

Decision: Should I fast-track into the nursing PhD program or finish my MScN first?

This is to help you make this decision.

At uOttawa, graduate students enrolled in the Master's in nursing program (MScN) are eligible to apply to fast-track into the doctoral nursing program (PhD) without writing a master's thesis, if they have completed the core master's courses with a CGPA \geq 8.0 and a professor is willing to be their supervisor. [For more information](#) and [regulations](#).

Why are you thinking about Fast-Tracking?

When do you need to make a choice? The transfer must take place by the end of the fourth term of study at the latest. The application deadline for such a transfer is the first Monday of May.

Consider reasons for and against your options

	Reasons to Choose this Option Benefits / Advantages / Pros	How much does it matter: 0★ not at all 5★ a great deal	Reasons to Avoid this Option Risks / Disadvantages / Cons	How much does it matter: 0★ not at all 5★ a great deal
Option #1 Fast-track to the PhD program	I am not interested in an advanced practice nurse role and want to be an academic/scientist	★★★★★	Less or no experience with conducting research: initiating, responding to critiques, defending	★★★★★
	Save 1 year on average	★★★★★	Program only offered full-time	★★★★★
	Thesis proposal was too large for MScN	★★★★★	Lost opportunity to experience different academic environments and supervisors	★★★★★
	I have a strong working relationship with my MScN supervisor and want to continue with them	★★★★★	If not successful, no graduate degree unless return to MScN (and not permitted to register to the same doctoral program again)	★★★★★
	Other	★★★★★	I feel pressure to fast-track	★★★★★
	Other	★★★★★	Other	★★★★★
Option #2 Stay in the MScN program	May have stronger CV with more publications = more competitive for awards in PhD program	★★★★★	I will delay (1 year) becoming an independent academic	★★★★★
	Independent research experience and thesis writing. May feel more self-confident with research	★★★★★	More awards/scholarships are available for PhD students with strong CV (GPAs, publications)	★★★★★
	Able to be an advanced practice nurse (APN)	★★★★★	I feel pressure to stay in the MScN program	★★★★★
	I want to continue part-time studies	★★★★★	Other	★★★★★
	Other	★★★★★	Other	★★★★★

Which option do you prefer? #1 Fast-track #2 Stay in MScN Unsure