



**University
of Victoria**

Graduate Studies

Notice of the Final Oral Examination
for the Degree of Master of Science

of

HEBAH ALQALLAF

BSN (King Saud University, 2009)

“Exploring the Need and Potential Role for School Nurses in Saudi Arabian
Schools”

School of Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education

Thursday, August 25th, 2016

9:00 a.m.

McKinnon Building

Room 0025

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Patti-Jean Naylor, School of Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education, University of
Victoria (Supervisor)

Dr. Sandra Gibbons, School of Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education, UVic (Member)

External Examiner:

Dr. Lynne Young, School of Nursing, UVic

Chair of Oral Examination:

Dr. Michael Nowlin, Department of English, UVic

Dr. David Capson, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies

Abstract

The purpose of this study is to explore the need for school nurses in the Saudi Arabian school system and to explore the current role of nurses in school health education and health promotion in Saudi Arabia. The study used a qualitative approach that was guided by implementation literature. Fifteen participants (8 Nursing students; 4 nursing Faculty members; 3 Nurses) answered open-ended questions and participated in semi-structured interviews. From the findings from this approach emerged three themes from the data that identified the current role of nurses in Saudi Arabia: "Health Educator", "Health Promotor", and "Liaison with the Community". Four themes were identified based on the potential role of nurses in Saudi Arabian Schools: "Leadership role", "Care provider role", "Role as Health Educator", and "Liaison with community". Five themes were identified based on facilitators and barriers to providing health and physical education in Saudi schools: "University and college level support", "School health services", "Government support", "Lack of cultural approval", and "Demand for Nurses exceeds supply". This study contributes to our understanding of what the potential role is for nurses in Saudi Arabian schools, whether nursing students are currently prepared to provide health education and promotion to school staff and students, and what facilitators and barriers exist for Nurses to provide health education in Saudi schools. This information can contribute to decision-making processes, formulation of necessary legislation, and government measures towards the implementation of school nursing and physical education, particularly in girls' schools in Saudi Arabia, so as to maximize health and wellness in the Saudi community.