



## Doctor of Philosophy Progression Benchmarks

<b>Domain/Division:</b>	<b>Academic / Progression</b>	<b>Index</b>	<b>20-04.11</b>
<b>Responsible Unit(s)<sup>1</sup>:</b>	<b>Academic Council</b>	<b>Page:</b>	1 of 3
		<b>Attachments:</b>	0

**Authorization Date: June 18, 1984**

**If checked, policy requires Faculty Assembly Approval. Most recent approval date: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Review History:**

- August 1, 1992: Revised
- April 5, 1994: Revised
- March 25, 2002: Approved by Faculty
- October 2002: Reviewed by Academic Affairs
- January 3, 2005: Updated
- November 8, 2007 Revised and approved by PhD Admission & Progression Committee
- December 7, 2007: Sent to SON community for comment. None received. Policy changes effective December 22, 2007

**POLICY STATEMENT:**

All matriculated students in the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) program are required to pass the established Interim and Terminal Benchmarks as indicated in the *PhD Program Guidelines* or other official PhD documents outlining the procedures for these benchmarks. Documentation and procedures related to these benchmarks are established, maintained, and distributed by the PhD Admission and Progression committee and the Director of the PhD program. Failure to successfully meet these benchmarks may place a student on probation or to be dismissed from the School of Nursing

**INTERIM AND TERMINAL BENCHMARKS:**

**First-Year Evaluation:** The purpose of the first year evaluation is to provide students early feedback on their performance. All first year students (part-time and full-time) will be evaluated when they have completed six of the nine core first year courses. A key feature of the first-year evaluation is to provide students feedback including articulation of strengths, limitations, and deficiencies.

**Comprehensive Examination:** The purpose of the PhD Program Comprehensive Examination is to assess a student’s ability to integrate and synthesize the concepts covered in the core courses of the PhD Program. The exam tests the student’s general knowledge development processes and understanding of qualitative and quantitative methodologies. This examination takes place after successful completion of all core PhD coursework.

**Candidacy Examination:** The nature of the oral candidacy examination is to assess the student's ability to think through and respond to the exam questions and to defend their responses both logically and articulately. In addition, the exam will assess breadth and depth of knowledge in the research field and readiness to conduct

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<sup>1</sup> The Chair of the Faculty Committee/Council or Official Administrative Unit responsible for oversight

dissertation research.

**Dissertation Proposal Defense:** The dissertation proposal defense provides the dissertation committee an opportunity to examine the research plan and related protocols.

**Dissertation Defense:** The dissertation defense provides the dissertation committee with an opportunity to examine the student on the research and its conduct. The dissertation defense is a public forum. All faculty and the public are welcome to attend and participate.

### RATIONALE (Only required if intent of policy is unclear):

### DEFINITIONS:

IMPLEMENTING PROCEDURES:	
Responsible Party:	Action:
PhD Admission & Progression Committee and PhD Program Director	Ensures the <i>PhD Program Guidelines</i> is reviewed and updated annually, posted on the School of Nursing website for student access, and SON Office of Academic Affairs is provided an official copy.
PhD Admission & Progression Committee and the AGIP Program Staff	Creation, review, and revision of all forms related to PhD Benchmarks and final dissertation submission.

### RELATED REFERENCES (if applicable):

School of Nursing *PhD Program Guidelines*

SON Probation and Dismissal 20-04.13

SON Convocation & Commencement Participation 20-04.20

### NOTES (if applicable):

The following policy appendices are retired from the School of Nursing policy manual and these forms and documents are now the procedural responsibility of the PhD Admission & Progression Committee and the AGIP office.

- Credit Hour Distribution for Post-Master's PhD Component (20-04.11a)
- Credit Hour Distribution for Post-Baccalaureate PhD Students (20-04.11a2)
- PhD Student Progression Guidelines (20-04.11b1)
- PhD Student Progression Benchmarks (20-04.11b2)
- Post-Masters PhD Program of Study Planning Guide (2005) (20-04.11c1)
- Post-Baccalaureate PhD Program of Study Planning Guide (20-04.11c2)
- Dissertation Guidelines (20-04.11d)
- PhD Dissertation Chair and Committee Members Agreement (20-04.11d1)
- PhD Change of Dissertation Chair (20-04.11d2)
- PhD Candidacy Certification (20-04.11d3)
- PhD Dissertation Proposal Approval (20-04.11d4)
- PhD Dissertation Certification/Dissertation Approval (20-04.11d5)
- Dissertation Library Binding Receipt (20-04.11d6)

**Committee/Council Chair or Official Administrative Approval**  
**required for new policies** Original Signed Copies Stored in Office of Academic Affairs

**Signature** **Date**

**Printed Name**  
Susan Hickman, PhD

**DEANS APPROVAL (required for new policies).** Original Signed Copies Stored in Office of Academic Affairs

**Signature** **Date**

Sandra L. Theis, Interim Dean, PhD, RN