



FRANCES PAYNE BOLTON
SCHOOL OF NURSING

CASE WESTERN RESERVE
UNIVERSITY

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Charles Rozek, Ph.D.
Vice Provost
Dean of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs
Case Western Reserve University
10900 Euclid Avenue
Nord Hall, Room 600
Cleveland, OH 44106

Mary E. Kerr, PhD, RN, FAAN
Dean and May L. Wykle Professor

Office of the Dean

10900 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44106-4904

Visitors and Deliveries
2120 Cornell

Phone 216.368.2545

Fax 216.368.5050

Mary.Kerr@Case.edu

<http://fpb.case.edu/>

Dear Dr. Rozek:

This letter is written to express my enthusiastic support for establishing a dual degree program consisting of an MSN and PhD to be conferred by the schools of nursing and graduate studies, respectively. The key advantage of this dual degree program is that it will facilitate the completion of an MSN degree for BSN to PhD students who want to obtain an MSN degree in a specialized area along the way. Advanced knowledge within a clinical specialty will enrich the BSN to PhD student's potential for completing scientific research that will lead to the development of new knowledge that will advance and transform future nursing practice. The combined MSN/PhD degree program would make it possible to complete both degrees in a minimum of 5 years (depending on specialty area). The proposed overlap of a maximum of eight credits would shorten the time frame for completing both degrees by one semester.

This proposal has been presented and discussed within several faculty and program meetings, including the School of Nursing's PhD Council and among faculty who teach in the specialized MSN courses. The proposal was presented to the full faculty on December 6, 2011 and received an overwhelming majority vote for its approval to move forward. Please initiate the approval process for the MSN/PhD program and feel free to let me know if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary E Kerr".

Mary E. Kerr, PhD, RN, FAAN

MSN / PhD in Nursing Dual Degree Proposal - REVISED

This document contains a proposal for a dual degree between the School of Nursing (MSN degree) and the School of Graduate Studies (PhD in nursing degree).

Justification

In 2008, the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing (**FPBSON**), Case Western Reserve University (**CWRU**) celebrated 85 years of excellence in nursing education, based on Congresswoman Frances P. Bolton's philosophy of the need for a strong scientific base for nursing practice. The Bolton School's tradition of leadership and strength in nursing research began in 1963, when a Faculty Research Development Grant funded by the Division of Nursing, was received to foster and promote a climate of inquiry appropriate for a school of professional nursing. Followed by the Nurse Scientist Training Program in the 1970's and the receipt of a Nursing Research Emphasis Grant for Doctoral Programs in the 1980's, research and doctoral study were established at the School. Our faculty's research has grown in breadth and depth since then. We have a 15-year history of being a top tier school of nursing nationally in NIH funding and experience with institutional research training grants.

In 1972, the **Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in nursing program** at CWRU began. The purpose of this pioneering program was to expand and extend nursing science. PhD study builds on clinical expertise in nursing and development of research competence toward the improvement of nursing practice and health care. The PhD in Nursing is awarded in recognition of depth of knowledge in an area of nursing science, a comprehensive understanding of related content, and demonstrated ability to engage in scholarship and independent investigation. Besides a traditional semester-format PhD program, a summer PhD program has existed for over 20 years. Additionally, for nearly two decades, students have been admitted into our BSN to PhD program. More recently, a fast-track PhD program has been developed for BSN nurses to pursue a PhD degree without requiring them to earn a masters degree in nursing.

The FPBSON offers the **Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)** degree in 12 major areas of specialization. The MSN program was begun in 1938 and has the distinction of being the home of the first acute care Nurse Practitioner (NP) program and the first Flight Nursing program. Although the MSN degree is an essential prerequisite for the DNP degree, it is not required for the PhD. However, since the inception of the revised, fast-track BSN to PhD program in fall 2002, approximately 40% of the students who have enrolled in our BSN to PhD program, have chosen to complete the MSN degree along the way. However, because a combined MSN/PhD program does not currently exist, students were expected to complete all course requirements for each of the two degree programs.

Faculty at the FPBSON believe that students admitted to the BSN to PhD program (including those from FPB and those from other Universities) are highly motivated and qualified for successfully achieving their ultimate career goal as a future nurse scientist. And, one major aim of the BSN to PhD is to prepare nurse scientists more quickly in order to facilitate a longer research trajectory. Hence, requiring that they complete all course requirements for both programs prolongs their educational program and postpones their ability to begin careers as independent researchers. Therefore, the dual degree program that we are proposing, the combined MSN/PhD degree will facilitate earlier completion of the PhD degree with the completion of the MSN degree during which BSN to PhD students will obtain knowledge in one of the 12 specialized areas of nursing. Advanced knowledge within a clinical specialty will enrich the BSN to PhD student's potential for completing scientific research that will lead to the development of new knowledge that will advance and transform future nursing practice.

PhD in Nursing Curriculum and Structure

Course Requirements. The core courses constituting the PhD in nursing curriculum include courses in knowledge development and theory, research methods and statistics, and specialized, related courses pertinent to the student's research interests (Table 1). Courses are designed to help students develop in-depth knowledge in a focused area of research that is important to nursing practice. This knowledge includes the state of the evidence related to their focal area as well as ways to measure and analyze individual, family, social, environmental, and organizational variables that may influence clinical outcomes in that focal area.

Table 1. Required Courses for the PhD in nursing program

Content Areas	Required Courses and Credits
Knowledge Development and Theory (6 credits)	NURS 506: Nursing Epistemology (3 credits)
	NURS 511: Strategies for Theory Development (3 credits)
Research Methods (9 credits)	NURS 518: Qualitative Research Methods (3 credits)
	NURS 530: Advanced Research Methods I (3 credits)
	NURS 531: Advanced Research Methods II (3 credits)
Statistics (9 credits)	NURS 532: Basic Statistics (3 credits)
	NURS 630: Linear Models (3 credits)
	NURS 631: Multivariate Analysis (3 credits)
Specialized / Related Courses (15 credits)	Substantive Elective / Independent Study (3-6 credits)
	NURS 609: Health Policy Seminar (3 credits)
	NURS 615: Topical Seminar in Health Care (3-6 credits)
	NURS 671: Proposal Development (minimum 3 credits)
Dissertation	NURS 701: Dissertation (18 credits)

PhD courses in nursing are conducted in a seminar format. The faculty member and students select appropriate readings for the topics to be discussed each week. Application of course content to the student's research interest is facilitated through class discussion and course assignments. All assignments provide students the opportunity to apply the skills learned in the course to their area of interest. For example, in research methods courses, students critique published research, write an integrative review of research in their areas of interest, and design a research study. In theory courses, students participate in scholarly debates about issues in knowledge development in nursing, discuss the gaps and knowledge development needs in their area of interest, and write a paper using a theory construction method (concept, statement, or theory analysis). In the statistics courses, students critique application and interpretation of published research and practice data analysis skills using faculty datasets. The faculty provides feedback to students about written work and is available to discuss issues with them. Papers written by students during all required courses follow "instructions for authors" for manuscripts for publication in professional journals, students are encouraged to submit them, and many students have been successful in publishing these papers.

At the end of each course, students evaluate the course and the faculty member; these evaluations are summarized by secretarial support staff. Course evaluations are used by faculty to identify the need for course modifications and are the focus of the end of semester report to the PhD Council that is the faculty oversight committee for the program. Evaluations of teaching performance also are an important part of yearly faculty review and promotion and tenure consideration.

Each nursing PhD student's program is tailored to meet his /her specific research interests and learning needs. Students select the **NURS 615: Topical Seminar in Health Care Research** courses to develop expertise in their area of research interest. Courses may also be taken from outside the FPBSON in the student's research area. Such courses are identified as substantive in nature and are selected to prepare students to ask cutting edge questions about phenomena of interest to nursing and to design independent research to answer these questions. Students can elect to take additional credits using the **NURS 601: Independent Study** mechanism to study a phenomenon in more depth than is possible in a classroom setting or to work with a faculty member in another discipline around a specific issue. This mechanism has been very successful for students who have wanted to learn to conduct animal studies, perform specific lab assays, and use equipment to measure pulmonary mechanics, or conduct secondary analyses with large, preexisting national databases (i.e., Census data). Students who use NURS 601 credits to work with faculty in other disciplines have had the added benefit of interacting with doctoral students in these other disciplines. Faculty members in other disciplines who supervise NURS 601 often serve as the fourth member on the student's dissertation committee.

Required Research Practicum. A 240-hour research practicum is required before taking the candidacy examination, usually during the first and second years of full time study. The research process is complex and course work provides the student with theoretical understanding. The integration of research concepts and their application is supplemented through this practical experience, which provides the hands on experience in the conduct of a research study under the guidance of a faculty mentor. The objectives for the research practicum are developed by the academic advisor, student, and faculty mentor with whom the student will be working and are approved by the Associate Dean for Doctoral Education. The research practicum often initiates a close collaborative working relationship between the student and the faculty that continues throughout the student's program of study. Outcomes of the research practicum experience typically include presentations and publications with faculty. All PhD students are encouraged to publish at least one manuscript during their doctoral program.

Research Proposal Development. Upon completion of required courses, including the four courses specifically relevant to teaching (described below), PhD students must pass an oral candidacy exam and defend a written research proposal. At this time, PhD students are enrolled in **NURS 671: Proposal Development**. Because students are working full time on the development of a proposal, they are considered as full time students even if enrolled for one credit. In NURS 671, the PhD student begins their proposal development. First, the student selects a faculty member to chair the candidacy committee, often the student's academic advisor. To be eligible to chair a committee, faculty must have served as a member of two candidacy committees and have documented expertise in the student's substantive area. In consultation with the candidacy chair, the student selects two additional faculty members from the FPBSON to serve on the committee, and the combination of expertise provided by these members will support the student's substantive interest and methodological needs. For example, a student interested in cardiac patients with diabetes could combine the expertise of a cardiovascular faculty researcher with the expertise of a faculty diabetes researcher. A fourth faculty member from **CWRU**, but outside the FPBSON, is also selected for the dissertation committee in consultation with the chair. To serve as the fourth member, the **CWRU** faculty member must hold a regular faculty appointment at **CWRU**. The inclusion of clinical or adjunct faculty must be approved by the Associate Dean for Doctoral Education and the Dean for Graduate Studies.

The committee composition is submitted for approval to the Associate Dean for Doctoral Education and the Dean for Graduate Studies to ensure that the committee has the necessary substantive and methodological expertise to conduct the candidacy exam and proposal defense and supervise the dissertation research. When registered for NURS 671, the student works closely with the candidacy chair to develop a written research proposal and when the proposal is sufficiently developed, the oral candidacy examination and proposal defense are held. The examination and proposal provide evidence of the student's knowledge and ability to synthesize and apply research methodologies and existing knowledge. The oral exam focuses on the nursing discipline, research methods, statistics, and substantive knowledge. Upon successful completion of the candidacy exam, students progress to candidate status. In a dissertation proposal defense, the candidate defends the research proposal and following its approval, dissertation research is begun.

Doctoral Dissertation. Following advancement to candidacy and successful defense of the research proposal, students begin work on their dissertation (**NURS 701: Dissertation**). During the semester after advancement to candidacy, the student submits the proposal for human subjects review, obtains permission to use sites for recruitment of subjects, refines data collection instruments, and begins data collection. Starting the dissertation process requires significant input from the student's chair, and students may register for more dissertation credits in that semester. In subsequent semesters, students register for NURS 701 until their dissertation defense. The dissertation is an independent research study designed by the student in collaboration with the 4-member committee that is approved by the Associate Dean for Doctoral Education and **CWRU** School of Graduate Studies. The dissertation must be a significant contribution to existing nursing knowledge and suitable for publication in a peer reviewed journal or book. The written dissertation is evidence of their ability to conduct independent research. Students must prepare their own dissertations; joint dissertations are not permitted. The procedures and written dissertation must conform to **CWRU** School of Graduate Studies regulations. However, students have the opportunity to use a manuscript option to the traditional chapter format for the dissertation document. The manuscripts must be scholarly and publishable in highly regarded professional journals, as approved by the student's dissertation committee. That is to say, the manuscript(s) submitted in lieu of the traditional dissertation must meet the requirements for publication in a scholarly nursing research journal and be ready for submission prior to graduation. All requirements for the PhD degree must be completed within 5 years from first registration for dissertation credits.

MSN Curriculum and Structure

The FPBSON provides several entry options to the **MSN program**, including the traditional path for those with a BSN. The MSN program itself requires a minimum of 36 credit hours to graduate, but the majors require an average of 40 credit hours of graduate credit for the student who enters with a BSN degree. In most cases, courses are completed in three or four semesters (which may include the summer). The MSN program offers 12 different majors / areas of clinical specialization. Courses are offered in traditional and nontraditional formats, including intensive, web-based, and weekend courses. Some majors can be completed in a semi-distance format with limited trips to campus, making the MSN program feasible for students not living in the area. Individualized study plans are designed to meet individual clinical interests, learning needs, and career goals. Students can choose either a part-time or full-time program, with full-time consisting of 9 or more credits per semester and part-time being anything less. Clinical and research experiences are an integral part of the MSN program; most majors require a minimum of 500 clinical hours, though some programs require more. To be awarded an MSN degree, the student must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 and received a satisfactory grade of B or better in all nursing courses taken for credit as a MSN student. Degree requirements must be completed within 5 years of initial enrollment.

Course Requirements of the MSN program.

As described above, students in the MSN program choose from several different majors, but all students must take ten core courses and must complete the required number of credit hours as well as clinical hours for the major area of specialization they select. The ten core courses comprise the core areas of professional development and scientific inquiry. Three additional core courses are required for those majors that prepare students as nurse practitioners. The general curriculum pattern constituting the core requirements is displayed in table 2.

Table 2. Core Curriculum for all MSN Majors

Professional Development Core (6 courses)		
Course Number	Course Title	Credit hours
NURS 443A	Collaboration and consultation	1
NURS 443B	Role development	1
NURS 443C	Teaching and learning	1
NURS 444A	Ethical issues	1
NURS 444B	Finance issues	1
NURS 444C	Policy and legal issues	1
Scientific / Inquiry Core (4 courses)		
Course Number	Course Title	Credit hours
NURS 405	Theoretical foundations	3
NURS 425	Research process	3
NURS 502	Evidence-based practice	2
NURS 503	Inquiry practicum	1
Nursing Practice Core (3 courses)*		
Course Number	Course Title	Credit hours
NURS 430	Pharmacology and therapeutics	3
NURS 453	Physiological foundations	4
NURS 459	Integrated assessment	3

In the **MSN program**, the 12 major areas of specialization include six nurse practitioner (NP) majors (acute care, adult/gerontology, pediatrics, neonatal, family, and women's health), two blended role majors (adult oncology and family systems psychiatric mental health), and four others (public health, nurse anesthesia, nurse midwifery, and informatics). Blending of two majors and joint MSN degrees with business administration, anthropology, bioethics, and public health are also possible. Sample program plans across the various majors appear in Tables 3-14. Tables 3-8 describe sample FT program plans for the six NP majors; tables 9-10 list courses for sample FT plans for the two blended CNS/NP programs; and tables 11-14 provide sample for FT study for the four other nursing majors. Although space does not permit the inclusion of sample PT study plans, PT study for all MSN majors is also possible.

Table 3 presents a sample program plan for FT study in the Acute Care NP (ACNP) major. This major requires at least 39 credit hours of coursework and 600 clinical hours. Recent experience in adult intensive care (ICU) nursing is required. Within this major, there are two subspecialties: flight nursing and cardiovascular nursing.

Table 3. Sample FT study plan for ACNP

Fall Semester – Year 1	Spring Semester –Year 1	
Theoretical foundations (3)	Pharmacology/therapeutics (3)	
Theoretical foundations of acute nursing care (4)	Acute health problems (6)	
Physiological foundations (4)	Research process (3)	
Assessment (3)	Collaboration/consultation (1)	
	Role development (1)	
Fall Semester – Year 2	Spring Semester – Year 2 (option)	
Evidence-based practice (2)	<u>Flight Nursing</u>	<u>Cardiovascular</u>
Inquiry practicum (1)	Flight nursing seminar 1 (1)	Special assessment (2)
Management acutely ill adults (4)	Emergent care of children (2)	Cardiovascular seminar I (1)
Ethical issues (1)	Flight nursing seminar II (1)	Cardiovascular seminar II (1)
Finance issues (1)	Advanced internship (1-5)	Advanced internship (1-5)
Policy and legal issues (1)		

Table 4 presents a sample program plan for FT study in the neonatal NP (NNP) major. Required for this major is two years of NICU nursing experience. The NNP major requires 40 credit hours of coursework, plus about 600 clinical hours. Course work is usually completed within 24 months (4 semesters) for FT students.

Table 4. Sample FT study plan for NNP

Fall Semester – Year 1	Spring Semester –Year 1	Summer Semester –Year 1
Theoretical foundations (3)	Pharmacology / therapeutics (3)	Evidence-based practice (2)
Newborn assessment (3)	Neonatal NP II (4)	Neonatal NP III(3)
Physiological foundations (4)	Research process (3)	
Neonatal NP I (3)	Collaboration/consultation (1)	
	Role development (1)	
Fall Semester – Year 2		
Neonatal NP IV (5)		
Inquiry practicum (1)		
Ethical issues (1)		
Finance issues (1)		
Policy and legal issues (1)		

Table 5 presents a sample program plan for FT study in the pediatric NP (PNP) major. The PNP major requires 40 credit hours of coursework, plus about 600 clinical hours. Coursework is usually completed within 18 months (4 semesters) for FT students; courses are offered in a distance-friendly format that requires about 8 visits to campus. Within this major, subspecialization in cardiovascular nursing is possible.

Table 5. Sample FT study plan for PNP

Fall Semester – Year 1	Spring Semester –Year 1	Summer Semester – Year 1
Theoretical foundations (3)	Pharmacology / therapeutics (3)	Evidence-based practice (2)
Pediatric development and health promotion (2)	Acute and common problems of the pediatric patient (6)	Collaboration/consultation (1)
Health promotion (2)	Research process (3)	Role development (1)
Physiological foundations (4)		Teaching and learning (1)
Assessment (3)		
Fall Semester - Year 2	Spring Semester–Year 2 Cardiovascular subspecialty	
Management of complex child health problems (5)	Assessment (2)	
Inquiry practicum (1)	Advanced internship (1-5)	
Ethical issues (1)	Cardiovascular seminar I (1)	
Finance issues (1)	Cardiovascular seminar II (1)	
Policy and legal issues (1)		

Table 6 presents a sample program plan for FT study in the adult/gerontology NP major. This major requires 41 hours of coursework, plus about 600 clinical hours. Coursework is usually completed within 18 months (4 semesters) for FT students; courses are offered in a distance-friendly format that requires about 8 visits to campus. Within this major, there are two subspecialties: cardiovascular nursing and infection control.

Table 6. Sample FT study plan for adult / gerontology NP

Fall Semester – Year 1	Spring Semester –Year 1	Summer Semester –Year 1
Theoretical foundations (3)	Pharmacology/therapeutics (3)	Evidence-based practice (2)
Physiological foundations (4)	Acute/common problems (5)	Primary care of older adults (4)
Health promotion (2)	Research process (3)	Role development (1)
Assessment (3)	Collaboration/consultation (1)	Teaching and learning (1)
Fall Semester – Year 2	Spring Semester –Year 2 (option)	
Complex management of chronic illness (5)	<u>Infection control</u>	<u>Cardiovascular</u>
Inquiry practicum (1)	Epidemiology (3)	Assessment (2)
Ethical issues (1)	Infectious disease epidemiology (3)	Cardiovascular seminar I (1)
Finance issues (1)	Infection control (3)	Cardiovascular seminar II (1)
Policy and legal issues (1)	Infection control practicum (1)	Advanced internship (1-5)

Table 7 presents a sample program plan for FT study in the women's health NP (WHNP) major. This major requires 38 credit hours of coursework, and 600 clinical hours. Coursework is usually completed within 12 months (4 semesters) for FT students; some courses are offered in an intensive format that requires limited visits to campus.

Table 7. Sample FT study plan for WHNP

Fall Semester – Year 1	Spring Semester –Year 1	Summer Semester –Yr 1
Theoretical foundations (3)	Pharmacology / therapeutics (3)	Primary care of women (4)
Health promotion (2)	Childbearing family (4)	
Physiological foundations (4)	Research process (3)	
Assessment (3)		
Well women health care (3)		
Fall Semester – Year 2		
Evidence-based practice (2)		
Inquiry practicum (1)		
Collaboration/consultation (1)		
Role development (1)		
Teaching and learning (1)		
Ethical issues (1)		
Finance issues (1)		
Policy and legal issues (1)		

Table 8 presents a sample program plan for FT study in the family NP (FNP) major. The FNP major requires 40 credit hours of coursework and about 600 clinical hours. Coursework is usually completed in 18 months (4 semesters) for FT students; courses are offered in a distance-friendly format that requires only 8 visits to campus. Subspecialization in cardiovascular nursing is possible.

Table 8. Sample FT study plan for FNP

Fall Semester – Year 1	Spring Semester –Year 1	Summer Semester – Year 1
Theoretical foundations (3)	Pharmacology/therapeutics (3)	Evidence-based practice (2)
Health promotion (2)	Adult clinical management (5)	Collaboration/consultation (1)
Physiological foundations (4)	Research process (3)	Family health nursing (4)
Assessment (3)		
Fall Semester – Year 2	Spring Semester –Year 2 - <u>Cardiovascular subspecialty</u>	
Child and adolescent clinical management (4)	Assessment (3)	
Inquiry practicum (1)	Cardiovascular seminar 1 (1)	
Role development (1)	Cardiovascular seminar 11 (1)	
Teaching and learning (1)	Advanced internship (1-5)	
Ethical issues (1)		
Finance issues (1)		
Policy and legal issues (1)		

Table 9 presents a sample program plan for FT study in the blended role program focused on family systems psychiatric and mental health (PMH) nursing. Graduates are eligible for certification as a PMH nursing CNS and NP. The major requires 45 credit hours of coursework and 720 clinical hours. Coursework is usually completed within 4 semesters for FT students.

Table 9. Sample FT study plan for psychiatric and mental health nursing CNS / NP

Fall Semester - Year 1	Spring Semester- Year 1	Summer Semester – Year 1
Theoretical foundations (3)	Integrated assessment (3)	Research process (3)
Physiological foundations (4)	Pharmacology/therapeutics (3)	Individual / group modalities (3)
Advanced psychopathology (child / adolescent) (2)	Psychopharmacology (2)	Practicum and supervision: individual / group (2)
General systems theory: foundations for practice (2)	Advanced psychopathology (adult / older adult) (2)	
Advanced seminar: blended role (1)	Family systems theory (2)	
	Family systems: Integration(1)	
Fall Semester-Year 2		
Evidence-based practice (2)		
Inquiry practicum (1)		
Modalities for family practice (3)		
Theory for practice, supervision, consultation, and education (3)		
Practicum and supervision (3)		
Management advanced practice (3)		

Table 10 presents a sample program plan for FT study in adult oncology / palliative care. Graduates of this program are eligible for adult NP certification and/or oncology NP certification, oncology CNS certification, or certification in palliative care. Entry into this major requires one year of oncology or medical-surgical nursing experience. The major requires 40-41 credit hours of coursework, plus about 500 clinical hours. Coursework is usually completed within 24 months (4 semesters) for FT students.

Table 10. Sample FT study plan for advanced practice adult oncology / palliative care NP

Fall Semester – Year 1	Spring Semester –Year 1
Physiological foundations (4)	Pharmacology / therapeutics (3)
Assessment (3)	Adult clinical management (5)
Individual counseling (1)	Theoretical foundations (3)
Collaboration/consultation (1)	
Role development (1)	
Teaching and learning (1)	
Fall Semester – Year 2	Spring Semester –Year 2
Advanced oncology nursing (4)	Evidence-based practice (2)
Symptom management I (1)	Inquiry practicum (1)
Research process (3)	Advanced practice in oncology and palliative care nursing (4)
Ethical issues (1)	Symptom management II (1)
Finance issues (1)	
Policy and legal issues (1)	

Table 11 presents a sample program plan for FT study in the advanced public health nursing major. This major requires up to 40.5 credit hours of coursework and about 500 clinical hours. For FT students, the coursework is usually completed within 24 months (4 semesters). Subspecialization in infection control is possible.

Table 11. Sample FT study plan for the advanced public health nursing major

Fall Semester -Year 1	Spring Semester – Year 1	Summer Semester – Year 1
Theoretical foundations (3)	Research process (3)	Evidence-based practice (2)
Health promotion (2)	Health policy (3)	Collaboration/consultation (1)
PH nursing: Foundations (3)	Leadership in organizations (4)	Role development (1)
Collaboration/administration in health care delivery systems (3)	PH nursing: Assessment and planning (2)	Teaching / learning (1)
Epidemiology (3)		Action research (1)
		PH nursing: program evaluation (2)
Fall Semester – Year 2	Spring Semester – Year 2	
Inquiry practicum (1)	<u>Infection Control Subspecialty</u>	
Health care delivery: legal and ethical issues (1)	Epidemiology (3)	
PH nursing clinical (1.5-4.5)	Infectious disease (3)	
	Infection control (3)	
	Infection control practicum (1)	

Table 12 presents a sample program plan for FT study in the nurse midwifery major, Nurse midwife students must complete 48 credits of coursework and work with a clinical preceptor in outpatient, in-patient, and out-of-hospital settings to provide optimal care to women in the antepartum, intrapartum, and postpartum periods. Graduates are eligible for certification by the American Midwifery Certification Board. With the addition of 3 clinical hours, students are eligible for dual certification in Women's Health

Table 12. Sample FT study plan for the nurse midwifery major

Fall Semester – Year 1	Spring Semester –Year 1	Summer Semester –Year 1
Theoretical foundations (3)	Pharmacology / therapeutics (3)	Primary care for women (4)
Physiological foundations (4)	The childbearing family (4)	
Assessment (3)	Research process (3)	
Well women health care (3)	Collaboration/consultation (1)	
	Teaching and learning (1)	
Fall Semester – Year 2	Spring Semester –Year 2	
Labor and birth (5)	Advanced nurse midwifery (6)	
Newborn assessment (1)	Inquiry practicum (1)	
Health promotion (2)	Ethical issues (1)	
Evidence-based practice (2)	Finance issues (1)	

Table 13 presents a sample program plan for FT study in the nursing informatics major. The nursing informatics major requires 37 credits of coursework (many online), plus a 500-hour internship to obtain practical experience as a nursing informatics specialist (NIS) in clinical, educational, research, and administrative settings. Coursework is usually completed within 3 semesters, and the 500-hour internship may be credited toward the required 2,000 hours for certification as a Nursing Informatics Specialist through the ANCC.

Table 13. Sample FT study plan for nursing informatics major

Fall Semester – Year 1	Spring Semester –Year 1
Organizational theory (3)	Advanced informatics (4)
Intro to information systems (3)	Research process (3)
Theoretical foundations of nursing informatics (4)	Evidence-based practice (2)
Theoretical foundations (3)	Collaboration/consultation (1)
	Teaching and learning (1)
Fall Semester – Year 2	Role development (1)
Internship in informatics (5)	
Health care information systems (3)	
Inquiry practicum (1)	
Ethical issues (1)	
Finance issues (1)	
Policy and legal issues (1)	

Table 14 presents a sample program plan for FT study in the nurse anesthesia major. This major requires 40 credit hours of coursework and over 600 clinical hours. For FT students, coursework is usually completed within 28 months. Graduates are eligible for certification by the Council on Certification of Nurse Anesthetists.

Table 14. Sample FT study plan for the nurse anesthesia major

Fall Semester - Year 1	Spring Semester –Year 1	Summer Semester –Year 1
Principles of anesthesia (2)	Theoretical foundations (3)	Anesthesia nursing III (1)
Pharmacological strategies (2)	Physiological responses I (2)	Physiological responses III(4)
Anesthesia nursing I (2)	Physiological/responses II (3)	Ethical issues (1)
Collaboration/consultation (1)	Anesthesia nursing II (1)	Finance issues (1)
Role development (1)		Policy and legal issues (1)
Teaching and learning (1)		
Fall Semester – Year 2	Spring Semester –Year 2	Summer Semester –Year 2
Research process (3)	Nurse anesthesia advanced II (2)	Nurse anesthesia advanced III (1)
Physiological responses IV (3)	Evidence-based practice (2)	
Nurse anesthesia advanced (1)	Inquiry practicum (1)	
Fall Semester - Year 3		
Nurse anesthesia advanced (1)		

Dual Degree Curriculum:

Students enrolling in the combined MSN / PhD nursing program complete coursework in primarily a sequential manner with MSN coursework preceding PhD level courses. However, if required pre-requisites for a PhD course are met, BSN to PhD students may take MSN and PhD courses concurrently. An overlap of **up to 8 credits** will be allowed. Table 15 shows the course overlap between the MSN and PhD nursing programs. To be clear, the **8** overlapping credits does not involve the nurse practice core required of MSN student in the nurse practitioner specialty programs or any other clinical content courses required of respective MSN majors. The course overlap is restricted to courses comprising the scientific inquiry and professional development course as shown in table 15 below. The table shows the MSN courses, which we have identified to have overlapping content with PhD courses; **up to an 8 credit overlap** for the combined MSN / PhD program is proposed. Thus, the PhD level theory development (NURS 511), research methods (NURS 530/531) and health policy (NURS 609) courses as listed in Table 15 will “double count” for both the MSN and PhD nursing programs.

Table 15. Core Courses across all MSN Majors and overlap with PhD courses

MSN core courses	PhD nursing courses	Overlap
NURS 405: Theoretical foundations (3)	NURS 511: Theory development (3)	3
NURS 425: Research process (3)	NURS 530/531: Research methods (6)	3
NURS 502: Evidence based practice (2)		
NURS 503: Inquiry practicum (1)	Research practicum	1
NURS 443A: Collaboration/ consultation (1)		
NURS 443B: Role development (1)		
NURS 443C: Teaching and learning (1)		
NURS 444A: Ethical issues (1)		
NURS 444B: Finance issues (1)		
NURS 444C: Policy/ legal issues (1)	NURS 609: Health policy (3)	1

Sample MSN / PhD program plans

Sample program plans for BSN to PhD students who wish to complete the MSN degree along the way appears in the following tables. Table 16 provides a sample program plan for the combined MSN/PhD for the acute care nurse practitioner (ACNP) MSN specialty with subspecialty in cardiovascular nursing. Courses appearing in bolded font and a single asterisk (*) are PhD nursing courses. Those bolded courses with two asterisks (**) are PhD courses to be taken in place of MSN courses constituting an **8 credit** hour overlap. Thus, students enrolled in the MSN/PhD program will not take **8 credits** that MSN students who are not in the combined program are otherwise required to take. As shown in the table, completion of the MSN degree with the ACNP focus (cardiovascular subspecialty) and the PhD nursing degree is expected to take a minimum of 5 years, with the MSN degree awarded after the third year.

Table 16. Sample MSN - PhD program plan for ACNP with cardiovascular subspecialty

Fall Semester – Year 1	Spring Semester –Year 1
Theoretical foundations of acute nursing care (4)	Pharmacology/therapeutics (3)
Physiological foundations (4)	Acute health problems (6)
Assessment (3)	Theory development (3) **
Basic statistics (3) *	Collaboration/consultation (1)
	Role development (1)

Fall Semester – Year 2	Spring Semester – Year 2
Management acutely ill adults (4)	Special assessment (2)
Finance issues (1)	Cardiovascular seminar I (1)
Role development (1)	Cardiovascular seminar II (1)
Health policy (3) **	Advanced internship (1-5)
Evidence-based practice (2)	
Ethical issues (1)	
Fall Semester – Year 3	Spring Semester – Year 3
Epistemology (3) *	Research methods II (3) **
Research methods I (3) **	Qualitative methods (3) *
Linear models (3) *	Multivariate analysis (3) *
Fall Semester – Year 4	Spring Semester – Year 4
Topical Seminar (3) *	Proposal development (1) *
Elective (3) *	Topical Seminar (3) *
Proposal development (3) *	
Fall Semester – Year 5	Spring Semester – Year 5
Dissertation (9) *	Dissertation (9) *

Table 17 provides a sample program plan for the combined MSN/PhD for the advanced practice adult oncology / palliative care nurse practitioner MSN specialty. Again, courses appearing in bolded font and a single asterisk (*) are PhD nursing courses. Those bolded courses with two asterisks (**) are PhD courses to be taken in place of MSN courses constituting an **8 credit overlap**. Thus, students enrolled in the MSN/PhD program will not take **8 credits** that MSN students who are not in the combined program are otherwise required to take. As shown in the table, completion of the MSN degree with the oncology / palliative care focus and the PhD nursing degree is expected to take a minimum of 5 years, with the MSN degree awarded after the second year. Of note is the fact that the awarding of the MSN degree in this MSN specialty takes place one year sooner than the ACNP specialty described above because of course sequencing and / or clinical requirements for the MSN degree.

Table 17. Sample MSN - PhD program plan for advanced practice adult oncology / palliative care NP

Fall Semester – Year 1	Spring Semester –Year 1
Physiological foundations (4)	Pharmacology / therapeutics (3)
Assessment (3)	Adult clinical management (5)
Individual counseling (1)	Theory development (3) **
Collaboration/consultation (1)	
Role development (1)	
Teaching and learning (1)	
Fall Semester – Year 2	Spring Semester –Year 2
Advanced oncology nursing (4)	Evidence-based practice (2)
Symptom management I (1)	Health policy (3) **
Basic statistics (3) *	Advanced practice in oncology and palliative care nursing (4)
Ethical issues (1)	Symptom management II (1)
Finance issues (1)	
Fall Semester – Year 3	Spring Semester –Year 3
Epistemology (3) *	Research methods II (3) **
Research methods I (3)**	Qualitative methods (3) *
Linear models (3) *	Multivariate analysis (3) *

Fall Semester – Year 4	Spring Semester – Year 4
Elective (3) *	Topical Seminar (3) *
Topical Seminar (3) *	Proposal development (1) *
Proposal development (3) *	
Fall Semester – Year 5	Spring Semester – Year 5
Dissertation (9) *	Dissertation (9) *

Dual Degree Student Advising

Dual degree students will be advised concerning matters related to the MSN degree by the Director of the MSN program in the School of Nursing. For matters pertaining to the PhD in nursing degree, they will be advised by the Director of the PhD in nursing program. Together, the two program directors will work with two co-advisors (one from MSN and one from PhD program) to ensure that students enroll in the required courses to meet requirements for the two degrees. However, because students enrolled in the combined MSN/PhD program will be BSN to PhD students, these students must follow the regulations of the School of Graduate Studies and therefore must maintain a GPA of 3.0 or greater. On a biannual basis, at the end of fall and spring semesters, or more frequently if necessary, the two academic co-advisors will meet to discuss the student's progress. Students performing unsatisfactorily in either program will receive a warning to say they have one semester to show substantial improvement. If not, they will be dismissed from the program in which their performance is poor.

Admissions

Target enrollment in the program is expected to be from 1-3 students per academic year. Students with a BSN degree who wish to pursue the PhD nursing degree and obtain an MSN degree in a specialty area along the way will apply to both the MSN and PhD programs simultaneously. Students will therefore submit an application to the School of Nursing, which will forward materials from students who are admissible to that program, to the School of Graduate Studies for consideration for admission to the PhD nursing program. Once admitted to both programs, an academic advisor at the School of Nursing will be appointed upon recommendation of the PhD admissions committee to the Associate Dean for Doctoral Education in the School of Nursing, who will appoint and work with the academic advisor in assisting the student to develop a planned program of study.

Admission requirements include: RN license; an BSN degree (or equivalent) from an accredited program three letters of recommendation, including two from PhD prepared individuals, describing professional nursing competence and potential for success in the combined MSN-PhD in nursing program and for making a significant contribution to nursing science; completion of the Graduate Record Examination, including quantitative, verbal, and writing sections; a clear statement of academic and career objectives and of how the applicant's research interest is consistent with the faculty research expertise; and successful interviews with two members of the MSN and PhD admissions committees. In addition, international applicants would be expected to report acceptable TOEFL or IELTS scores as determined by the School of Graduate Studies.

Dissertation Committee Composition

The composition of the PhD student's dissertation committee will follow the same requirements as set forth in the Graduate Studies student handbook under the heading "Dissertation Advisory Committee" (page 12-13). Therefore, the committee will include "a minimum of four members of the university faculty, including at least one whose primary appointment is outside the student's program, department or school. The chair of the committee must be a Case Western Reserve University tenured or tenure-track faculty member in the student's program. "Other committee members may be on the non-tenure track; however, all members must meet the SGS's requirements for serving on a PhD dissertation committee. All committee members should be prepared at the doctoral level.

Program Governance

The ultimate oversight of the combined MSN- PhD program will be done by the Associate Dean for Doctoral Education in the School of Nursing, who currently has administrative oversight over the BSN to PhD nursing program.

Student Activities

Both the Directors of the MSN and PhD nursing program will ensure that students in the combined degree program are informed by email about activities sponsored by both graduate programs. Students will be encouraged to participate in regular School of Nursing and School of Graduate Studies activities as well as those targeted to them. Activities sponsored by the MSN program include get-togethers and dinners with faculty and student colleagues. Activities in the PhD in nursing program include gold bag luncheons, luncheons each semester with the Director of the PhD in nursing program, and the annual fall faculty and student get-together potluck dinner. Students in the PhD in nursing program also actively participate in activities sponsored by the School of Graduate studies.

Advantages of the Combined Degree Program

There are several advantages to the students in the MSN / PhD in nursing program. The key advantage is the facilitated completion of the MSN degree for BSN to PhD students seeking to obtain an MSN degree in a specialized area along the way. The combined MSN / PhD makes it possible to complete both degrees in a minimum of 5 years (depending on specialty area). The overlap of up to 8 credits shortens the time frame for completing both degrees by one semester. With the average number of MSN credits equal to 40 and the number of credits needed to complete the PhD nursing degree equal to 57, the total number of credits for the combined MSN / PhD nursing program, including the 8 "double counted" credits, is approximately **89** credits.

Funding for Students

Students in the BSN to PhD program are eligible to apply for funding through the Nurse Faculty Loan Program, which is available to all PhD students who agree to take the available courses in curriculum and instruction, testing and evaluation, and a teaching practicum. Students may also participate in funding that may become available through training grants within the school of nursing (i.e. T32 or NRSA).

Tuition Revenue Mechanics

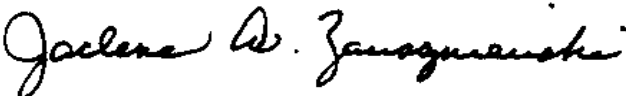

A written agreement about the management of tuition revenues will exist between the School of Nursing and the School of Graduate Studies. The text of this agreement appears below:

Agreement between the School of Nursing and the School of Graduate Studies

Students who are enrolled in the combined MSN / PhD in nursing program will receive the degrees of MSN and PhD in nursing upon completion of the program. The students in this program will register and pay tuition through the School of Nursing at that school's current rate. The tuition revenue for the combined degree students will go to the School of Nursing since the courses that are taken for both the MSN and PhD programs are taught within the School of Nursing.

The amount of tuition to be charged for courses within the respective programs will depend on which program "owns" the course. For example, the charge for those courses that are listed within the MSN curriculum would reflect the per credit hour tuition rate determined by the School of Nursing for the MSN program. Likewise, the charge for those courses that are listed within the PhD curriculum would reflect the per credit hour tuition rate determined by the School of Graduate Studies

Approval Signatures:

Associate Dean for Doctoral Education, School of Nursing <i>Jaclene A. Zauszniewski</i>	
Dean, School of Nursing <i>Mary E. Kerr</i>	
Dean, School of Graduate Studies <i>Charles Rozek</i>	