

Fast-Track Option (PhD)

Purpose

The goal of admission of students from the MN to PhD program is to facilitate completion of doctoral education for those **exceptional** students in the Master of Nursing program who have the potential to advance the knowledge of discipline of nursing.

Eligibility

Outstanding MN students may apply to fast track from the MN program, if they meet the following requirements:

- Nominated by a faculty member in the School of Nursing based on their academic performance and research capacity. The nominating faculty member agrees to take on supervisory responsibility for the student.
- Completion of all core courses in the UVic MN program (2 theory courses; 2 research courses; ethics course) and have a Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 8.0 (A) in each course, with a cumulative GPA of 8.0 (A) on the UVic scale of 9.0. All core/foundation courses in the MN program must be completed prior to applying to the Fast-Track Option (PhD).
- Completion of a 500-level statistics course within the past 5 years.
- Clear evidence of ability to engage in scholarly writing and research. Evidence of research capacity includes having been involved in research teams (e.g., aspects of data collection and analysis, grant writing) and/or exceptional ability for analytic synthesis and philosophic inquiry.
- Career and research plan congruent with program and faculty expertise.
- Capacity to conduct original research and scholarship.
- Ability to communicate clearly in written and verbal form at a graduate level.
- Understand that upon entry into the PhD program, students must complete the entire doctoral program to earn a graduate degree in Nursing. If, for any reason, students do not complete the doctoral program, they must meet all requirements of the MN program (e.g., 2nd year required elective courses, research project/capstone) or equivalent to earn an MN degree. With student's input, the supervisor, Associate Director Graduate Education (ADGE) & Graduate Advisor, Graduate Student Advisor (admin), and the SON Director will decide for the details of the requirements.

Application Requirements

The responsibility rests with the applicant to ensure that all documents are submitted as instructed. Applications will be reviewed when they are complete. Application for the Fast-Track Option must be submitted within 2 years of admission to the Master's program for full-time students and three years for part-time students. **Usually**, fast-track applications are considered along with other PhD applications during the regular selections process and intake. The application steps include submission of:

- Re-registration form online to Graduate Admissions and Records
- Statement of intent and interest in pursuing doctoral education

- Current curriculum vitae
- Two letters of recommendation from faculty who have either taught or worked closely with the student
- Sample of scholarly writing (a chapter of thesis or published article)
- Evidence of current RN registration.

Review Process

An ad hoc committee appointed by the ADGE consisting of three members from the Graduate Education Committee, who have no conflict of interest and who are not planning to supervise the student, will review and make recommendation for admission to the PhD program. Transfer students will be considered in the same pool of applicants as other applicants with Master's degrees. All recommendations will be forwarded to the ADGE. The ADGE will write a letter of recommendation for admission to the PhD Program to the Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies.

Minimum Degree Requirements

The minimum requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy is **30 units of work beyond the Masters' level** or **45 units beyond the bachelor's level**, and satisfactory completion of the prescribed program.