

## **Fast-Track from Masters in Nursing Program to PhD in Nursing Program (and transfer back to the MScN program)**

### **1. Transfer from Masters in Nursing program to PhD in Nursing program**

Exceptional students enrolled in the master's in nursing program (MScN) at the University of Ottawa may be eligible to fast-track directly into the doctoral nursing program (PhD) without writing a master's thesis. The following are the procedures and conditions required:

- 1.1 Completion of the core master's courses with a CGPA of at least 8.0 (NSG5130/5630; 5192/5692; 5140/5640; 5215/5615 and 5216/5616 [previously 5210/5610, 5220/5620]).
- 1.2 Submission of the following documents as a "*Modification or cancellation of registration*" service request in UOZone:
  - Two letters of recommendation. One may be from a clinical supervisor, and at least one must be an academic reference that addresses the candidate's potential for doctoral studies, as indicated by the students' research and leadership;
  - An up-to-date curriculum vitae;
  - A narrative statement (maximum 900 words; about 3 pages double spaced) describing: How the PhD in Nursing will enable the graduate student to achieve their career goals; and the proposed research project including statement of the research problem, justification of research project, relevance for the nursing profession, and an overview of the study design.
  - A signed letter from a potential thesis supervisor supporting the graduate student's application and indicating willingness to supervise the potential candidate's research.
- 1.3 The application deadline for such a transfer is the first Monday of May. The transfer must take place by the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> term (after fall session and winter session) for full-time students and at the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> term (after 2 fall sessions and 2 winter sessions) for part-time students.

### **2. Transfer from PhD in Nursing program to MScN in Nursing program**

If a graduate student fast-tracks from the masters of science in nursing program at the University of Ottawa to the doctoral nursing program at the University of Ottawa, they may determine for various reasons that it is not possible to continue in the program. Graduate students may request a transfer back into the MScN program to complete their degree requirements. The following are the procedures:

- 2.1 The graduate student is encouraged to discuss this desired transfer with their supervisor and the Assistant Director – Graduate Programs in the School of Nursing.
- 2.2 The graduate student needs to submit the following information into UOZone:

- Modification/Cancellation of registration form
  - And indicate they would like to discontinue their PhD studies and are requesting consideration for transfer back to the MScN program. If courses completed in the PhD program are being used to replace compulsory courses in the MScN program, the Update of Record Form (<https://health.uottawa.ca/programs/forms>) needs to be completed.
- 2.3 The graduate student's supervisor will be asked to approve the request in UOCampus.
- 2.4 The Assistant Director-Graduate Programs in the School of Nursing (or delegate) reviews the request to determine additional courses that must be completed to achieve the program requirements. If there is a potential conflict of interest with the Assistant Director, the request is reviewed by the Director of the School of Nursing or his/her delegate. The Assistant Director-graduate programs or delegate in the School of Nursing approves the request in UOCampus and identifies what program requirements have yet to be completed.
- 2.5 The graduate student's original request in UOZone and approval from the Assistant Director – Graduate Programs in UOCampus are transferred to the Vice-Dean Academic for approval in UOCampus.

### 3. A typical example scenario

If the graduate student has completed the four core courses in the master's program (required for fast track), they need to complete the NSG6401 Clinical Project in Advanced Nursing Practice (OR NSG7999 Thesis) and remaining electives to be awarded the master's degree. PhD courses can typically be used for any remaining electives required. Scholarships are typically cancelled.

### Appendix: University of Ottawa regulations for transfer from a doctoral to a master's program

<https://www.uottawa.ca/administration-and-governance/academic-regulation-ii-1-admission-graduate-programs>

*Students enrolled in a doctoral program may submit a written request for transfer to a master's program in the same discipline. The granting of such a transfer request must be recommended by the admissions committee of the master's program in question and approved by the faculty (or equivalent) offering the program. Students who transfer from a doctoral program to a master's program will not subsequently be allowed to register for the same doctoral program. Transferring students must meet all the requirements of the master's degree, or their equivalent, to be awarded the master's degree.*