PhD Advanced Clinical Research Practicum Guidelines

Rationale and Expectations. The goal of the Advanced Clinical Research Practicum (ACRP) hours at the PhD level is to develop the student's skills as a clinical nurse scientist. The ACRP experience at the PhD level is designed to support the systematic investigation of clinical phenomena in the student's area of interest. Theoretically driven, research-based, clinical application/practice is the expected outcome.

The ACRP is viewed as a learning experience in which the student has the opportunity to (a) systematically explore a clinical phenomenon that is of significance to nursing science and practice, and (b) gain specialized knowledge pertinent to the phenomenon. The student's ACRP experience should become the basis for dissertation study.

All ACRP hours are individually designed courses of independent study. The ACRP scholarly activities and related learning experiences prepare the student to complete the written and oral defense when a minimum of 8 trimester hours of ACRP (NSG 691) has been completed.

The following courses are required prior to enrollment in NSG 691 hours: NSG 684, NSG 685, NSG 680, NSG 681, NSG 686, NSG 687, NSG 688, NSG 682, NSG 683, NSG 600, NSG 690, and NSG 679.

ACRP hours should be used to develop knowledge and skills related to theory, the possible clinical/study population, and research methods. At the completion of the NSG 691 hours, the student will successfully:

1. Identify a clinical phenomenon through observation/participation.
2. Synthesize the relevant research and practice literature related to the clinical phenomenon as reflected in a series of increasingly complex scholarly papers (e.g., written integrative literature reviews; in-depth analysis/synthesis of related issues).
3. Describe and place the clinical phenomenon within the broader health care context and state of the science.
4. Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of how to study the phenomenon (i.e., design issues).
5. Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of data collection and analytic methods to answer potential research questions (e.g., pilot study).

The student's advisor will complete a worksheet that addresses if the student has successfully addressed the following questions:

1. Is the clinical phenomenon and its significance clearly described by the student?

2. Has the student critically analyzed extant knowledge related to the clinical phenomenon under study?

Report would include: the data bases accessed (e.g. CINAHL, federal agency publication repositories), key words used, any qualifiers used in the search (i.e. range of years or language), inclusion/exclusion rules used for the search, number of identified publications by data base and the number after duplicates are sorted . If this information is displayed in a table format, it usually takes less than a page. Search histories can usually be recounted in two to three paragraphs at most.

3. Does the student's work represent a synthesis of knowledge related to this clinical phenomenon?

4. Does the student identify gaps in what is known about the phenomenon?

5. Will the student's work potentially contribute to what is known about this phenomenon?

6. Did the ACRP activities performed by the student inform the defense (e.g. pilot study)?

7. Does the presented work logically lead to a scholarly dissertation question that the student can now

articulate?

Guidelines for the ACRP Committee. The purpose of this committee is to advise the student concerning the development and implementation of the ACRP experience. Guiding the ACRP hours and serving as the examining body are the dual responsibilities of the committee. The following guidelines pertain to the overall process:

1. An outline of the student's objectives and plans for the 8 trimester hours of NGS 691 should be submitted to the advisor by the end of (and no later than) the first 2 trimester hours of the ACRP experience. The 8 trimester hours of NSG 691 must be completed over a minimum of two trimesters.
2. The ACRP committee should be formed by the end of (and no later than) 4 trimester hours of NSG 691. The composition and rationale for the ACRP committee must be submitted when the committee is formed. The form to be submitted for this purpose is available online.
3. The chairperson of the ACRP committee must have a research doctorate, hold appointments in both the College of Nursing and the Graduate College, and have previously served on an ACRP committee.
4. Committee members should have either content or methodological expertise needed by the student in studying the clinical phenomenon. Two of the three committee members should have research doctorates and hold appointments in both the College of Nursing and the Graduate College Faculty. Three is the minimum number of committee members. The third committee member should have a research doctorate and make a substantive contribution, but does not have to be a nurse.

(*A fourth committee member may be a faculty member gaining ACRP committee experience.)