

University of Florida

Academic Affairs

Academic Colleges

College of Nursing

Nursing Sciences (PhD)

PhD Nursing Program Mission

The PhD in Nursing Sciences program prepares graduates with the knowledge and skills necessary to generate new nursing knowledge and to become a leader and advocate in advancing health care.

This program aligns with the College of Nursing Vision Statement which includes “preparing nurses for leadership as... scientists... who... foster interdisciplinary collaboration; and improve the health of individuals, families, and communities”. It supports the University Mission which supports exploration of intellectual boundaries, creation of new knowledge, and the pursuit of new ideas. The UF Mission notes that “research and scholarship are expansions of understanding of the natural world, the intellect and the senses” and that “service reflects the university’s obligation to share the beliefs of its reward and knowledge for the public good”. In keeping with the goals of The Florida Board of Governors Strategic Plan, this program contributes to building research capacity and meeting community needs for Florida.

Responsible Roles: Associate Dean (Haddad, Linda)

Program: Nursing Sciences (PhD)

Progress: Ongoing

PG 1: Prepare graduates to generate nursing knowledge

Prepare graduates to generate knowledge for the discipline of nursing.

Evaluation Method

A. Dissertation

B. 90% of students enrolled in the final semester of NGR 7980 over three years will earn a satisfactory rating.

Responsible Role: Associate Dean (Haddad, Linda)

Progress: Ongoing

PG 2: Prepare graduates to disseminate research findings

Prepare graduates to disseminate findings to researchers, practitioners, and other stakeholders in health care.

Evaluation Method

A. Dissertation

B. 90% of students enrolled in the final semester of NGR 7980 over three years will earn a satisfactory rating.

Responsible Role: Associate Dean (Haddad, Linda)

Progress: Ongoing

SLO 1: Knowledge

Synthesize knowledge from nursing and other disciplines.

SLO Area (select one): Knowledge (Grad)

Responsible Role: Associate Dean (Haddad, Linda)

Progress: Ongoing

Assessment Method

1. Research Synthesis course



2. Qualifying examination

3. PhD Alumni Survey

SLO 2: Skills

Generate knowledge for the discipline of nursing.

SLO Area (select one): Skills (Grad)

Responsible Role: Associate Dean (Haddad, Linda)

Progress: Ongoing

Assessment Method

1. Dissertation
 2. PhD Alumni Survey
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SLO 3: Skills

Disseminate findings to researchers, practitioners, and other stakeholders in health care.

SLO Area (select one): Skills (Grad)

Responsible Role: Associate Dean (Haddad, Linda)

Progress: Ongoing

Assessment Method

1. Dissertation
 2. PhD Alumni Survey
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SLO 4: Professional Behavior

Synthesize ethical issues and standards related to science and knowledge development.

SLO Area (select one): Professional Behavior (Grad)

Responsible Role: Associate Dean (Haddad, Linda)

Progress: Ongoing

Assessment Method

1. Dissertation
 2. PhD Alumni Survey
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SLO 5: Professional Behavior

Develop and engage with interdisciplinary teams within the scientific and health care practice communities.

SLO Area (select one): Professional Behavior (Grad)

Responsible Role: Associate Dean (Haddad, Linda)

Progress: Ongoing

Assessment Method

1. Dissertation
 2. PhD Alumni Survey
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PhD Nursing AAP Detail

Start: 7/1/2016

End: 6/30/2017

Progress: Ongoing

Providing Department: Nursing Sciences (PhD)

Responsible Roles: Associate Dean (Haddad, Linda)

Research (Graduate and Professional AAPs only)

The PhD program prepares scientists, scholars, and leaders in nursing. Comprehensive research preparation is achieved by pairing students with faculty researchers where students not only obtain expert, focused mentoring, but also may participate in faculty research. With progression, increasing time is devoted to dissertation research. Individually directed dissertation research is a major aspect of the PhD program. Required research courses include:

NGR 7816 Quantitative Research Design & Measurement in Nursing, NGR 6815 Foundations of Qualitative Health

Research, NGR 6840 Applied Statistical Analysis I, and NGR 6845 Applied Statistical Analysis II, as well as 3-6 credits of NGR 7979 Advanced Research and 14 credits of NGR 7980 Dissertation Research. Most students work closely with their research mentors and/or dissertation committees to submit grant applications to secure funds that support their dissertation work. This provides excellent experience for students who upon graduation possess requisite skills to obtain external funding for their own independent research programs.

Assessment Timeline (Graduate and Professional AAPs only)



Curriculum Map (UG AAPs only)

Assessment Cycle (All AAPs)

Analysis and Interpretation:

Research Synthesis course- Students will write a paper which summarizes and evaluates the quality of the available knowledge and lays out the logical foundation for the next set of questions for hypothesis-testing in their selected focal area.

Qualifying examination results are analyzed and interpreted during the semester after students complete the exams.

The quality of dissertations is analyzed and interpreted prior to student graduation.

Alumni survey results are analyzed and interpreted within one month of receipt of graduates' responses.

Program Modifications:

Recommendations are developed every 3 years between May 1 and August 31 by a PhD Program Review Task Force appointed by the College Academic Affairs Committee. Recommendations are acted upon by the faculty between September 1 and November 30. A PhD Program Review was conducted 2015. The PhD Program Review by the college Academic Affairs Committee were finalized in Spring 2016. Courses were modified and new courses were added to the curriculum plan. In addition the progression exam was taken out from the program and replaced with the Research Synthesis course.

Dissemination:

Programmatic changes are disseminated between December 1 and February 28 every 3 years, following approval of program modifications.



Methods and Procedures (UG and Certificate AAPs)

SLO Assessment Rubric (All AAPs)

Measurement Tools (Graduate and Professional AAPs Only)

Research Synthesis: The final product of this course focuses on codifying the student's area of dissertation interest, and developing a synthesized literature review and rationale for aims, and hypotheses of the proposed work. Emphasis is on learning how to evaluate the quality of the available knowledge, summarize it in a cogent manner, and provide a foundation for the proposed dissertation research. The focus is on directing the student to develop a rationale for the significance of the research problem, summarize key findings, and analyze methodological weaknesses in designs, frameworks, and measurement of outcome variables. Student's performance in the course is mostly evaluated by providing State of the Science "synthesis" paper. Students will write a final paper which summarizes and evaluates the quality of the available knowledge and lays out the logical foundation for the next set of questions for hypothesis-testing in their selected focal area. The components of the paper should include a rationale for the significance of the problem, a summary of key findings, analysis of methodological weaknesses in designs, frameworks, and measurement of outcome variables, and recommendations for the best directions for future study.

Qualifying Examination: This exam is administered after all coursework has been completed and measures the student's ability to synthesize and integrate knowledge from the program of study in the areas of research, knowledge development, nursing, and a minor. The examination is both written and oral. After consultation with the Supervisory Committee, the student's Chair provides two questions for the student to answer. Each of the questions is evaluated separately by the members of the Supervisory Committee using the following criteria:

1. In-depth knowledge and synthesis of relevant theory and research
2. A comprehensive review of literature in the student's area of research
3. Knowledge of qualitative and quantitative research
4. An understanding of the student's minor/supporting courses and their relevance and/or application to the student's dissertation proposal

5. Evidence of scholarly thinking appropriately reflected in scholarly writing to amplify, clarify, and verify written responses. Thereafter, the Supervisory Committee determines if the student has passed the exam.

Alumni Survey: Graduates receive this instrument 1-2 years after graduation and respond to questions designed to solicit their satisfaction with achievement of SLOs. They also provide evidence of research productivity and dissemination of knowledge. Using a Likert scale, alumni rate the degree to which they believe the PhD program prepared them to accomplish each of the five SLOs. In addition, they indicate if they have conducted research, and published and/or presented scholarly work after graduation.

Dissertation: All PhD students complete one of two dissertation options. Both require generation and dissemination of knowledge, and an oral defense of the research. Option one is the “traditional” dissertation and includes a final scholarly report with five chapters (introduction, review of literature, methodology, research, and discussion) that describes the research process and results. Option two is the “non-traditional” dissertation and includes submission of three manuscripts directly related to the student’s research findings. At least one manuscript must be published or in press prior to the student’s graduation. The student’s Dissertation Committee evaluates the dissertation proposal as well as the final scholarly product(s) and determines if the work is of sufficient quality for the student to graduate.

Assessment Oversight (All AAPs)

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Academic Assessment Plan Entry Complete: