

Should I enrol in the thesis or clinical project option in the MScN program?

This is for you if you are submitting an application for MScN graduate studies in nursing or if you are in the first year of the program. By the end of the 2nd term (April), all graduate students in the MScN program need to confirm the thesis or clinical project option. If you were admitted in the Thesis or clinical project and don't make changes, there is nothing more to do. If you want to switch, you need to send a service request in UOZone as an option change. The following outlines the features of each of these options to help you choose.

Characteristic	Option 1: Thesis THM7999	Option 2: Clinical project NSG6401/6801
Timing of course sequence	After all required courses are completed – usually 2 nd year fulltime studies	After all required courses are completed – usually 2 nd year fulltime studies
Topic selection	The student chooses the focus (topic) of their thesis with their supervisor	The student chooses the topic with the course instructor based on the needs within the clinical environment where the project will be conducted.
Progress	The student is independent in the progress they make with their thesis project	The project is conducted within a course (September to April) and the student needs to meet the deadlines set by the course instructor
Supervision/evaluation	A supervisor with a thesis committee. The committee approves the proposal and provides feedback during the writing. The written thesis is examined with an oral defence at the end.	The course professor guides you in the project (with a clinical partner). The course professor evaluates the proposal and written clinical project. You receive a mark/grade for the course.
Funding awards	Yes, there are entrance scholarships and opportunities to apply for external funding.	Yes, there are more limited entrance scholarships but less likely to qualify for external funding awards.
Number of electives	1 (3 elective course units is required)	3 electives (9 elective course units is required)
Degree achieved	MScN	MScN
Advantages/ disadvantages	The graduate student can choose the focus of their thesis early in first year with their supervisor and focus their assignments within the topic area.	The graduate student cannot usually focus their course work and clinical project on one topic since the topic may not be a priority for the clinical environment. Student will need to gather relevant literature to form the new project
	The thesis should be completed by the end of the 6 th term for full time students (August of 2 nd year).	The clinical project should be completed by the end of the 5 th term for full time students (April of 2 nd year)
	Better option if you benefit from self-imposed deadlines and autonomously driven work.	Better option if you benefit from course deadlines and more structure.
	Directly applies and engages with the research process, strengthening the understanding and application of a chosen research method. The preferred option for those wishing to pursue a doctoral degree.	Directly engages with and applies principles of quality improvement by designing and implementing a quality improvement initiative in a clinical setting.

Which option do you prefer?

#1 Thesis

#2 Clinical Project

Unsure