



UBC  
SCHOOL OF NURSING  
MSN Program  
Thesis Oral Defence  
Procedure & Guidelines



There are a number of advantages to an oral thesis defence, such as:

- ⊙ Acknowledging completion of a major research project.
- ⊙ Celebrating the School of Nursing student accomplishments.
- ⊙ Enhancing innovative and effective learning environments for students.
- ⊙ Attracting and mentoring outstanding graduate students to foster capacity of the next generation of nursingscholars.
- ⊙ Developing systemic ways to mentor the next generation of nursing scholars and researchers.
- Promoting public visibility of graduate students' research.
- Increasing transparency about masters' thesis quality; enhancing the quality of the master's thesis.
- ⊙ Providing mentorship and innovative learning for MSN thesis students in presentation skills
- ⊙ Providing students with increased comfort with media through addressing live audiences.



## Procedure

### Thesis Committee Notes

- The student's supervisor, and a minimum of 1 committee member, shall be present.
- The oral defence will be chaired by a faculty member, external to the student's supervisory committee **but** internal to the UBC School of Nursing.
- ⊙ The chair will oversee the defence and function as a member of the oral evaluation team.

### Process

- 1) Students receive approval from supervisors and committee members to schedule an oral defence.  
*\*if **not** approved; student is not able to request a defence date.*
- 2) After receiving the approval, students will identify a defence date in consultation with supervisors and committee members.
- 3) Students will request a specified defence date **1-2 months** prior to the desired defence date. If students are aiming to meet a degree conferral deadline, we recommend the defence occur a minimum of 5 – 7 business days prior to the G+PS deadline cited in the [NURS 599 Completion Checklist](#).
- 4) Requests are submitted by email to [graduation@nursing.ubc.ca](mailto:graduation@nursing.ubc.ca)  
*\*In the email request please include: Student full name, student number, title of the thesis and the specified date to defend.*
- 5) MSN program coordinator and student services will book rooms and assign chairs for defences.
- 6) Students' supervisor will submit a grade for the thesis **2 weeks** prior to defence date to [graduation@nursing.ubc.ca](mailto:graduation@nursing.ubc.ca)  
*\*If a grade is **not** received; the defence will be rescheduled by student services in consultation with the supervisory committee and the student within one month.*
- 7) Student will submit a copy of their final Thesis in PDF format to [graduation@nursing.ubc.ca](mailto:graduation@nursing.ubc.ca), **2 weeks** prior to the defence date. Student Services will send a copy to the Chair.



- 8) Student Services will advertise students' defence date to faculty and students.
- 9) On the day of the defence, supervisors, committee members and chairs will attend the session. They will use the marking rubric to decide on a grade for an oral defence. The duration for the oral defence will be 60 minutes long: 20 minutes for presenting, 20 minutes for questions, and 20 minutes for deliberation. The chair will submit the grade by the end of defence day to [graduation@nursing.ubc.ca](mailto:graduation@nursing.ubc.ca)  
*\*in the email please include: student full name, thesis title, and the assigned grade.*
- 10) After a successful oral defence, students will submit their thesis according to specified G+PS [procedure outline](#).
- 11) Student services will confirm a total grade (thesis paper and thesis oral defence) with the supervisor and program coordinator.

## Marking Rubric

- ┆ Major components of the thesis were included, with a clear conclusion.
- ┆ The presentation was logically and coherently organized.
- ┆ The student spoke slowly and clearly.
- ┆ The student presented within the required time frame.
- ┆ The student was able to answer the questions fully and clearly.

## Helpful Links

- ⦿ [Thesis Preparation \(G+PS\)](#)
- ⦿ [Final Thesis Submission \(G+PS\)](#)
- ⦿ [UBC Dates and Deadlines](#)
- ⦿ [Thesis NURS 599 Guidelines](#)
- ⦿ [Submitting an MSN Thesis for NURS 599](#)
- ⦿ [Thesis Approval Form](#)

