

Nursing PhD Sample Plan of Study

The following plan of study option is based on three (3) courses per semester. Each student's program of study will be determined in conjunction with the student's academic advisor.

Year 1:

Fall

NURS7500

Inquiry and Nursing

This course introduces students to the process of intellectual inquiry. It explores the intellectual foundations of scholarly disciplines in general and the discipline of nursing in particular.

Emphasis is placed on the process of knowledge development, with particular emphasis on historical, philosophical, positivist, and gendered and phenomenological ways of knowing.

Emphasis is also placed on having students develop their particular intellectual approach to disciplinary inquiry and on formulating ideas for publications and presentations.

NURS8130

Qualitative Paradigm Empirical Nursing Research

Study of selected qualitative paradigm empirical research approaches, including design and methodology. Critique of selected qualitative research reports from the literature of nursing and related disciplines. Fieldwork exercise and research proposal required.

Statistics Course 1

Statistics Course 1

Choose one of the following:

- SOCI 535: Quantitative Methods I
- STAT 500: Applied Regression and Analysis of Variance
- PUBH 501: Introduction to Biostatistics
- EPID 526: Biostatistics for Epidemiologic Methods I

Spring

NURS7530

Evolving Nursing Science

A consideration of contemporary nursing research as it pertains to the current state of the art and directions for future study. Advanced analysis of methodology, assumptions, and theoretical structures that underpin the work.

NURS7540

Quantitative Research Design and Methods

This one semester survey course provides an overview of quantitative clinical research design and methods. Ethical and legal considerations in human subjects research, access to patient populations, sampling designs and power analysis, experimental and non-experimental designs,

measurement of variables, data collection techniques, and data management are included. This course is intended for doctoral students in the health sciences.

Statistics Course 2

Statistics Course 2

Choose one of the following:

- SOCI 536: Quantitative Methods II
- STAT 501: Introduction to Nonparametric Methods and Log-linear Models
- HPR 608: Applied Regression Analysis for Health Policy Research
- EPID 527: Biostatistics for Epidemiologic Methods II

Year 2:

Fall

Concentration Course 1

Concentration Course 1

Concentration courses are intended to support the dissertation. These courses may be in a particular content areas (e.g. genetics, health disparities) that are related to the planned dissertation, or methods courses teaching specific approaches (e.g. clinical trial design). Courses may be taken in nursing or a different discipline at the University. The student should discuss possible content and methods courses with their advisors and search for courses that support the dissertation topic.

Concentration Course 2

Concentration Course 2

Concentration courses are intended to support the dissertation. These courses may be in a particular content areas (e.g. genetics, health disparities) that are related to the planned dissertation, or methods courses teaching specific approaches (e.g. clinical trial design). Courses may be taken in nursing or a different discipline at the University. The student should discuss possible content and methods courses with their advisors and search for courses that support the dissertation topic.

Concentration Course 3

Concentration Course 3

Concentration courses are intended to support the dissertation. These courses may be in a particular content areas (e.g. genetics, health disparities) that are related to the planned dissertation, or methods courses teaching specific approaches (e.g. clinical trial design). Courses may be taken in nursing or a different discipline at the University. The student should discuss possible content and methods courses with their advisors and search for courses that support the dissertation topic.

Defend Qualifying Exam

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Students must complete the Qualifying Examination. Typically a full-time student will defend the Qualifying Exam in the fall semester of the second year.

The Qualifying Examination determines the student's potential for completing doctoral study. Successful completion of the examination signifies the student's potential and the faculty's commitment to provide scholarly resources needed to complete continuing course work and the dissertation.

Spring

Concentration Course 4

Concentration Course 4

Concentration courses are intended to support the dissertation. These courses may be in a particular content areas (e.g. genetics, health disparities) that are related to the planned dissertation, or methods courses teaching specific approaches (e.g. clinical trial design). Courses may be taken in nursing or a different discipline at the University. The student should discuss possible content and methods courses with their advisors and search for courses that support the dissertation topic.

Concentration Course 5

Concentration Course 5

Concentration courses are intended to support the dissertation. These courses may be in a particular content areas (e.g. genetics, health disparities) that are related to the planned dissertation, or methods courses teaching specific approaches (e.g. clinical trial design). Courses may be taken in nursing or a different discipline at the University. The student should discuss possible content and methods courses with their advisors and search for courses that support the dissertation topic.

Additional Course

Nurse 900 or audit

Year 3:

Fall*

Candidacy Exam

Defense of Dissertation Proposal

The purpose of the Candidacy Exam, also referred to as the dissertation proposal defense, is to demonstrate an understanding of knowledge in the concentration area that supports the student's dissertation research. The preparation for the exam occurs under the guidance of the Dissertation Committee.

NURS8000

Dissertation Seminar I

Advanced study and research in nursing leading to the completion of the dissertation proposal.

NURS8900

Nursing Doctoral Teaching Residency

The purpose of this required one semester teaching residency is to enhance the expertise of students in the role of educator. The residency will be tailored to the student's individual learning needs. At the minimum, students with no or minimal prior teaching experience will

gain a beginning level of expertise in course planning, course evaluation, dealing with difficult student situations, test construction, paper assignment construction and grading, content delivery methods, as well as other aspects of the faculty teaching role. Students with more extensive teaching experience will tailor their residencies with their residency supervisor to enhance their expertise in these various areas.

NURS8970

Nursing Doctoral Research Residency

The purpose of this required one semester research residency is to enhance student research training early in the doctoral program by providing a mentored research experience. The residency is designed to be a tailored hands-on experience to provide students with exposure and the opportunity to participate in one or more aspects of an on-going research project. Research residencies are experiential activities designed to meet the student's individual learning needs. At the minimum, students with no or minimal prior research experience will gain a beginning level of experience on a variety of components of an ongoing research project. Students with more extensive research experience will tailor their residencies with their residency supervisor to enhance their expertise in these various areas.

Spring

NURS9950

Dissertation

Once the student has completed all course requirements, they will be registered for NURS 995: Dissertation Status. Dissertation status carries full-time registration status, and will be rostered in each semester until the dissertation defense.

**NURS 890 and 897 may be completed at any time prior to graduation, but registration may occur in a different semester to ensure the student has full-time registration status.*

Students who entered the PhD program in Fall 2018 or earlier should refer to the [PhD Student Handbook](#) for sample plans of study.