



Doctor of Philosophy Progression Benchmarks

Domain/Division:	Academic / Progression	Index	20-04.11
Responsible Unit(s)¹:	Academic Council	Page:	1 of 4
		Attachments:	0

Authorization Date: June 18, 1984

If checked, policy requires Faculty Council 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.
 December 22, 2007: Policy changes effective
 May 10th, 2010: Approved by SON PhD Faculty Group
 May 13th, 2010: Approved by PhD Curriculum Committee
 June 28th, 2010 Approved by SON Academic Council
 July 1, 2011 Policy changes effective

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 Associate Dean for Academic Development, Enhancement, and Evaluation. 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 Benchmark: The Integrative Review: The purpose of the integrated literature review is to critically analyze a segment of a published body of knowledge through summary, classification, and comparison of prior research studies, prior literature reviews, and theoretical articles. The classification and comparison are very important, as they form the synthesis (i.e., the overall picture) of the body of literature that supports students' future research. This benchmark is a literature synthesis that is a self-contained unit.

The review is due by the end of summer term of the first year for students in the full-time post-masters program of study and September of the second year for students in the full-time post-baccalaureate or MN/PhD programs of study. Students with part-time programs of study will submit the proposal no later than the end of summer term of the year in which they complete the first year core courses of the PhD program of study.

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

Annual Evaluation of Academic Progress:

The purpose of the Evaluation of Academic Progress is to provide all students feedback on their progression through the PhD program. The faculty believes this is just as important for students who are progressing in an excellent manner as well as for those who have some deficiencies. Final judgment about student status is made by the PhD faculty as a whole. Given the PhD program admits students who are highly qualified, the majority of students will receive satisfactory reviews. The goal of the PhD faculty is for students to receive timely feedback including strengths, limitations, and deficiencies that may warrant remediation. In addition, students are encouraged to consult with faculty mentors throughout their doctoral experience to ensure timely and successful completion of the program. The Evaluation of Academic Progress for first and second year students will include the following three elements:

- Student Self-Evaluation;
- Student Curriculum Vita; and
- Faculty Evaluation of Student Competencies.

For third year students in the full-time post-masters program and fourth year students in the post-baccalaureate program, and annually through graduation, students will submit the following to the dissertation chair : an updated CV; a progress report on the conduct of the dissertation; and a timeline for plans for the next year. The dissertation chair will provide a report to the PhD faculty on the candidate's progress in conduct of their dissertation research.

Second Year Benchmark: Competitive Research Proposal Benchmark:

The purpose of the Competitive Research Proposal Benchmark (CRPB) is for the PhD student to demonstrate understanding and knowledge of a substantive area of nursing with the ability to develop a research plan; to assess a student's ability to integrate and apply concepts covered in the core courses of the PhD program; and to assess the student's readiness to proceed with developing the dissertation proposal. Students are required to submit their CRPB after the completion of the core courses. The proposal is due no later than May 31st of the second year for students in the full-time post-masters program of study and May 31st of the third year for students in the full-time post-baccalaureate or MN/PhD programs of study. Students with part-time programs of study will submit the proposal no later than May 31st of the year in which they complete the core courses (37 credits) of the PhD program of study.

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 dissertation research. The oral candidacy examination is conducted by the dissertation committee, which consists of a minimum of three members. At least two of the committee members, including the chairperson, must be a faculty member in the School of Nursing.

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 orally and publicly on the completed dissertation research. The dissertation is expected to reflect the integration of theory, practice, and research.

IMPLEMENTING PROCEDURES:	
Responsible Party:	Action:
PhD Admission & Progression Committee and Associate Dean for Academic Development, Enhancement & Evaluations	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 Academic 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 Approval	
Original Signed Copies Stored in Office of Academic Development, Enhancement, & Evaluation	
Signature Karen Lyons, PhD Chairperson of PhD Curriculum Committee	Date
Printed Name	

Committee/Council Chair Approval

Original Signed Copies Stored in Office of Academic Affairs

Signature

Gail Houck, PhD, RN
Co-Chair of Academic Council

Date

Administrative Approval

Original Signed Copies Stored in Office of Academic Affairs

Signature

Peggy Wros, PhD, RN

Date