Introduction

The thesis oral defense for Master of Science in Nursing students will constitute a public defense, scheduled by the supervisor, student, and committee members, following the approval of the master’s thesis by supervisory committee members with an assignment of a grade to the written master’s thesis. The grade for the written thesis contributes 85% of the mark and the grade for the oral defense comprises 15% of the master’s thesis mark. The mark for the oral defense would be assigned by the defense chair, the thesis supervisor, and a minimum of one committee member.

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

- Enhancing opportunities to celebrate 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.
- Recruiting and retaining competitive national and international graduate students.
- Enhancing the visibility of graduate student research.
- Increasing transparency about masters’ thesis quality; enhancing the quality of the master’s thesis.
- Providing innovative learning for MSN thesis students in presentation skills.
- Providing mentorship for MSN thesis students around presentation skills.
- Providing students with increased comfort with media through addressing live audiences.
- Acknowledging completion of a major research project.
Procedure

General Notes

- Thesis oral defense will be open to the public.

Thesis Committee Notes

- Students’ supervisors shall be present with a minimum of 1 committee member present as well.
- Oral defense will be chaired by a faculty member, external to the students’ supervisory committee but internal to the UBC School of Nursing.
- The chair will oversee the defense, as well, function as a member of the oral evaluation team.
- The defense will be scheduled for 40 minutes (20 minutes of presentation time and 20 minutes of dialogue and questions).

Process

1) Student receives thesis approval from the supervisor and committee members and approval to go to defense.
   *if not approved, student is not able to request a defense date.

2) After receiving the approval, student will identify a defense date in consultation with the supervisor and committee members.

3) The student will request the specified defense date 2 months prior to the G+PS thesis submission deadline date 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.
   *MSN program coordinator and student services will book a room and assign the chair for the defense.

4) The student’s supervisor will submit the grade for the thesis 2 weeks prior to defense date to graduation@nursing.ubc.ca
   *If a grade is not received, the defense will be rescheduled by student services in consultation with the supervisory committee and the student within one month.

5) Student Services will advertise the student’s defense date to faculty and students.

6) On the day of the defense the supervisor, committee members and the chair will attend the session. They will use the marking rubric to decide on a grade for the oral defense. The chair is to submit the grade by the end of defense day to
graduation@nursing.ubc.ca
*in the email please include: student full name, thesis title, and the assigned grade.

7) After a successful oral defense, the student will submit their thesis to G+PS according to their specified procedure outline.

8) Student services will confirm the total grade (thesis paper and thesis oral defense) 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 presentation was 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]
- [Thesis NURS 599 Submission Guidelines]
- [Thesis Approval Form]

Approved April 2017, Faculty Caucus, UBC School of Nursing