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 nursing scholars.
- 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
   *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
   *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, 2 weeks prior to the defence date. Student Services will send a copy to the Chair.

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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 *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
STEP 1
Student will obtain approval on their thesis to go for defence by Supervisor & Committee Members

APPROVED
Student to discuss with supervisor & committee members about preferred defence date.

STEP 2
Student requests defence date, 1-2 months prior to thesis submission deadline to: graduation@nursing.ubc.ca (Please include full name, student #, thesis title & preferred defence date)

STEP 3
Supervisor to submit grade for thesis to: graduation@nursing.ubc.ca 2 weeks prior to the defence date. Student to submit a final PDF copy of thesis to: graduation@nursing.ubc.ca 2 weeks prior to defence date.

Student Services will advertise to students & faculty about the students’ defence

STEP 4
Defence Day
Open to students, faculty & public (duration: 60mins)

STEP 5
Supervisor, Committee Members & Chair will decide on a grade for the defence. The Chair will submit grade to: graduation@nursing.ubc.ca by end of defence day.

STEP 6
(After the Oral Defence): Student submits thesis to G+PS, according to procedure outlined.

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