

**GRADUATE**  
**NEW/REVISED/DELETED GRADUATE PROGRAMS COVER SHEET**  
 (Degree Programs, Sequences, Graduate-Level Certificates)  
 Graduate Curriculum Committee  
 2006-07

Deadlines for receipt by Graduate Curriculum Committee:

- Revised Degree Program, Sequence, Graduate Certificates: October 2, 2006, for inclusion in 2007-08 catalog.
- New Sequence, New Graduate Certificate: September 15, 2006, for inclusion in 2007-08 catalog.
- New Degree Program: February 9, 2007, for inclusion in 2008-09 catalog.

DEPARTMENT/SCHOOL        Mennonite College of Nursing        DATE    September 5, 2006       

TITLE OF DEGREE, SEQUENCE, OR CERTIFICATE -    Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing       

**Catalog Copy: See following page** "Mennonite College of Nursing, Illinois State University; Doctor of Philosophy Degree Program in Nursing; Drafted August 29, 2006 for the ISU Graduate Catalog"

**Proposed Action:** (Refer to Part I, Section C of *GCC Proposal Guidelines and Procedures*.)

- New\* (Check one):
- Degree Program\*\* (goes beyond Graduate Curriculum Committee)
  - Sequence (goes beyond Graduate Curriculum Committee)
  - Post-Master's Graduate Certificate (goes beyond Graduate Curriculum Committee)
  - Post-Baccalaureate Graduate Certificate (goes beyond Graduate Curriculum Committee)
  - Graduate Certificate

       Change in requirements for: (Check one.)

       Degree Program              Sequence              Certificate

       Other program revisions

- Deletion of: (Check one.)
- Degree Program (goes beyond Graduate Curriculum Committee)
  - Sequence (goes beyond Graduate Curriculum Committee)
  - Post-Master's Graduate Certificate (goes beyond Graduate Curriculum Committee)
  - Post-Baccalaureate Graduate Certificate (goes beyond Graduate Curriculum Committee)
  - Graduate Certificate

\*Attach approved *Request for New Program Approval: Reporting of Financial Implications* form (available at [www.academiciansenate.ilstu.edu/documents.html](http://www.academiciansenate.ilstu.edu/documents.html)).

\*\*Obtain the New Program Request (NEPR) format from the Office of the Provost.

**Summary of proposed action.** For all proposals, provide current title and current catalog copy. Provide new title and new catalog copy for new programs, and for revised programs if catalog copy/title is altered. For revised programs, provide a summary of the changes. (Refer to New/Revised/Deleted Programs checklist in *GCC Guidelines and Procedures*.)

**Routing and action summary:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. _____<br>Dept./School Curriculum Committee Chair      Date Approved | 4. _____<br>College Dean      Date Approved   |
| 2. _____<br>Department Chair/School Director      Date Approved        | 5. _____<br>Teacher Education Council Chair      Date Approved<br>(28 copies to Dean of College of Education) |
| 3. _____<br>College Curriculum Committee Chair      Date Approved      | 6. _____<br>Graduate School      Date Approved  |

Submit **10** copies of proposal to the Graduate Curriculum Committee. In addition, for new and deleted degree programs, sequences, and Post-Baccalaureate and Post-Master's certificates, submit an electronic version (MS Word format). These proposals are routed by GCC to the Academic Senate. The Senate requires electronic submission of all materials for posting to the Senate Web site.

January 23, 2007

Sandra L. Groves, PhD, Director of Graduate Studies  
Members of the Graduate Curriculum Committee  
Illinois State University  
Normal, IL 61790

Dear Dr. Groves and Committee Members,

It is my pleasure to forward, on behalf of the Mennonite College of Nursing, the new program proposal packet for the doctor of philosophy in nursing, focal area aging. Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University received 3 years of federal funding for the development of this program from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Service Administration. The grant is currently in its second year of funding.

The program has been developed in consultation with our faculty colleagues at the University of Iowa, College of Nursing, a ranked National Institutes of Health College of Nursing and national leaders in the area of nursing in aging. While the curriculum and program were developed in collaboration with the University of Iowa, the Mennonite College of Nursing doctoral program is distinct from the program at University of Iowa and reflects the expertise of the MCN faculty.

College collaboration with the University of Iowa will continue after the grant period to allow sharing of scarce faculty resources which will involve opportunities for doctoral students to work with faculty from Illinois State University and the University of Iowa within courses and in research. A memo of understanding describing this collaboration has been developed and approved by Illinois State University. The content within the memo has been verbally agreed to by University of Iowa and is currently undergoing legal review at the University of Iowa.

The national need for increased numbers of nursing doctoral programs is well documented. Furthermore, there is a significant need for a doctoral nursing program in Illinois that is better able to serve the needs of students outside the Chicago area, making education available to students who would not otherwise be able to travel to obtain their doctorate. In the State of Illinois the North Central Illinois Economic Development Region, Critical Skills Shortages Initiative, Root Causes Report (2004) identified the need for additional doctoral prepared nursing faculty to address the shortage of nurses in Illinois.

I appreciate the University's support during program development and attention to review of the proposal. Please contact me for any questions regarding the new program proposal.

Sincerely,

Brenda Recchia Jeffers, PhD, RN, Associate Professor, Director of the Graduate Program and Research, Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University  
[brjeffe@ilstu.edu](mailto:brjeffe@ilstu.edu)

ILLINOIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY



*Department of Speech Pathology  
and Audiology*

204 Fairchild Hall  
Campus Box 4720  
Normal, IL 61790-4720  
Telephone: (309) 438-8643  
Facsimile: (309) 438-5221

November 17, 2006

Brenda Recchia Jeffers, PhD, RN  
Associate Professor  
Director of Graduate Program, Research and Scholarly Activities  
Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University  
Normal, IL

Dear Dr Jeffers:

After our initial meeting regarding the proposed elective concentration in Speech Pathology and Audiology for your PhD Nursing program, I consulted with the concerned faculty and we have agreed in principle to support the elective concentration.

There are several issues that will have to be discussed regarding required background readings and modifications to requirements for the doctoral candidates who take the concentration in Speech Pathology and Audiology but the department is in agreement that it can be accomplished and support the concept of the elective concentration.

I suggest that we meet again with the faculty who will be teaching the courses suggested in the concentration and work out the details for establishing this program. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Walter J. Smoski, Ph.D.  
Chairperson

ILLINOIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY



COLLEGE OF EDUCATION  
*Department of Educational  
Administration and Foundations*

January 12, 2007

331 DeGarmo Hall  
Campus Box 5900  
Normal, IL 61790-5900  
Telephone: (309) 438-5422  
<http://coe.ilstu.edu/cafdept/>

Brenda Recchia Jeffers, PhD, RN  
Associate Professor  
Director of the Graduate Program & Research  
Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University  
Campus Box 5810  
Normal, IL 61790-5810

Dear Dr. Jeffers,

The purpose of this letter is to summarize our fall 2006 meeting regarding the proposed course concentration in Education Administration and Foundation (EAF) for your pending PhD nursing program. Both EAF faculty and administration support enrollment of nursing doctoral students in EAF courses as they best meet the students' plans of study.

As we discussed, the nursing proposed plan of study requires the completion of 9 hours of graduate coursework that compliments the student's dissertation topic. The following EDAF courses were discussed as possible supporting courses for a doctoral student with an emphasis on research in education.

- 509, Research Design in Education: Issues and Standard Practices – 3 semester hours
- 510, Research Methodology and Statistics in Education II – 3 semester hours
- 511, Research Methodology and Statistics in Education III – 3 semester hours
- 512, Research Methodology and Statistics in Education IV – 3 semester hours
- 515, Methods of Qualitative Research in Education – 3 semester hours

After program approval is received for the nursing PhD program I would like to meet with you to further discuss students' programs of study to obtain information regarding student enrollment and interest in the EAF courses.

I look forward to working with you and the new doctoral students at Mennonite College of Nursing.

Sincerely,

Patricia H. Klass  
Chair, Educational Administration & Foundations Department

**Collaboration Agreement between The University of Iowa College of Nursing and  
The Board of Trustees of Illinois State University, on behalf of its Mennonite  
College of Nursing**

Collaboration During the Grant Period

The Board of Trustees of Illinois State University, on behalf of its Mennonite College of Nursing (“Mennonite”) and The University of Iowa College of Nursing (“UIA”) are working together to fulfill the goals and obligations of the HRSA funded Collaborative Doctoral Program Grant. Funding for this grant has been granted for FY06 and FY07 and will likely continue for the final year of the proposal, FY 08. The two institutions believe that the achievement of the grant goals will be facilitated by agreeing to the following terms and conditions:

**1. Tuition Waivers**

- a. UIA is able to grant in-state tuition under two circumstances:
  - i. The student is a resident of Iowa or
  - ii. The graduate student holds either a Research or Teaching Assistantship at the University of Iowa
- b. Other than the above, tuition waivers are not possible for students in the collaborative doctoral program.
- c. Research and Teaching Assistantship opportunities may be available for doctoral students admitted to the University of Iowa. These assistantships would be funded through the College of Nursing at UIA.
- d. In addition, students are eligible to apply for Research Assistantships available through available grant funding. These hiring decisions are at the discretion of the grant’s principal investigator.
- e. Mennonite may consider the following scenario for funding students in the collaborative program:
  - i. If funds are transferred to the University of Iowa, these would be designated to support Research Assistantship positions for collaborative students and it would be understood that these students would be assigned to faculty at Mennonite.
  - ii. Based on 2006-07 figures, the cost per student would be \$12,302.25; \$7,992.50 = stipend, \$1,334.75 = fringe rate, 2,975.0 = tuition remission negotiated by graduate student union  
*The cost for 2007-08 will definitely be higher but these figures will not be available until Spring 2007*
  - iii. This transfer of funds would have to be handled through a subcontract between Illinois State University and the University of Iowa. Under most conditions, the University of Iowa would want

to receive F&A (also known as indirect) costs on the subcontract; currently, the University of Iowa F&A rate is 47.5%

While it would be possible for the UIA College of Nursing to submit an application requesting a waiver of F&A costs and making a good case for the waiver, this would have to be done in advance of the subcontract being issued and there is no guarantee that the F&A would be waived.

The only exception to this process would be to have a letter from the source supplying these funds indicating that F&A/indirect costs are not an allowable expense.

- f. Current and potential doctoral students at Mennonite would be provided appropriate guidance regarding tuition costs based upon decisions made by personnel at both Iowa and Illinois State.

## **2. Residence Requirement for Students Admitted to The University of Iowa**

Students may complete their program of study either full or part time. However, students must meet the Graduate College Residence Requirements at UIA as follows. The doctoral candidate is expected to have completed at least three years of residence in a graduate college. At least part of this residence must be spent in full-time involvement in one's discipline, at the UIA beyond the first 24 semester hours of graduate work; this requirement can be met either by: (1) enrollment as a full-time student (9 semester hours minimum) in each of two semesters, or (2) enrollment for a minimum of 6 semester hours in each of three semesters during which the student holds at least a one-quarter-time assistantship certified by the department as contributing to the student's doctoral program.

## **3. Student Plan of Study**

- a. An advisor from both institutions (hereafter referred to as co-advisors) will be assigned to each student admitted in the collaborative doctoral program.
- b. Co-advisors will collaborate to include courses from both UIA and Mennonite in the student's plan of study.
- c. A plan of study is to be on file and current at each institution.
- d. Co-advisors will complete documentation to ensure that courses approved for a student's plan of study will count toward the doctor of philosophy in nursing degree
- e. Students will be considered full-time if the combination of credit hours taken at UI and Mennonite equal full-time academic load. Both universities have a process for tracking student registration at both sites.
- f. Residency Courses: Students are required to complete a research relevant residency. The residency requires approx. 160 hours which can be

satisfied in a number of ways; such as, 12 hours per week for 14 weeks or 1 month of 40 hours weeks in any semester or summer. The student should work closely with their advisor to develop the residency and choice of preceptor to their field of research.

- g. Both universities will encourage students to complete their degree at the institution to which they are admitted.

#### **4. Intent to Collaborate After the Grant Period**

A. Both institutions see the need to continue collaboration after the grant period in order to maximize scarce resources. To facilitate this collaboration the two institutions agree to the following terms and conditions.

1. Graduate Assistantships
  - a. It is anticipated that funded Research and Teaching Assistantship opportunities may be available through either the College of Nursing at Illinois State University or University of Iowa or through available grant funding.
  - b. A mechanism will be continued between each University to ensure communication regarding available Research and Teaching Assistantship opportunities.
2. Plans of Study.
  - a. Personnel responsible for developing course schedules at each institution (Director of the Doctoral Program and/or Director of the Graduate Program) will work together to create complementary course offerings to the greatest extent possible. One of the goals of the grant is to provide opportunities for students to continue to take courses at each institution after the grant period has expired. In an effort to use resources efficiently, program personnel should make every attempt to alternate course offerings rather than duplicate the same courses at each site during the same semester.
  - b. Advisors at both institutions will continue to collaborate to include courses from both UI and ISU in the student's plan of study.
3. Faculty Collaboration
  - a. Faculty at each institution will remain open to the opportunity to serve on dissertation and comprehensive exam committees for students from both institutions.
  - b. Faculty at each institution will provide opportunities for research residencies, when applicable, for students from both institutions. Consultation with and approval from an advisor is required.
  - c. Faculty at each institution will continue efforts to work together to gain funding for common research interests and to disseminate research findings.

- d. Faculty workload in doctoral course offerings will be determined by the accepted faculty workload standards of each respective university.
- e. For ISU to be competitive in obtaining funding for fellowships and training awards, faculty members at Iowa will remain open to continued mentoring through the GRNIC.

4. Technology Collaboration

- a. Both institutions agree to offer courses using Poly Com and other technological advances when requested, if the resources necessary for transmission are available.
- b. Both institutions agree to collaborate regarding broadcasting of available faculty and student seminars.

**5. Miscellaneous**

A. Neither party to this Agreement shall be liable for any negligent or wrongful acts, either of commission or omission, chargeable to the other, unless such liability is imposed by law. This Agreement shall not be construed as seeking either to enlarge or diminish any obligation or duty owed by one party to the other or to a third party.

B. Notices to Mennonite shall be sent to:

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Notices to IUA shall be sent to:

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C. Both parties agree to comply with all applicable federal and state nondiscrimination, equal opportunity and affirmative action laws, orders and regulations. Neither party will engage in unlawful discrimination or harassment against any person because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, disability, unfavorable discharge from the military, or status as a disabled veteran or a veteran of the Vietnam era.

D. Neither party shall use the name of the other in any written material without the prior written approval of the other party.

E. This Agreement may not be modified by either party unless such modification is mutually acceptable to both parties, is reduced to writing, and signed by both parties.

The persons signing this Agreement represent and warrant that they have authority to bind their respective parties.

The Board of Trustees  
Of Illinois State University, on  
Behalf of its Mennonite College of Nursing

The University of Iowa  
College of Nursing

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
John W. Presley

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Meredith Hay

Vice President & Provost

Vice President for Research

Approved as to legal form:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lisa M. Huson  
General Counsel

Mennonite College of Nursing, Illinois State University  
Doctor of Philosophy Degree Program in Nursing  
Drafted for the ISU Graduate Catalog

### *Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing*

The doctor of philosophy degree prepares nurse researchers with expertise in vulnerable populations. The PhD prepared nurse will serve the public health by designing and conducting research on relevant clinical, educational, health systems and/or health policy topics. The PhD prepared nurse may pursue a research career in the academic, business, government or industrial setting. PhD prepared nurses also may serve as educators and/or administrators and develop or consult on health care policy in a variety of settings.

### *Admission Requirements*

Applicants to the doctor of philosophy program of study must have (a) a Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree or a Master of Science in Nursing from a CCNE or NLN-accredited program; (b) a minimum grade-point average of 3.0 for the last 60 semester hours of undergraduate course work or 30 hours of graduate course work; (c) two official transcripts of all prior collegiate academic work; and (d) official scores from the Graduate Record Examinations General Test. The GRE is waived for students with a grade-point average of 3.4 or higher in the last 60 semester hours of undergraduate course work or 30 hours of graduate course work. The Graduate Application for Admission, transcripts, and GRE General Test scores are submitted to the Illinois State University Office of Admissions as indicated on the admissions application. In addition, the following documentation is to be forwarded directly to Mennonite College of Nursing (Campus Box 5810, Normal, IL 61790-5810): (a) evidence of licensure as a registered nurse in Illinois; (b) three letters of reference from persons qualified to assess the applicant's potential to succeed in the doctoral program – one of these must be from a doctorally prepared nurse; (c) a resume; and (d) an essay outlining the student's research interests and career goals. Admission to the doctor of philosophy program of study is dependent upon whether a student can be matched with a faculty member with corresponding research interests. Qualified students will be contacted for an interview to determine if such a match is possible.

### *Degree Requirements*

The doctor of philosophy is a 66 semester hour program distributed among core (21 semester hours), focus (12 semester hours), statistics/research methods (9 semester hours), elective courses (9 semester hours) and dissertation (15 semester hours). All students must successfully complete a dissertation comprised of independent research. The program is designed so that a student with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree will be able to complete the PhD in four to five years of full-time study. Required coursework is usually completed within 2-3 years, followed by the comprehensive exam at which time the student is admitted to candidacy. The student completes 1-2 years of dissertation work followed by the dissertation defense for graduation. Students entering the program post-masters degree may expect to complete the degree within three to four years of full-time study, with required course work completed in two years, followed by 1-2 years of dissertation work.

The PhD program is based on national expectations and competencies for graduates of research focused doctoral programs in nursing as stated by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing. Typically, all courses applied to the degree must be completed at the graduate level.

Mennonite College of Nursing requires that any student receiving a grade of C or below in graduate coursework must repeat the course. A maximum of 3 semester hours may be repeated.

### *Focal Area in Aging*

Students in the doctor of philosophy program focus a program of study and research on aging.

- 501 PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE 3 semester hours**  
Philosophy of science, scientific reasoning and scientific progress are analyzed for relevance to present day nursing research. Prerequisite: Graduate standing in Nursing or consent of Graduate Director
- 503 THEORETICAL BASIS OF NURSING RESEARCH 3 semester hours**  
Examination and critical evaluation of the theory development and use from nursing and related disciplines. Prerequisite: Graduate standing in Nursing or consent of Graduate Director
- 505 QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH DESIGN 3 semester hours**  
Examination and application of quantitative research design and methods. Prerequisite: Graduate standing in Nursing or consent of Graduate Director
- 507 QUALITATIVE RESEARCH DESIGN 3 semester hours**  
Examination and application of qualitative design and methods. Prerequisite: Graduate standing in Nursing or consent of Graduate Director
- 509 INTRODUCTION TO NURSING INFORMATICS 3 semester hours**  
Overview of nursing informatics theory, practice, policy and research trends emphasizing knowledgeable use to support advanced nursing practice and research. Prerequisite: Graduate standing in Nursing or consent of Graduate Director
- 511 HEALTH POLICY 3 semester hours**  
Health policy including economic implications is analyzed, applied, and evaluated from a comprehensive understanding of the state of nursing science. Prerequisite: Graduate standing in Nursing or consent of Graduate Director
- 513 ETHICAL, LEGAL AND PROFESSIONAL ISSUES IN RESEARCH 3 semester hours**  
Ethical and legal considerations of the research process are analyzed, applied and evaluated. Prerequisite: Graduate standing in Nursing or consent of Graduate Director
- 520 BIOPSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH WITH AGING INDIVIDUALS 3 semester hours**  
The state of the science is analyzed and evaluated specific to the biological, psychological, and functional health of aging individuals. Prerequisite: Graduate standing in Nursing or consent of Graduate Director
- 522 SOCIOCULTURAL RESEARCH WITH AGING PERSONS IN FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES 3 semester hours**  
The state of the science is analyzed and evaluated specific to the sociocultural issues of aging clients and their communities. Prerequisite: Graduate standing in Nursing or consent of Graduate Director
- 524 RESEARCH IN AGING WITH VULNERABLE POPULATIONS 3 semester hours**  
The state of the science is analyzed and evaluated specific to the vulnerable aging population. Prerequisite: Graduate standing in Nursing or consent of Graduate Director
- 526 RESIDENCY IN RESEARCH WITH AGING ADULTS 3 semester hours**  
A research project in the area of nursing research in aging is conducted under the guidance of a preceptor. Prerequisite: Graduate standing in Nursing or consent of Graduate Director

**530 RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM**

**0 semester hours**

A collection of seminars on research design, health care policy, aging and professional development.  
Prerequisite: Graduate standing in Nursing or consent of Graduate Director

**599 DISSERTATION**

**15 semester hours**

Students design, conduct and disseminate an original research study under the direction of their dissertation chair. Prerequisite: Graduate standing in Nursing or consent of Graduate Director and advanced to candidacy for the PhD.

## PhD Sample Plan of Full-time Study

### Post-Masters Sequence

|                                 |   |                  |
|---------------------------------|---|------------------|
| <u>Year 1 – Fall</u>            | 9 hours   |                  |
| NUR501                          | Philosophy of Science   | 3 semester hours |
| NUR 513                         | Ethical, Legal, and Professional Issues in Research                   | 3 semester hours |
| EAF510                          | Research Methods and Statistics in Education I                        | 3 semester hours |
| <u>Year 1 – Spring</u>          | 9 hours   |                  |
| NUR503                          | Theoretical Basis of Nursing Research                                 | 3 semester hours |
| EAF511                          | Research Methods and Statistics in Education II                       | 3 semester hours |
| Elective                        |   | 3 semester hours |
| <u>Year 2 – Fall</u>            | 9 hours   |                  |
| NUR507                          | Qualitative Research Design   | 3 semester hours |
| NUR520                          | Biopsychological Research with Aging Individuals                      | 3 semester hours |
| Elective                        |   | 3 semester hours |
| <u>Year 2 – Spring</u>          | 10 hours  |                  |
| NUR505                          | Quantitative Research Design  | 3 semester hours |
| NUR524                          | Research in Aging with Vulnerable Populations                         | 3 semester hours |
| NUR509                          | Introduction to Nursing Informatics                                   | 3 semester hours |
| NUR526                          | Residency in Research with Aging Adults                               | 1 semester hour  |
| <u>Year 3 – Fall</u>            | 10 hours  |                  |
| NUR522                          | Sociocultural Research with Aging Persons in Families and Communities | 3 semester hours |
| NUR511                          | Health Policy & Economics   | 3 semester hours |
| NUR526                          | Residency in Research with Aging Adults                               | 1 semester hour  |
| Elective                        |   | 3 semester hours |
| <u>Year 3 – Spring</u>          | 4 hours   |                  |
| NUR526                          | Residency in Research with Aging Adults                               | 1 semester hour  |
| Elective/Research Methods/Stats |   | 3 semester hours |
| Comprehensive Exam              |   |                  |
| <u>Year 4 – Fall</u>            | 9 hours   |                  |
| NUR599                          | Dissertation  | 9 semester hours |
| <u>Year 4 – Spring</u>          | 6 hours   |                  |
| NUR599                          | Dissertation  | 6 semester hours |

### Program Description and Explanation

Institution                                      Illinois State University  
Responsible Department                      Mennonite College of Nursing  
Proposed Program Title                      Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing  
CIPS classification  
Anticipated Date of Implementation: Fall 2008

### Description of Proposed Program

The doctor of philosophy is a 66 semester hour program beyond the Masters Degree distributed among core (21 semester hours), focus (12 semester hours), statistics/research methods (9 semester hours), elective courses (9 semester hours) and dissertation (15 semester hours). All students must successfully complete a dissertation comprised of independent research. The program is designed so that a student with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree will be able to complete the PhD in four to five years of full-time study. Required coursework is usually completed within 2-3 years, followed by the qualifying examination at which time the student is admitted to candidacy. The student completes 1-2 years of dissertation work followed by the dissertation defense for graduation. Students entering the program post-masters degree may expect to complete the degree within three to four years of full-time study, with required course work completed in two years, followed by one year of dissertation work.

### Rationale for proposal

The purpose of the PhD program in nursing is to prepare nurse researchers. The PhD prepared nurse will serve the public health by designing and conducting research on relevant clinical, educational, health systems and/or health policy topics. The PhD prepared nurse may pursue a research career in the academic, business, government or industrial setting. PhD prepared nurses also may serve as educators and/or administrators and develop or consult on health care policy in a variety of settings. At the Mennonite College of Nursing, the PhD in nursing will provide the nurse with research expertise in vulnerable populations, a unique focus in the Midwest.

Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University has long dreamed of a doctoral program in nursing for nurses in central Illinois. At present, travel to Chicago, St. Louis, Indianapolis, or beyond are the most reasonable options available for nurses seeking doctoral preparation in downstate Illinois. There was overwhelming support for such a degree in feasibility studies for a PhD program on our campus. Interest in the program continues to be shown through numerous inquiries and applications for the program. Moreover, the projected acute shortage of nursing faculty in the U.S. supports the need for a locally accessible program.

### Expected Impact on Existing Campus Programs

Doctoral students will be required to take cognate and statistics courses in departments and colleges other than Mennonite College of Nursing. Exact course requirements will vary depending upon the research focus of the individual student. Sample course sequences have been developed for:

- Educational Administration and Foundations with an emphasis on research in education and,

- Speech Pathology and Audiology with an emphasis on pathology, evaluation and treatment.

Statistical sequences have been developed in Educational Administration and Foundations department

See included letters of support.

#### Expected Curricular Changes

The quality indicators outlined by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing have driven the development of the PhD program at Mennonite College of Nursing. The College has not offered doctoral courses in the past; therefore numerous curricular additions will be required to meet the requirements for doctoral education in nursing. Temporary courses have been developed by faculty at ISU as part of a grant offering a collaborative doctoral degree with the University of Iowa. The first such course offered in the fall of 2006, is Qualitative Research Methods. A second temporary course, Health Policy, is planned for the Spring of 2006. A program plan detailing each of the proposed courses is included in this document.

#### Anticipated Staffing Arrangements

The numbers of tenured and tenure track faculty have grown in the last number of years. Currently, doctorally prepared faculty members are being mentored by PhD faculty from the University of Iowa College of Nursing. Mentorship experiences include discussions about PhD education in nursing, development of doctoral programming, mentoring of doctoral students, and development of faculty programs of research and scholarship. Several ISU faculty members have already been assigned to collaborate with an Iowa faculty member to advise current doctoral students. These experiences have been supported through a HRSA grant for a collaborative doctoral program with the University of Iowa College of Nursing. The current Graduate Program Director will have responsibility for oversight of the doctoral program

#### Anticipated Funding Needs and Sources of Funds

IBHE annual allocation per legislative RFP will be sought to fund this program. Should that funding not come to fruition, the college will rethink target enrollments with possible delay in timeline. Other sources of funding being considered include; faculty positions will be sought through the AIF fund and administrative position funding will be sought through program enhancement requests (limited basis) and grant funding. Graduate assistant positions, travel, library sources, equipment, and consulting costs would be allocated via smaller grants and/or through foundation accounts.

The faculty and material resources required for this course of study are partially funded through a 3 year Health Resources and Services Administration grant. Grant funds are being used to provide capital equipment, such as technology and administrative offices. In addition, classroom space has been specifically allocated within Edwards Hall for doctoral course offerings. The College has committed to increasing the number of graduate assistants available to assist faculty in research endeavors. College collaboration with the University of Iowa will continue after the grant period to allow sharing of scarce faculty resources which will involve opportunities for doctoral students to work with faculty from Illinois State University and the University of Iowa within courses and in research.

The full program complete with course proposals, course sequencing, financial implications, and funding are included with this application for program approval.

Mennonite College of Nursing  
 Illinois State University  
 PhD Program Policies and Handbook for Students and Faculty  
 Drafted November 19, 2006

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## Overview of the PhD in Nursing Program

Menonite College of Nursing is dedicated to furthering the construction of new knowledge for the discipline of nursing and the advancement of nursing practice. The doctor of philosophy degree prepares nurse researchers with expertise in vulnerable populations. The PhD prepared nurse will serve the public health by designing and conducting research on relevant clinical, educational, health systems and/or health policy topics. The PhD prepared nurse may pursue a research career in the academic, business, government or industrial setting. PhD prepared nurses also may serve as educators and/or administrators and develop or consult on health care policy in a variety of settings.

### *Values*

Menonite College of Nursing is proud to be a part of Illinois State University, a Carnegie Doctoral/Research University-Intensive institution. The PhD in nursing is congruent with the University mission to provide doctoral education in an area of programmatic strength and to meet the compelling need for doctoral prepared nurses in and out of the academic setting.

Menonite College of Nursing is a proponent of “Educating Illinois”, with a belief that doctoral education for nurses must reflect the values of Illinois State University including, individualized attention, public opportunity, active pursuit of learning and scholarship, diversity and innovation. Menonite College of Nursing espouses complementary values consistent with discipline of nursing including, altruism, autonomy, human dignity, integrity, and social justice. The doctor of philosophy in nursing expands on the University and College values in the following ways:

- Immersion in the research-intensive environment is an important component for the development of the novice researcher.
- The process of becoming a researcher is greatly dependent upon the mentor – protégé relationship, particularly between student and dissertation advisor. Frequent and constructive interaction between faculty and students is crucial for the development of the novice researcher.
- The development of a peer network contributes to long-term collaborative relationships important for research. An environment that promotes professional collaboration between students is valued.
- The curriculum will be accessible to all qualified students.
- The curriculum and research experiences will reflect individual student interests within defined focus areas in which there are faculty experts to mentor students.
- Learning and scholarship at the doctoral level require a high degree of student motivation and ability. Selection criteria for admission will assure that students are capable of successfully completing the program of study.

### *Focal Areas*

Menonite College of Nursing will offer students the opportunity to become beginning researchers in a focal area defined by faculty expertise. While the PhD program has a general emphasis on vulnerable populations, within this context more specific foci will be available. Initially the program will focus on aging populations, but it is anticipated that new focal areas will be added as faculty expertise develops and the program grows.

### *Admission Requirements*

Applicants to the doctor of philosophy program of study must have (a) a Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree or a Master of Science in Nursing from a CCNE or NLN-accredited program; (b) a minimum grade-point average of 3.0 for the last 60 semester hours of undergraduate course work or 30 hours of graduate course work; (c) two official transcripts of all prior collegiate academic work; and (d) official scores from the Graduate Record Examinations General Test. The GRE is waived for students with a grade-point average of 3.4 or higher in the last 60 semester hours of undergraduate course work or 30 hours of graduate course work. The Graduate Application for Admission, transcripts, and GRE General Test scores are submitted to the Illinois State

University Office of Admissions as indicated on the admissions application. In addition, the following documentation is to be forwarded directly to Mennonite College of Nursing (Campus Box 5810, Normal, IL 61790-5810): (a) evidence of licensure as a registered nurse in Illinois; (b) three letters of reference from persons qualified to assess the applicant's potential to succeed in the doctoral program – one of these must be from a doctorally prepared nurse; (c) a resume; and (d) an essay outlining the student's research interests and career goals. Admission to the doctor of philosophy program of study is dependent upon whether a student can be matched with a faculty member with corresponding research interests. Qualified students will be contacted for an interview to determine if such a match is possible.

### *Degree Requirements*

The doctor of philosophy is a 66 semester hour program beyond the Masters Degree distributed among core, focus, statistics and elective courses. All students must successfully complete a dissertation comprised of independent research. The program is designed so that a student with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree will be able to complete the PhD in four to five years of full-time study. Required coursework is usually completed within 2-3 years, followed by the comprehensive exam at which time the student is admitted to candidacy. The student completes 1-2 years of dissertation work followed by the dissertation defense for graduation. Students entering the program post-masters degree may expect to complete the degree within three to four years of full-time study, with required course work completed in two years, followed by 1-2 years of dissertation work.

The PhD program is based on national expectations and competencies for graduates of research focused doctoral programs in nursing as stated by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing. Typically, all courses applied to the degree must be completed at the graduate level. Mennonite College of Nursing requires that any student receiving a grade of C or below in graduate coursework must repeat the course. A maximum of 3 semester hours may be repeated.

### *Focal Area in Aging*

Students in the doctor of philosophy program focus a program of study and research on aging.

### *Courses*

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| NUR 501 Philosophy of Science                              | 3 hours  |
| NUR 503 Theoretical Basis of Nursing Research              | 3 hours  |
| NUR 505 Quantitative Research Design                       | 3 hours  |
| NUR 507 Qualitative Research Design                        | 3 hours  |
| NUR 509 Introduction to Nursing Informatics                | 3 hours  |
| NUR 511 Health Policy                                      | 3 hours  |
| NUR 513 Ethical, Legal and Professional Issues in Research | 3 hours  |
| NUR 520 Biopsychological Research in Aging                 | 3 hours  |
| NUR 524 Research in Aging with Vulnerable Populations      | 3 hours  |
| NUR 522 Sociocultural Research in Aging                    | 3 hours  |
| NUR 526 Residency in Research with Aging Adults*           | 3 hours  |
| NUR 530 Research Colloquium                                | 0 hours  |
| NUR 599 Dissertation                                       | 15 hours |
| Electives  | 9 hours  |
| Research Methods/Statistical Sequence**                    | 9 hours  |

\* In some cases, the academic advisor/dissertation advisor may require additional research and/or teaching experience as part of the student's plan of study.

\*\*Students are required to complete at least 6 hours of quantitative statistics. The additional 3 hours may be fulfilled by completing an advanced qualitative methods course or an additional 3 hour quantitative statistics course.

## Policy on Progression

*Purpose:* This policy specifies the requirements for progression in the PhD program. Students are encouraged to work closely with their academic and dissertation advisors to ensure steady progress through these requirements.

### *Residency Requirement*

The ISU residency requirement will be followed and may be fulfilled in the following ways:

- Students must complete at least two full-time consecutive terms.
- The options for completing this residency include; two consecutive semesters with at least nine hours of course work or one semester with at least nine hours of course work and a consecutive summer term over a time period of at least eight weeks with six hours of course work.
- Students must file Declaration of Residency for approval prior to entering into residency.

### *Continuous Registration*

The ISU policy on continuous registration will be followed. Students must request a leave of absence from the College and the Graduate School if circumstances prohibit continuing registration. If students anticipate that continuous registration is not possible, students are advised to talk with their faculty advisor or the doctoral program director to ensure adherence to University policies.

### *Time Limitations*

Students are required to complete the degree by the end of eight calendar years, starting from the registration date as a PhD student.

### *Research Tool Requirements*

Students will have been determined to meet the research tool requirements by completion, or near completion of course work, passing the comprehensive exam, and approval of the dissertation proposal.

### *Annual Review*

Each student will undergo an annual review of their progress with their academic and dissertation advisor in April. The annual review is designed for the student to update their advisors on their course and dissertation progress. The review also allows for problem-solving should that be necessary. Reviews are informal discussions designed to ensure the success of students in the program. Students will submit a portfolio to the advisors that at a minimum will include

- An updated curriculum vitae
- An updated copy of your program of study
- A current transcript
- Manuscripts in development, submitted for publication, accepted for publication and published
- Grants applied for and/or awarded
- A one page narrative summary of progress toward meeting the program requirements and goals for the coming 12 months

Portfolios are due electronically to advisors April 1. Advisors and the student will meet to discuss the student's progress and make recommendations no later than April 30.

## Dissertation

Students are advised to read the Illinois State University Graduate Catalogue thoroughly with regard to university policies surrounding advancement to candidacy for the degree, the dissertation, and registration requirements.

### *Selection of the Dissertation Chair and Committee*

Ideally, students are matched with a faculty member upon admission to the program, and that faculty member will serve as the student's dissertation advisor and chair of the dissertation committee. Selection of the dissertation advisor/chair is the student's responsibility in collaboration with doctoral program staff. The student will then work with the dissertation advisor/chair to select a minimum of three faculty members from within the college of nursing to serve on the committee. Initial discussion of committee selection will occur during the annual review following completion of the first 18 semester hours of course work. At this time, the advisor and student will define the dissertation topic, propose preliminary research questions and determine potential candidates to serve on the dissertation committee.

Qualified faculty will be full or associate members in the graduate college, have expertise in methods, topical area, target population, or some other aspect of the student's dissertation topic. Students may invite other qualified internal or external individuals to serve on the committee, such as faculty members from other disciplines, researchers in the private and public sectors, and faculty from other institutions. Proposed committee members who are not members of the ISU Graduate Faculty must be approved by the ISU Director of Graduate Studies. The chair and a majority of the committee shall be Full members of the Graduate Faculty from the department in which the degree is located. All committee members must have the terminal degree or equivalent/sufficient expertise to warrant their inclusion on the committee.

### *Comprehensive Examination*

All students are required to complete a comprehensive examination for admission to candidate status. The comprehensive examination is designed to determine the student's readiness to begin research for the dissertation.

Students are normally ready to participate in the comprehensive exam after completion, or near completion, of course work. The exam is designed to demonstrate the student's ability to synthesize the doctoral curriculum and demonstrate their readiness to conduct their dissertation research.

The comprehensive exam is based on the American Association of Colleges of Nursing quality indicators for a comprehensive examination in a research focused doctoral program. Successful completion of the comprehensive exam and advancement to candidacy requires the student to demonstrate basic knowledge of the:

- Historical and philosophical foundations to the development of nursing knowledge;
- Existing and evolving substantive nursing knowledge;
- Methods and processes of theory/knowledge development;
- Research methods and scholarship appropriate to inquiry; and
- Development related to roles in academic, research, practice or policy environments (AACN, 2001)

Following completion of the examination, the chair will also organize a meeting to allow for a cohesive review of the examination. Students who do not pass may repeat the exam for a total of three attempts. Any student who fails to pass on the third attempt or declines to retake the exam is ineligible to progress in the program and this is grounds for academic dismissal from the program.

### *Dissertation Proposal Development and Approval*

The dissertation committee as a whole will meet with the student at least twice prior to the proposal approval. The first meeting should occur following the student's completion of 36 semester hours for the purpose of approving the dissertation topic, providing structured guidance on development of the dissertation proposal, and clarify the role of each member of the committee. The second meeting will serve to evaluate the student's progress in developing the dissertation proposal. The student is responsible for organizing the meeting dates, times and locations.

The student will seek approval from the dissertation committee for the proposal. The student will work with the committee to develop consecutive drafts of the proposal until the committee is satisfied that the student is competent to begin conducting research for the dissertation. At that point, the committee will approve the proposal and the student will file the approved Proposal for Research with the college. A copy of the Proposal for Research will be deposited in the Graduate School by the college according to Graduate School deadlines.

### *Admission to Candidacy*

Students are admitted to candidacy for the doctoral degree when they have approval for their plan of study from the graduate school, successfully completed the comprehensive examination, obtained approval for the dissertation proposal, and met the research tool requirements

### *Registration for Dissertation Work and Continuous Registration*

Students are required to complete 15 hours of NUR599, Dissertation, to complete the PhD degree. Further, once students are admitted to candidacy in the PhD program, students are required to maintain continuous registration until their dissertation has been deposited with the Graduate School. Continuous registration may be accomplished by registering for one hour per semester in NUR599.

### *Dissertation*

All students are expected to design, conduct and disseminate original research with the guidance of an experienced researcher. Successful completion of the dissertation study is the culmination of course work, residency, any required research and teaching assistantships, and other related learning opportunities. The dissertation marks the beginning of a well thought out program of research designed to contribute to the health and well being of vulnerable populations. Conferring of the doctor of philosophy degree depends on successful completion of a high quality dissertation and passing the oral defense of the dissertation. Students should read carefully the Illinois State University Graduate School guidelines for writing and defending the dissertation, and follow university deadlines.

Approval of the dissertation proposal and successful passing of the comprehensive exam are required before students begin their dissertation research. The student will primarily work with their dissertation chair to carry out the research and prepare drafts of the completed dissertation. The chair is responsible for determining the student's readiness to defend the dissertation, determine deadlines for dissertation drafts, and set the date for the oral defense.

The oral defense of the dissertation provides the student and committee members an opportunity to discuss the dissertation research, clarify any confusing or problematic issues, and validate the research. The dissertation chair is responsible for conducting the defense in a constructive manner that will assist the student to integrate critique of the dissertation. The chair will also organize formal questions submitted from committee member to allow for a cohesive review of the dissertation.

Students who do not pass may repeat the defense once. Any student who fails to pass on the second attempt or declines to retake the defense is ineligible to graduate and this is grounds for academic dismissal from the program.

The final draft of the dissertation must meet the standards set by the Graduate School at Illinois State University..

## Elective Sequence

### *Electives*

In collaboration with their academic and dissertation advisor, students are expected to select and complete nine hours of graduate course work (at the 400 level or above) that contributes substantively to the student's development of expertise relative to their chosen dissertation topic. Courses may be taken at Illinois State University, University of Iowa, or other universities that offer appropriate level courses. Courses are typically selected from other disciplines or are multidisciplinary in nature. The focus of such courses will vary, but should contribute to the student's ability to carry out their dissertation. Students may take elective courses as best they fit into the overall program of study

### *Samples*

Educational Administration and Foundations, Emphasis on Research in Education:

509, Research Design in Education: Issues and Standard Practices – 3 semester hours

515, Methods of Qualitative Research in Education– 3 semester hours

512, Research Methodology and Statistics in Education IV– 3 semester hours

Speech Pathology and Audiology, Emphasis on Pathology, Evaluation and Treatment:

414, Evaluation and Management of Dysphagia – 3 semester hours

419, Aphasia – 3 semester hours

430 Traumatic Brain Injury

440 SLP for Tracheostomized and Ventilator Dependent Patients

449, Seminar in Speech-Language Pathology – 3 to 6 semester hours

### *Other Electives*

Students are welcome to take courses at ISU or other Universities that meet specialized learning needs or are relevant to the dissertation. These courses would be in addition to degree requirements

## Policy on Teaching Assistant and Research Assistant Opportunities

Students are encouraged to apply for competitive research and teaching assistantships. When possible, faculty will incorporate Research Assistantships with the doctoral course: NUR 526 Residency in Research with Aging Adults.

### *Research Assistantships*

The purpose of the research assistantship is to provide essential opportunities for expanding and honing research skills with the guidance of an experienced researcher. Ideally, the RA experience is related to the student's dissertation topic. RA positions are designed to benefit the assistant as well as faculty researchers. RA's can expect to have individualized guidance in carrying out their responsibilities on the project. Ultimately, RA's should have an experience that facilitates their growth as researchers.

#### *Qualifications for RA Positions*

- Graduate student in nursing in good academic standing
- Consent of dissertation and academic advisors

#### *Responsibilities for RA Positions*

- Attend research team meetings
- Carry out selected research activities depending upon qualifications

### *Teaching Assistantship*

The teaching assistantship provides students with the opportunity to develop a philosophy of teaching, hands on experience, and a greater understanding of the pedagogical issues in teaching. Students will work with an experienced and recognized teaching expert within an undergraduate or graduate course. Teaching assistant positions are designed to benefit the assistant as well as faculty and students in the course. TA's can expect to have individualized guidance in carrying out their responsibilities in the course. Ultimately, TA's should have an experience within the course that facilitates their growth as teachers.

#### *Qualifications for TA Positions*

- Graduate student in nursing in good academic standing
- Strong interpersonal skills and the ability to verbally communicate in large and small groups
- Consent of dissertation and academic advisors

#### *Responsibilities for TA Positions May Include*

- Attend class regularly for the purpose of note taking and as a point of contact for students
- Assist with planning of the course within the scope of ability and experience
- Plan and deliver selected lectures/discussions
- Assist with the design and grading of course assignments
- Conduct regular office hours and be available to students via telephone and email
- Assist with proctoring of exams, exam development, and exam analysis
- Assist with the maintenance of course web sites
- Assist with in class activities related to active learning
- Other related course activities

## Collegiate Expectations

Students enrolled in the PhD program are expected to attend events in the college and university that contribute to professional and academic development.

### *The Research Colloquium*

Students are expected to attend research presentations each semester. Topics include presentations of original research, peer review of grants, and other research related topics.

### *Graduate Student Nurses Association*

Students may choose to become members in the Mennonite Graduate Student Organization (MGSO). MGSO is an excellent source for networking with peers, informal mentoring, etc.