

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA SCHOOL OF NURSING PhD HANDBOOK

We acknowledge and respect the ləkwəŋən peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

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Introduction

Welcome

Welcome to the University of Victoria (UVic) School of Nursing PhD program. You have embarked on a new journey into higher education and we hope that you will find it to be an adventure of learning in new, creative and thoughtful ways about the discipline of nursing. You are invited to become socialized into the scholarly world of academia both inside and outside the discipline of nursing.

At the UVic School of Nursing, we are committed to accessible, innovative nursing education. Through our commitment to research, professional activities, knowledge generation, and advancement of nursing practice and our partnerships with educators, students, practitioners, researchers and policy developers, we promote health and social change.

The School of Nursing is located within the Faculty of Human and Social Development (HSD) that has seven schools.



University of Victoria (UVic) graduate students (including PhD students) are admitted to the <u>FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES (FGS)</u>. The FGS sets the policies to ensure quality and standards in all UVic graduate programs and works closely with the School of Nursing on student-related issues. To learn about FGS policies and procedures that influence you as a PhD student, please take some time to review the UVic Graduate <u>CALENDAR 2022-2023</u>. The UVic FGS website is also a great place to learn about the larger graduate community, scholarships, travel funds, and so forth.

Connecting with us

The School's faculty and staff share the common aim of supporting you in your PhD journey. Please browse the directory tabs on the School of Nursing "Our People" webpage to find

alphabetic listings of faculty and staff to learn about their roles within the School, teaching and research activities and contact information to help you connect - and stay connected - with each of us.

Of particular relevance is the **Graduate Admissions Advising Team**, comprised of the Associate Director of Graduate Education, Graduate Education Advisor, and two Administrative Assistants who are available to advise you on all student-related matters. The <u>School of Nursing</u> website is a good place to find our team, learn about their roles and get information pertaining to <u>Funding Opportunities</u>, <u>Research & Scholarship</u>, and so on. We encourage students to take some time to look through our webpages and bookmark those that are most relevant to you and your graduate program interests.

Academic and Administrative Contacts

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About UVic PhD Program

The purpose of doctoral education in nursing is to foster the next generation of nurse scholars who will advance nursing scholarship (including the scholarship of research, education, and practice) and maintain the integrity and vitality of nursing. Doctoral graduates in nursing will

become stewards of the discipline and profession, people who are entrusted with advancing nursing knowledge, preserving and developing the nursing literature, communicating nursing knowledge to others, and understanding and advancing the role of nursing in society. For additional information, please visit UVic PhD Program website.

The PhD is a full-time program designed to be completed in four years. In year 1, students are expected to do their course work, work with their supervisor to articulate a research problem and a plan, and begin planning for Year 2 electives. In year 2, students will continue PhD Seminars, take elective courses, and prepare for comprehensive examinations (see below). Comprehensive examinations must be **completed in the first 24 months** of the program.

In year 3 and 4, once comprehensive examinations are completed, students will work with their supervisors to complete candidacy examinations, which must be **completed in the first 36 months** of the program. Candidacy examinations (see below) include successful defense of a dissertation proposal. In years 3 and 4, students will, under the direction of their PhD supervisor, proceed with the steps required to complete their dissertation research. This includes obtaining ethics approval, collecting and analyzing data, and finally writing and defending the dissertation.

The PhD normally takes a minimum of four years to complete, but **must be completed within** seven years.

You will find in Appendix A a guide to help students plan their courses and ensure graduate requirements are met. A full description of the PhD courses, comprehensive and candidacy processes, and policies and procedures can be found on the School of Nursing website.

Community of Learning for PhD Students

The Brightspace 'PhD Nursing' is an information hub and site to facilitate doctoral student interaction across cohorts. This virtual meeting place provides a forum for welcoming new students, facilitating on-line communication, and information/resource sharing.

Requirements for online learning

Computers and On-Line Support

As a distributed program, you are required to have the necessary computer equipment and software to support your learning. A computer (rather than a mobile device) is required for courses. We use multiple technologies to support your learning (e.g., Brightspace, Zoom, and Microsoft Teams). Brightspace is the platform we use for online courses. To access Brightspace you will need:

- A reliable connection to the Internet.
- Pop-up blockers disabled.

A recommended web browser with JavaScript and cookies enabled.

Not all browsers fully support Brightspace functions. The following are the browsers that the UVic Support Desk supports for Brightspace use:

For Windows For Apple

Google Chrome: latest version
Internet Explorer: versions 8.0 or later

Google Chrome: latest version
Mozilla Firefox: latest version

Mozilla Firefox: latest version Safari: latest version

Please note that students will need Adobe Professional to read and edit many items sent from the School of Nursing and the Faculty of Graduate Studies. This may be purchased at http://www.adobe.com/.

Using Mobile Devices for Courses

While we are working hard to make Brightspace 'mobile friendly', if you are planning on accessing your online courses using a mobile device such as a tablet or a smartphone, please note that not all required course features will be accessible with these devices. Your mobile devices can be used to access some of your online course tools; however, to fully function in your online courses, you will need to have access to a computer running Windows or MacOS. You should only use your mobile device to view course content and never rely on your mobile device for time-sensitive assignment submissions, quizzes, or any other complex functions.

The <u>Technology Integrated Learning</u> (TIL) website provides many resources to support students. They offer an <u>orientation to online learning</u>, which is available to help students learn how to use Brightspace, including logging into Brightspace course(s), and using the standard tools found on each site.

<u>Computing facilities</u> with <u>printing and duplicating</u> services are available to all registered students and the <u>Computer Help Desk</u> can provide a variety of computer support, including data recovery. Students may find this an extremely helpful resource when encountering computer difficulties. When on campus <u>computers can be borrowed</u> through the library for searching or using application software.

Web-Based Learning

The PhD program normally has a combination of on-site experiences and web-based learning. Online courses are normally delivered using a course management system such as Brightspace, where students will find the course syllabus, assignments and online learning activities. Students interact asynchronously with the instructor and classmates on the website through discussion forums and the course mail tool. In addition, students are required to connect to seminars using an online video conferencing tool, meeting in real-time for synchronous

discussion. These sessions occur weekly or bi-weekly with the instructor creating an online classroom environment.

Remote Access: Virtual Private Network (VPN)

For security reasons, all faculty, students, and staff are encouraged to use a Virtual Private Network (VPN) when connecting to UVic services, such as the library, file servers, and network printers, over the Internet.

A Virtual Private Network (VPN) allows users to access networks and services over a secure connection and encrypts any traffic between your computer and UVic's VPN servers to safeguard your communication to UVic. Students can download the Cisco AnyConnect VPN software for free from one of the links at the bottom of the web site: University Systems Help Centre.

Use VPN to connect to the UVic network when (a) off campus; (b) using an insecure Internet connection on campus; or (c) when using a wireless Internet connection on campus. Please note that you must first establish an internet connection before you launch the VPN service.

Getting setup up as a new UVic student

Entering a graduate program involves lots of required start-up details, including <u>registering for courses</u>, <u>paying fees</u>, obtaining a <u>library card</u>, as well as setting up a <u>UVic email address</u>. Read about new graduate student processes <u>here</u>.

School of Nursing Writing Resources

One of the challenges that many first-year PhD students experience is academic writing. For some students, it might have been many years since they have written an academic paper. The School of Nursing has a writing tutor who offers an online writing course (NURS 500) for graduate students as well as one-on-one writing support. PhD students needing extra writing help are encouraged to take this course or arrange one-on-one tutoring. The School of Nursing writing support website has a wealth of information on academic writing. Check it out and feel free to contact the writing tutor if need be.

Degree Requirements

Degree Requirements and Course Descriptions

The sequencing of the courses has been carefully developed, and courses build on one another to promote learning. The PhD program requires satisfactory completion of at least 13.5 units of coursework (including a mandatory non-credit Dissertation seminar), comprehensive and candidacy exams, a 30-unit Dissertation, and a final oral examination. Other required or recommended seminars, elective courses, and internships (adding to the units taken) will vary according to the student's academic background, research and practice experience, and career goals and should be determined in consultation with your PhD supervisor.

Required Courses and Seminars

NURS 601 Philosophy in Nursing (1.5 units)

Explores the range of philosophical schools of thought and traditions that have influenced the development of nursing knowledge in the Western world. Students examine contemporary philosophical perspectives to prepare students to participate in and contribute to knowledge development that will shape the evolution of the discipline.

NURS 602 Epistemological Discourses in the Study of Nursing (1.5 units)

Explores the current state of theorizing that underpins nursing's disciplinary and knowledge claims.

NURS 604a Qualitative Research Design (1.5 units)

Explores assumptions and claims underlying qualitative methodologies that inform research in professional nursing practice and health care.

NURS 604b Quantitative Research Design (1.5 units)

Explores assumptions and biases underlying various quantitative methodologies that inform research in professional nursing practice and health care. Examines quantitative research designs with particular emphasis on their appropriateness for addressing nursing and health problems. Issues specific to the design of nursing health care studies are explored.

NURS 621 Doctoral Seminar (1.5 units)

This seminar course takes place over two terms. Provides students with opportunities to engage in dialogue about the contribution of doctoral education to the academic discipline and the professional practice of nursing. Students examine issues relevant to the nursing discipline and profession and meet with established doctorally prepared scholars as they consider possibilities for research and scholarship within their own doctoral studies.

NURS 622 Dissertation Seminar (1.5 units)

Opportunities to engage in dialogue about topics that will support their preparation for doctoral comprehensive and candidacy exams and dissertation research. Students actively

participate in the planning and process of the course, taking leadership roles and presenting their own scholarly work.

NURS 679 Research and Scholarship Seminar (1.5 - 4.5 units)

Based on an understanding of scholarship as a social and communal activity, the course provides students with opportunities to have conversations about research, scholarly activity, and topics relevant to becoming stewards of the discipline. Students and faculty decide on topics, and share responsibility for organizing sessions and speakers. **Repeatable for credit**: May be taken more than once for credit with permission of the program to a maximum of 4.5 units.

NURS 693 Candidacy Examination (3.0 units)

Students enrol in NURS 693 to prepare for their candidacy examination that includes successfully developing and orally defending the dissertation proposal. Candidacy examinations must be completed prior to registration in NURS 699.

Elective courses and Internships

Electives to support your learning and PhD research can be taken from the School of Nursing, other Departments or Faculties, through directed studies, or through other institutions. The Western Deans' Agreement provides a tuition fee waiver for students taking courses outside of UVic with approval of their supervisor. Graduate students paying normal required tuition fees to their home institution will not pay tuition fees to the host institution. Many courses are offered online (e.g., Athabasca, Canadian Virtual University); please ensure the courses will be transferrable. In addition, students in the Distributed Option may want to take courses nearer to their homes and seek credit for them from UVic. It is advised that you work with your PhD supervisor to determine electives that will best support your work.

NURS 620 Research Internship (1.5 or 3.0 units)

Research Internships are arranged with a specific faculty member and may be taken over one or several terms. During the Research Internship, a learner has hands-on experiences with several aspects of research, for example, the conceptualization of a study, study design, applying for funding, obtaining ethical approval, accessing the field, collecting and analyzing data, writing and knowledge translation.

NURS 630 Teaching Internship (1.5 or 3.0 units)

Teaching Internships may be arranged with a specific faculty member and may be taken over one or several terms. During the Teaching Internship, a student engages with several aspects of nursing education, for example, classroom or on-line teaching, educational research initiatives and/or, writing a paper for publication.

The possibility also exists for students to be hired as sessional instructors in the School of Nursing, and this might be used as part of the teaching internship. Students who wish to become sessional instructors should discuss this with their supervisor. Please check with the

BCCNM if you require active nursing registration in BC to be able to work as a sessional instructor.

NURS 680 Special Topics in Research Methods (1.5 – 4.5 units)

Based on student demand, courses on the following focused topics are organized for individuals or groups of students: issues of measurement, evaluation research, grounded theory, ethnography, hermeneutics and phenomenology, discourse analysis, historical analysis, instrument development and testing, and participatory action research. This research-focused course is available to small groups of interested students and/or individuals by faculty members and/or visiting faculty.

Note: Students interested in this course will be required to take 1.5 units of NURS 680 coursework and in consultation with their PhD supervisor, can enrol in as many as 4.5 units of NURS 680 coursework.

Repeatable for credit: May be taken more than once for credit in different topics with permission of the school to a maximum of 4.5 units.

NURS 690 Directed Studies (1.5 or 3.0 units)

Provides opportunities for students to develop individual studies at the doctoral level (e.g., directed readings, research project) with the supervision of one or more faculty members. A plan of study including focus, credit value and evaluation method is developed in consultation with a faculty member and must be approved by the Associate Director, Graduate Education, prior to registering in this course. We encourage students interested in a research topic to register for a NURS 680 course rather than a NURS 690.

Comprehensive and Candidacy Examinations

Comprehensive and candidacy examinations are required in the School of Nursing. Policies, guidelines and evaluative criteria pertaining to comprehensive and candidacy examinations are found on the School of Nursing <u>website</u>.

PhD Dissertation

Once comprehensive and candidacy examinations have been completed, PhD students must register in NURS 699 Dissertation (30.0 units). As part of the fulfillment of a PhD degree, students are required to prepare a dissertation upon which a public examination and defense is conducted. The dissertation must qualify as a significant and original contribution to disciplinary knowledge. Further guidelines for PhD dissertations can be found on the School of Nursing website.

Time Limits

Normally, a student proceeding toward a doctoral degree completes all the requirements within four years from the date of the first registration in the program. If the student transfers to the doctoral program after an initial period in a master's program, completion is required within seven years of the date of the first registration in the master's program. A doctoral degree will not be awarded in less than twenty-four consecutive months from the time of first registration.

Graduate Letter Grade Descriptions

Please see the Faculty of Graduate Studies - Grading Scale online at Grading.

The Supervisory Committee

Each student requires a supervisory committee approved by the Dean of Graduate Studies. For a doctoral degree in nursing, a **minimum** of three members is required in a supervisory committee, including the academic supervisor plus a minimum of one member from within nursing, plus one member from outside the academic unit. A member from outside the academic unit can be a faculty member from UVic or another university or can be a suitable individual from outside academia such as a health agency. Extra members of the supervisory committee can be added as desired/needed. For interdisciplinary degree committees, four members are required: two co-supervisors, one each from the student's substantive area, an additional person from nursing, and a member from outside of nursing. It is important that committee members work well together and can provide guidance and support in substantive and methodological areas of the proposed study.

The Chair of this committee will be the dissertation supervisor, and all activities of the supervisor and supervisory committee must conform to Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) policies. Unless specifically approved by the Dean, all members of the supervisory committee must be members of the FGS. The duties of the committee include:

- working with the student to develop a program of study including coursework and directed studies,
- conducting the comprehensive and candidacy examinations,
- supervising the dissertation and participating in a final oral examination.

The committee may conduct other examinations and will recommend to the Faculty of Graduate Studies whether or not a degree be awarded to a candidate.

You may be asked by your PhD supervisor to develop a professional portfolio prior to your comprehensive or candidacy exams. The portfolio allows for individual emphases and interests, but some elements are required:

- A curriculum vita
- All scholarly/research papers from courses taken

- All published papers
- The candidacy papers/exams
- The dissertation proposal
- Materials about teaching
- Other items important to the student and his/her sense of their own trajectory and goals.

Please discuss with your supervisor if the development of a professional portfolio is of benefit to you and your committee.

Responsibilities in the Supervisory Relationship

Both students and supervisors have responsibilities. You can read more about the Supervisor – student relationship <u>here</u>.

Conflict of Interest

Conflicts of interest can sometimes occur between students and supervisors. Please refer to Section 10 of the Faculty of Graduate Studies <u>Supervision Policy</u>, which includes guidelines for identifying and resolving conflicts of interest.

Changing Dissertation Supervisors or Committee Members

Occasionally, a student and/or supervisor may determine that it is in the best interest of the student's learning to change supervisors or committee members. There may also be cases where an interpersonal conflict has not been able to be resolved. In such situations, supervisory changes need to be decided in consultation with the student, existing supervisor, the PhD Co-ordinator, and the Director of the School of Nursing to ensure continuity of supervision and of the academic program. The supervisory committee may also be consulted. Written summary of relevant issues by the supervisor to promote transparency for new committee members is recommended. It is expected that all relevant people will be included in this process. To change a committee member, students are required first to consult with their supervisor to discuss the issues and options. Any change in the composition of the supervisory committee must be approved by the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Students should consult with the Associate Director of Graduate Education for correct forms and procedures.

Academic Matters and Appears

Academic matters are the responsibility of course instructors, departments, faculties and the University Senate. Depending on the nature of the academic matter of concern, students should try to resolve the matter in the following order:

the course instructor,

- the program coordinator,
- the Associate Director, Graduate Education,
- the Director, School of Nursing,
- the Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies,
- the Senate

In addition, students may wish to consult the <u>Ombudsperson</u>. Students seeking a formal review of an assigned grade should consult the regulations under Review of an Assigned Grade.

The School of Nursing also has an <u>Academic Review Process</u> that is designed to support graduate student success.

Sources for Funding Doctoral Students

There are many possible sources of funding to support graduate education and speaking with your supervisor early in the process will help you decide which type of funding is best suited to you.

A number of agencies, such as the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (<u>CIHR</u>), the Social Science and Humanities Research Council (<u>SSHRC</u>), the Michael Smith Health Research BC (<u>MSHRBC</u>), the <u>Heart and Stroke Foundation</u>, and the <u>Kidney Foundation</u> offer competitive doctoral fellowships to support graduate education. Many pay a stipend of \$20,000 to \$30,000/year. The University administers the funds and pays the successful graduate student a monthly stipend for the duration of the award.

In addition, some faculty members may have funding for student scholarships and/or research assistantships. Some fellowships also provide small amounts of funding for research and/or travel expenses to conferences. Most will restrict the amount of time that students may work.

Scholarships: Scholarships are awards that are granted on the basis of academic excellence. Check the University website for availability of scholarships. The School of Nursing sends out its own application form for these scholarships. The <u>Registered Nurses Foundation of BC</u> and other provincial nursing organizations have website listings of sources of funding for nurses to continue education and the Canadian Nurses Foundation offers scholarships for nurses pursuing graduate education (<u>Canadian Nurses Foundation</u>). Because these awards are continually changing, students should check the websites frequently for updates and current application forms and processes.

Bursaries: Bursaries are funds that are available for students in financial need. Students need to provide evidence of need to obtain one of these awards. These funds do not need to be repaid. Bursaries are available to students who qualify. Additionally, a list of bursaries provided through various nursing unions such as the BCNU can be found at Bursaries and Member-Funding.

Fellowships: UVic <u>Fellowships</u> may be offered to incoming doctoral students. To be eligible, students must have submitted complete application materials to Graduate Admissions and Records (GARO) by the application deadline. Applicants whose files are incomplete after this date are not eligible. To qualify, students must meet the minimum grade point average (7.00 or equivalent on all undergraduate and graduate work completed). Written notification of fellowship awards takes place in July.

Travel Funds: The Faculty of Graduate Studies and have established a travel awards for graduate students. The objective is to support student travel to conferences, meetings, workshops or research activities. Funds are distributed on a first-come first-served basis to eligible graduate students. Travel awards can be found here. Students can also request support for travel from the Dean, Faculty of Human and Social Development.

The <u>Dorothy Kergin Endowment Fund</u> also supports graduate students' specific research activities including travel to research conferences and development of new knowledge (to a maximum of \$400.00 per student). The deadlines are listed on the School of Nursing <u>funding page</u>.

Student Loans are available for students for the duration of study. The current guidelines are available at <u>Financial Aid and Funding</u>. Students can apply online for the loans.

Resources to support funding applications

- External Grants (links to external funding agencies)
- Conduct your Research (information regarding funding from the office of research)
- Tips for writing proposals for CIHR—Canadian Institutes of Health Research
- Preparing your SSHRC (Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council) Application.
- The Office of Research Services (<u>Research Services</u>) has an advisor who is available to
 assist students with applications for grants and fellowships. Your PhD Supervisor is your
 first point of mentorship for applying for grants, assisted as needed by the PhD
 Coordinator and Associate Director, Research and Scholarship.

Policies, Procedures and Guidelines

The School of Nursing has a number of policies, procedures and guidelines that inform our academic programming. Please refer to the <u>Policies, Procedures and Guidelines</u> sections of the School of Nursing website for further information.

Exit Interviews

Upon leaving the doctoral program, for whatever reason, students are expected to participate in an Exit Interview with the PhD Program Coordinator or designate. The interview focuses on the student's experience in the program and suggestions for change where needed.

Appendix A

Doctoral Program (PhD) - 4 year completion Total program units: 43.5 units (dissertation)

This is a guide to help students plan their courses and ensure graduate requirements are met. The number and nature of courses beyond those identified as required will vary according to the student's academic background, research and practice experience, and career goals. Each student is expected to develop a tailored plan with their PhD supervisor.

First Year September-December January-April **May-August NURS 601 NURS 604A NURS 693** 1.5 units 1.5 units 3.0 units Philosophy in Nursing Qualitative Research Design Comprehensive Examination Preparation **NURS 602 NURS 604B** 1.5 units 1.5 units Epistemological Quantitative Research Discourses in the Study Design of Nursing Elective** Research Internship/ Directed Studies ** **NURS 621 NURS 621**

Doctoral Seminar

[continues]

1.5 units

Doctoral Seminar

Second Year

September-December

tember-December

NURS 622

1.5 units
Dissertation Seminar

NURS 679 *

1.5 – 4.5 units Research and Scholarship Seminar

January-April

May-August

Elective**

Research Internship/Teaching Internship/Directed
Studies

NURS 679 *

1.5 - 4.5 units Research and Scholarship Seminar (continues)

NURS 679 *

1.5 - 4.5 units Research and Scholarship Seminar (continues)

NURS 693

Comprehensive Examination (within first 24 months) (until completion)

Elective**

Research Internship/Teaching Internship/Directed Studies

Oral Exam
(upon completion of
courses and
dissertation)

Third Year

September-December

Candidacy Examination
- 3.0 units
(until completion)

NURS 693

Candidacy Examination (within first 36 months)

January-April

May-August

NURS 699

Dissertation - 30.0 units
Dissertation

Elective**

Research Internship/Teaching Internship/Directed Studies

Fourth Year

September-December

January-April

May-August

NURS 699

Dissertation - 30.0 units (until completion)

Elective**

Research Internship/Teaching Internship/Directed Studies

Oral Exam

(upon completion of courses and dissertation)

- In year 1, students are expected to complete the required courses, work with their supervisor to articulate a research problem and a plan for their doctoral program, including
 - •If/which electives will need to be completed;
 - •If any additional experiences will be included in the program (i.e., teaching or research internship) and;
- When the comprehensive examination and thesis proposal will take place.
- Students are eligible to write their comprehensive examination once they register for NURS 693 and have to complete this step within 24 months of admission into the program.
- Students are eligible to defend their proposal after successfully completing their comprehensive examination and have to complete this step within 36 months of admission into the program.
- In year 2, students complete the seminars (NURS 622 and 679), take elective courses (if needed and as determined with their supervisor), and complete their comprehensive examinations (deadline to complete: August of year 2). Depending on the timing of the comprehensive examination, students may also defend their proposal in year 2.
- In year 3, students defend their proposal (deadline: August of year 3), submit their ethics proposal and start actively working on their thesis work under the direction of their supervisor and committee.
- In year 4, students complete their thesis work and submit their thesis for examination and defense (deadline: August of Year 4).
- * NURS 679 Students will be required to take 1.5 units of NURS 679 coursework and can, with permission of their program supervisor, enroll in as many as 4.5 units of NURS 679 coursework. Scheduled over two terms to facilitate student engagement among multiple cohorts.

As a required course, NURS 679 or an equivalent course must be taken before candidacy.

** ELECTIVES: In consultation with supervisors, students may seek or be required to enrol in additional, elective course work. Electives may include: NURS 620: Research Internship. Individually engaging in research with a faculty member (unpaid), taken at any time during the program. NURS 630: Teaching Internship. Engaging with several aspects of nursing education, for example, classroom or on-line teaching, educational research initiatives and/or, writing a paper for publication. NURS 690: Directed Studies. May be taken at any time during the program, after the first term. Courses taken in another faculty may count as electives. Electives may also be taken after candidacy.

^{*}NURS 693: total of 3.0 units until completion of candidacy examination

^{**}NURS 699: total of 30 units until completion of oral defense

^{***} NURS 680: May be taken for 1.5 to 4.5 units at any time during the program, after the first term.

Electives: In consultation with supervisors, students might seek or be required to enroll in additional elective course work. Electives may include NURS 620, NURS 630, NURS 680 and NURS 690.