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<b>Policy Number:</b>	<b>614</b>
<b>Policy Name:</b>	<b>PhD Comprehensive Examination Policy</b>
<b>Reviewed by:</b>	<b>Nursing Graduate Council</b>
<b>Last Review Date:</b>	<b>04/08/2022</b>

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### PhD Comprehensive Examination

All students seeking a Doctor of Philosophy degree must take a written comprehensive examination. The examination will be offered in fall and spring semesters. The opportunity to take the examination in summer semester will be determined by the PhD Program Director.

### Purpose

The purpose of the PhD comprehensive examination is to evaluate the student's ability to creatively synthesize and integrate complex knowledge from nursing and related disciplines while exploring a concept with relevance for nursing (capstone experience). The PhD doctoral comprehensive exam includes a written and oral component.

The areas of evaluation for the doctoral comprehensive examination include the following:

1. Nursing discipline knowledge, encompassing materials from NURS 581, 557, 565, 586, and 577
2. Knowledge in area of interest/inquiry, encompassing a line of inquiry and synthesis of the student's specific field of interest;
3. Methodologic and analytic knowledge, encompassing scholarly tools, research methodologies, from NURS 514, 525, 558, 522, 573, 574, and 575, and the student's specific analytic tools courses.

### Eligibility

Eligibility or student readiness for the PhD comprehensive examination will be determined in conjunction with the major advisor and will normally occur following completion of the nursing discipline and scholarly tools course work. Ideally, the scheduling of the comprehensive examination will be during or after the final semester of pre-dissertation course work. Students must have an approved Doctoral Committee and program of study to be eligible to apply for the examination.

Students will be eligible to take the PhD comprehensive examination upon approval of the Dissertation Committee Chair (Major Advisor) and PhD Program Director

Students who do not pass the doctoral comprehensive examination may repeat the procedure once, in accordance with the School of Graduate Studies policy. A student who does not successfully complete the doctoral comprehensive examination in two attempts is academically disqualified to continue in the PhD program in Nursing, and will be dismissed from the program.

### Written PhD Comprehensive Examination

The written examination will consist of a scholarly paper demonstrating synthesis and integration of nursing discipline knowledge, scholarly tools and the student's problem area. While the comprehensive exam should synthesize previous coursework, it should not duplicate an assignment from previous courses. The student should consult with his/her advisor to determine the appropriate format.

### Oral PhD Comprehensive Examination

Examination will include questions related to the three areas of evaluation as defined above. The oral examination will also address written feedback regarding the student's performance on the written portion of the PhD comprehensive examination.

Approved by Doctoral Council 5/19/2004; R 12/7/2004; R 2/17/06; R 10/16/09  
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