



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



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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](#)