

Combined DNP / PhD degree requirements

Following completion of required courses for both programs

Only for students admitted to the combined program (not those with advanced standing).

1. Identify chair and two committee members from within the school of nursing to serve on PhD candidacy committee and DNP proposal committee.
2. Obtain approval of this “candidacy” committee and title of project – from PhD program director and the DNP program director.
3. Develop three chapter proposal for candidacy exam – this proposal is to demonstrate the student’s ability to write a research proposal – AND – prepare for oral candidacy exam that will address the PhD “objectives for candidacy.” The student is enrolled in NURS 671 at this time. A minimum of 3 credits of NURS 671 is required. The candidacy exam is to be scheduled three weeks prior to the event and all three committee members should be present in person.
4. After the student passes the candidacy exam, the next step is to identify a 4th committee member from within CWRU but outside the school of nursing. That individual will join the committee that will serve as both the DNP and PhD committee. The student will prepare a two-part proposal for the proposal defense. The first component of the proposal will meet the requirement for the DNP thesis / project and should be a stepping stone to the second component, which will meet the requirement for the PhD dissertation. This two-part proposal will be defended by the student during a single event. The student is enrolled in NURS 671 (PhD proposal development) at this time. Therefore, it is not necessary for students to complete the DNP proposal development course.
5. The proposal defense is to be scheduled three weeks prior to the event and duplicate forms (one for each program) must be filed. All four committee members should be present in person.
6. Once the two-part proposal has been successfully defended, the student will submit the two-part project to the IRB for approval. The research (e.g., subject recruitment, data collection, data analysis) should not be started until after the IRB approval has been obtained.
7. When IRB approval has been obtained, the student may begin the research process.
8. Students will work with committee members in completing the documents needed to meet the requirements for the DNP thesis and PhD dissertation. The manuscript option may be used for the DNP thesis / project. However, two separate documents are needed.
9. The final defense of the two part project should occur within a single event; however, it must be scheduled three weeks prior to the event and duplicate forms (one for each program) must be filed.