARCH

Course Description	This course is designed to prepare the graduate student to conduct translational outcomes research as part of an interdisciplinary team. This course focuses on outcomes: measurement, management, and evaluation of health care outcomes and translational research as a process that drives the clinical research engine. The Medical Outcomes Study conceptual framework (Structure of Care, Process of Care, and Outcomes) with an emphasis on the broad categories of outcome types: clinical end points, functional status, general well-being, satisfaction with care, and economic evaluations will be employed. Different translation approaches will be discussed T1-T4 (with an emphasis on T2-T4) along with common and unique research methods used. Legal, ethical, political and economic implications for practice and research will be discussed.
Prerequisites	Multivariate statistics or permission of instructor

NRSG 929 PHILOSOPHY AND THEORY DEVELOPMENT IN HEALTH SCIENCES

Course Description	This course explores classic and contemporary philosophies of science impacting nursing and related health disciplines. Perspectives on scientific progress are analyzed and applied to student research interests. This course also explores theory development in nursing and health sciences. Students learn how to critically evaluate theoretical frameworks according to supporting literature, relationships between concepts, and gaps in knowledge. Students create their own beginning conceptual framework or adapt an established conceptual framework to support their research interests.
Prerequisites	None

NRSG 930 SOCIALIZATION TO THE SCHOLARLY ROLE

Course Description	Doctoral graduates are poised to assume critical leadership roles in academia, the health care system, and/or other entities. Future roles of nurse educators, scholars, and scientists are explored. Strategies for promoting the student's own professional development and success as a doctoral student are examined. Students develop an understanding of scholarship including discovery, application, integration, and teaching. Students engage in processes to explore and develop their research focus and scholarly writing.
Prerequisites	Admission to the Ph.D. program or permission of instructor.

NRSG 934 QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS

Course Description	This course introduces students to philosophic foundations of qualitative research, principles of research designs, and methods. Students will critically appraise qualitative studies in their own areas of research and apply course content by analyzing a small data set.
Prerequisites	Admission to PhD program or permission of instructor.

NRSG 935 QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS

Course Description	This course introduces students to quantitative complex experimental and non- experimental designs applicable to the investigation of nursing research questions. Consideration will be given to aims/hypothesis development, sampling, methods of data collection, reliability and validity of measurement, data analysis, and issues related to the participation of human subjects. Published research serves as a focus for critical discussion of various designs and methods. Experiences will focus on selected analytical skills (i.e., using SPSS, calculating sample size estimates), and quantitative research techniques. Students will develop a beginning of quantitative research proposal.
Prerequisites	Statistics coursework in analysis of variance and multiple regression or permission of instructor.

NRSG 937 PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT IN HEALTH SCIENCES

Course Description	This course focuses on essential aspects of the development of a grant proposal, including analyzing appropriate funding sources, proposal writing and critiquing, and administering funded proposals.
Prerequisites	PhD in nursing core courses NRSG 918, 929, 930, 934, 935 or permission of the instructor.

NRSG 998 DOCTORAL SEMINAR

Course Description	Students actively participate in seminar discussion in the area of their dissertation research, including but not limited to application of research conceptualization and methods, synthesis of work from prior course.
Prerequisites	Doctoral students must enroll in this course each semester between completion of all core courses and successful dissertation defense.

NRSG 999 DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

Course Description	Independent student research directly related to dissertation. This course may be utilized before or after successful completion of the comprehensive exam.
Prerequisites	Doctoral students must enroll in this course each semester between completion of all core courses and successful dissertation defense.

COURSES PRIOR TO MATRICULATION 2024-2025

NRSG 917 STATE OF THE SCIENCE

Course Description	This is a two-semester sequence of courses. In semester 1, the content of the course will focus on a systematic search and synthesis of the literature pertaining to a major concept of students' dissertation research. The content of semester 2 will focus on the student preparing a draft of manuscript (intended for submission at a later date) that synthesizes the State of the Science knowledge regarding a specific topic. This course will include key components of scientific writing for publication.
Prerequisites	NRSG 930, NRSG 934

NRSG 936 RESEARCH PRACTICUM

Course Description	This course extends the content and experience of the previous research courses. The student will work closely with a faculty member to use the student's science-based model to prepare and/or pilot one or more aspects of the methods for the proposed dissertation research. The practice experience includes the conduct of pilot research with the population and environment of interest.
Prerequisites	NRSG 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, & 935; or permission of instructor.

NRSG 932 PHILOSOPHY OF NURSING SCIENCE

Course Description	This course explores nursing science in the context of classic and contemporary ideas in philosophy of science. Perspectives on scientific progress and the growth of nursing as a scientific discipline are analyzed and applied to the students' research interests. Integrative and translational frameworks for the future are analyzed.
Prerequisites	Admission to the Ph.D. program or permission of instructor.

NRSG 933 THEORY DEVELOPMENT IN HEALTH SCIENCES

Course Description	This course provides students with opportunities to critically review theory development in health sciences and examine how theories are adapted from other sciences. Students learn how to critically analyze, and sub struct selected theories related to their research focus. Students learn to synthesize the literature related to the selected theories to identify relationships between concepts and gaps in knowledge. The course culminates in students creating a beginning conceptual framework OR adaptation of an established conceptual framework.
Prerequisites	Admission to the PhD program; NRSG 930; NRSG 932 or permission of instructor.

APPENDIX C

POS EXEMPLARS FOR THE PHD PROGRAM

FULL TIME MASTER'S-PHD PROGRAM OF STUDIES

Exemplar of full-time (FT) Master's-PhD Program of Study *		
Fall (Year I)		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 930	Socialization to the Scholarly Role	2
NRSG 929	Philosophy of Science and Theory Development in Nursing and Health Sciences	4
BIOS 806	Biostats I (or equivalent)	3
	Required/Core, Non-Course - RCR/Ethics Training	0
Subtotal		9
Spring (Year 1)		
Course #	Title	Credits
BIOS 808	Biostats II (or equivalent)	3
NRSG 934	Qualitative Research Methods	3
NRSG 935	Quantitative Research Methods	3
Subtotal		9 (18)
Summer (Year1)		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 918	State of the Science	4
Subtotal		4 (22)
Fall (Year 2)		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 937	Proposal Development	3
	Elective #1 -Required Advanced Methodology Course Options include but not limited to: • HPRO 903: Mixed Methods Research • HSRA 920: Quantitative Methods in Health Services Research • BIOS 835: Design of Medical Health Studies	3
NRSG 905	Research Immersion in Nursing	3
Subtotal		9 (31)
Spring (Year 2)		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 909	Health Policy and Global Health Issues	3
NRSG 908	Transformational Leadership	3
	Elective #2	3
Subtotal		9 (40)
Summer (Year 2)		
Course #	Title	Credits
	Elective #3	3
	Comprehensive Exam	
Subtotal		3 (43)

Fall (Year 3)		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 999	Doctoral Dissertation	3
NRSG 998	Doctoral Seminar	1
Subtotal		4 (47)
Spring (Year 3)		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 999	Doctoral Dissertation	3
NRSG 998	Doctoral Seminar	1
Subtotal		4 (51)
Summer (Year 3)		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 999	Doctoral Dissertation	1
Subtotal		1 (52)
Fall (Year 4)		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 999	Doctoral Dissertation	4
Subtotal		4 (56)
Spring (Year 4)		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 999	Doctoral Dissertation	1
Total		1 (57)

RCR/Ethics Training should be included in POS submitted in Seguidor as it is listed above. Program Director/Program Support will send out dates in Fall for RCR/Ethics one day seminar.

- FT = 9 credits in fall and spring prior to Comprehensive Exams. After Comps, only need 1 credit of NRSG 999 for FT.
- NRSG 999 = 12 credits at a minimum. The number of credits per semester is variable based upon work effort and timeline. More credits may be needed if dissertation is extended.
- NRSG 998 is variable credit. A minimum of 2 credits is required. More credits may be needed if dissertation is extended. Not taken during the final semester of doctoral dissertation.
- Course work needs to be done prior to Comprehensive Exam.
- Graduate Studies has FT study requirements if a Graduate Assistant (GA) and if GA in summer; student may need to take extra credits. Please discuss GA status and Graduate Studies credit requirements with your advisor.

EXEMPLAR OF PART-TIME MASTER'S-PHD PROGRAM OF STUDIES

Exemplar of part-time (PT) Master's-PhD Program of Study*		
Summer (Year 0)		
BIOS 806	Biostats I (or equivalent)	3
Subtotal		3
Fall (Year 1)		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 930	Socialization to the Scholarly Role	2
NRSG 929	Philosophy of Science and Theory Development in Nursing and Health Sciences	4
	Required/Core, Non-Course - RCR/Ethics Training	0
Subtotal		6 (9)
Spring (Year 1)		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 934	Qualitative Research Methods	3
NRSG 935	Quantitative Research Methods	3
Subtotal		6 (15)
Summer (Year 1)		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 918	State of the Science	4
Subtotal		4 (19)
Fall (Year 2)		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 937	Proposal Development	3
	Elective #1 -Required Advanced Methodology Course Options include but not limited to: • HPRO 903: Mixed Methods Research • HSRA 920: Quantitative Methods in Health Services Research • BIOS 835: Design of Medical Health Studies	3
Subtotal		6 (25)
Spring (Year 2)		
Course #	Title	Credits
BIOS 808	Biostatistics II (or equivalent)	3
NRSG 909	Health Policy and Global Health Issues	3
Subtotal		6 (31)
Summer (Year 2)		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 908	Transformational Leadership and Complex Systems	3
Subtotal		3 (34)
Fall (Year 3)		
Course #	Title	Credits
	Elective #2	3
	Elective #3	3
Subtotal		6 (40)

Spring (Year 3)		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 905	Research Immersion in Nursing	3
	Comprehensive Exam	
Subtotal		3 (43)
Summer (Year 3)		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 999	Doctoral Dissertation	3
Subtotal		3 (46)
Fall (Year 4)		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 999	Doctoral Dissertation	3
NRSG 998	Doctoral Seminar	1
Subtotal		4 (50)
Spring (Year 4)		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 999	Doctoral Dissertation	3
NRSG 998	Doctoral Seminar	1
Subtotal		4 (54)
Summer (Year 4)		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 999	Doctoral Dissertation	1
Total		1 (55)
Fall (Year 5)		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 999	Doctoral Dissertation	2
Subtotal		2 (57)

RCR/Ethics Training should be included in POS submitted in Seguidor as it is listed above. Program Director/Program Support will send out dates in Fall for RCR/Ethics one day seminar.

- FT = 9 credits in fall and spring prior to Comprehensive Exams. After Comps, only need 1 credit of NRSG 999 for FT.
- NRSG 999 = 12 credits at a minimum. The number of credits per semester is variable based upon work effort and timeline. More credits may be needed if dissertation is extended.
- NRSG 998 is variable credit. A minimum of 2 credits is required. More credits may be needed if dissertation is extended. Not taken during the final semester of doctoral dissertation.
- Course work needs to be done prior to Comprehensive Exam.
- Graduate Studies has FT study requirements if a Graduate Assistant (GA) and if GA in summer; student may need to take extra credits. Please discuss GA status and Graduate Studies credit requirements with your advisor.

FULL TIME BSN-PHD PROGRAM OF STUDIES

Exemplar of Full-time (FT) BSN-PhD Program of Study		
Fall (Year 1)		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 930	Socialization to the Scholarly Role	2
NRSG 929	Philosophy of Science and Theory Development in Nursing and Health Sciences	4
BIOS 806	Biostats I (or equivalent)	3
	Required/Core, Non-Course - RCR/Ethics Training	0
Subtotal		9
Spring (Year 1)		
Course #	Title	Credits
EPI 820	Epidemiology in Public Health	3
BIOS 808	Biostats II (or equivalent)	3
NRSG 803	Evidence-Based Practice and Theories Foundation	3
Subtotal		9 (18)
Summer (Year1)		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 905	Research Immersion in Nursing	3
Subtotal		3 (21)
Fall (Year 2)		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 802	Foundations of Quality, Safety, Informatics, and Finance	4
NRSG 891	Teaching and Learning Strategies for the Classroom	3
NRSG 804	Foundations of Population-Based Health Policy	3
Subtotal		10 (31)
Spring (Year 2)		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 934	Qualitative Research Methods	3
NRSG 935	Quantitative Research Methods	3
NRSG 909	Health Policy and Global Health Issues	3
Subtotal		9 (40)
Summer (Year 2)		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 918	State of the Science	4
Subtotal		4 (44)
Fall (Year 3)		
Course #	Title	Credits
	Elective #1- Required Advanced Methodology Course Options include but not limited to: • HPRO 903: Mixed Methods Research • HSRA 920: Quantitative Methods in Health Services Research • BIOS 835: Design of Medical Health Studies	3
NRSG 937	Proposal Development	3

Subtotal		6 (50)
Spring (Year 3)		
Course #	Title	Credits
	Elective #2	3
	Elective #3	3
Subtotal		6 (56)
Summer (Year 3)		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 893	Using Technology to Enhance Teaching/Learning	3
NRSG 908	Transformational Leadership and Complex Systems	3
	Comprehensive Exam	0
Subtotal		6 (62)
Fall (Year 4)		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 999	Doctoral Dissertation	4
NRSG 998	Doctoral Seminar	1
Subtotal		5 (67)
Spring (Year 4)		
Course #	Title	Credits
NRSG 999	Doctoral Dissertation	4
NRSG 998	Doctoral Seminar	1
Subtotal		5 (72)
Summer (Year 4)		
Course #	Course #	Course #
NRSG 999	Doctoral Dissertation	4
Subtotal		4 (76)
Total		

RCR/Ethics Training should be included in POS submitted in Seguidor as it is listed above. Program Director/Program Support will send out dates in Fall for RCR/Ethics one day seminar.

- FT = 9 credits in fall and spring prior to Comprehensive Exams. After Comps, only need 1 credit of NRSG 999 for FT.
 - NRSG 999 = 12 credits at a minimum. The number of credits per semester is variable based upon work effort and timeline. More credits may be needed if dissertation is extended.
 - NRSG 998 is variable credit. A minimum of 2 credits is required. More credits may be needed if dissertation is extended. Not taken during the final semester of doctoral dissertation.
 - Course work needs to be done prior to Comprehensive Exam.
 - Graduate Studies has FT study requirements if a Graduate Assistant (GA) and if GA in summer; student may need to take extra credits. Please discuss GA status and Graduate Studies credit requirements with your advisor.
- *NRSG 898- Clinical Immersion I: Advanced Direct Patient Care is available as an elective for those that desire more experience with direct patient care