

Policy S-4.03
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
COLLEGE OF NURSING

Page 1 of 4

TITLE: **DISSERTATION OPTIONS AND MINIMUM DISSERTATION CREDITS**

POLICY: Doctoral candidates may choose to complete a traditional dissertation or a nontraditional, publication-based dissertation. With either option, they are required to register for NGR 7980 in accordance with College of Nursing and Graduate School requirements. Students need to be registered for course work in any semester in which they are involved in work that requires UF and/or College of Nursing resources.

RATIONALE: The UF Graduate School offers two dissertation options. Students, after successfully completing all of their core coursework and the progression examination, select the appropriate option for their career goals in collaboration with their supervisory chair.

A standard number of dissertation credit hours is mandated to ensure that faculty work related to student doctoral dissertations is appropriately credited.

PROCEDURE:

SELECTION OF DISSERTATION FORMAT

Prior to registering to take the qualifying examination, the PhD student must select a traditional or publication option for their dissertation format. The choice of format is made by the student and the dissertation committee. The research comprising the dissertation is similar for each option and differs only in organization.

A. Option I. Traditional Dissertation

1. The traditional dissertation is an integrated, scholarly report. The dissertation chair should be consulted on developing the appropriate format for the dissertation based on whether the research study was quantitative or qualitative.

2. The traditional dissertation format will include the following:
 - Title
 - Copyright
 - Dedication and Acknowledgement
 - Abstract
 - Table of Contents
 - List of Tables

Policy S-4.03
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
COLLEGE OF NURSING

Page 2 of 4

List of Figures
Chapter 1: Introduction
 Background and Significance of the Problem
 Theoretical Framework
Chapter 2: Review of Literature
Chapter 3: Methodology
Chapter 4: Results
Chapter 5: Discussion
Appendices
References

B. Option II. Non-Traditional Dissertation

1. The non-traditional dissertation is often referred to as the “manuscript option.” This option allows for submitted, accepted, or published manuscripts to become part of the doctoral dissertation. The focus and content of the manuscripts is negotiated between the student and the supervisory committee.

2. The non-traditional dissertation format will include the following:
Title
Copyright permission
Dedication and Acknowledgement
Abstract
Table of Contents
List of Tables
List of Figures
Chapter 1: Introduction
Chapter 2: Paper 1 (paginated separately)
Chapter 3: Paper 2 (paginated separately)
Chapter 4: Paper 3 (paginated separately)
Chapter 5: Summary and Conclusions (summarizes the 3 papers)
Appendices
References

3. Prior to taking the qualifying exam, students who elect this option must complete a proposal that includes the title, chapter 1, and a detailed research plan and description of three manuscripts, to be written for submission to peer-reviewed journals.

4. By the final defense, at least one of the three manuscripts must already be published or in press and the other two manuscripts may be submitted, accepted for publication, or published. The student works with his/her dissertation chair in selecting journals for manuscript submission. The format of the manuscripts is determined by the guidelines of the peer-reviewed journal to which it is submitted. The manuscripts must be submitted for

Policy S-4.03
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
COLLEGE OF NURSING

publication while the student is enrolled in the doctoral program. Publications authored by the student prior to admission in the PhD program do not qualify. Due to the length of the publication process, two of the three manuscripts may be accepted for publication or published after the student has graduated.

5. The doctoral student must be the lead author on each manuscript. Dissertation committee members who made contributions to the manuscripts should be included as co-authors.

6. The manuscripts are directly related to the student’s dissertation research. Each manuscript requires approval of the dissertation committee and the submission status of each should be documented in the annual progression plan. One manuscript must be data-based and report the results of the student’s dissertation research. The remaining two manuscripts, based on approval of the dissertation committee, and related to the student’s program of research, may be selected from the following options: an integrative literature review; conceptual analysis or theoretical development; methodological discussion; instrument development; or, clinical application of the research findings to practice.

7. At the time of publication, the student assigns copyrights to the publishing journal. The student must obtain written permission from the copyright holder to include the material in their dissertation. Failure to do so would be an infringement of United States copyright laws. Students who publish in Open Access journals retain copyrights to the manuscript.

REQUIRED MINIMUM DISSERTATION CREDITS

1. All doctoral candidates who are doing dissertation work must register for NGR 7980 at minimum of three credits per semester.

2. Doctoral candidates who apply for graduation must register for a minimum of six credits of NGR 7980 in the semester in which they will graduate.

3. Doctoral students must complete a minimum of 14 credits in NGR 7980.

Amended Approval Matrix (10/12):

Review or Approval Authority	Responsible Party	Initial Approval / Review	Most Recent Approval / Review Of Changes	Editorial Changes	Policy A-01 Review
Approval	Administrative Council	5/98	9/12		
Approval	Academic Affairs Committee*	02/04	6/14		12/09
Review	Leadership Council	6/98	10/12		
Approval	General Faculty	*1/99	10/12		
Approval	Dean	06/98	10/12		

Policy S-4.03
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
COLLEGE OF NURSING

NOTE: Substantively changed in Fall 2012 *Previously approved as part of Policy S-4.04. **Bold indicates committee with A-01 authority.**