

THE
UNIVERSITY
OF RHODE ISLAND
COLLEGE OF
NURSING

PhD Student Handbook

Table of Contents

Introduction	4
University Policies.....	4
Program Contacts	4
College of Nursing	5
History.....	5
Accreditation	5
Mission Statement.....	6
Tagline.....	6
Values.....	6
Vision Statement	6
PhD Program Outcomes.....	6
PhD Program Curriculum	7
Full-time or Part-time PhD Study.....	9
Time Limit	9
Student Progress.....	9
Example Plan of Study - Full-Time Program.....	10
PhD Timeline and Milestones.....	11
Selecting a Major Professor and Forming a Doctoral Committee.....	11
Comprehensive Examination.....	11
Comprehensive Examination Committee.....	11
Written Examination	11
Oral Examination.....	12
Dissertation (Thesis) Proposal	13
CON Requirements	13
URI Graduate School Requirements	14
IRB Approval.....	15
Dissertation Research.....	15
Preparing the Dissertation.....	15
Dissertation Formats.....	16
Standard Format	16
Manuscript Format	17
Scheduling the Dissertation Defense.....	19
The Dissertation Defense.....	19

Submitting the Final Dissertation.....	19
Academic Policies.....	20
Formatting for Papers	20
Grades & Grading.....	20
Academic Standing & Academic Review	20
Grade Appeal Procedures.....	21
University Withdrawal (Voluntary)	22
Leave of Absence (LOA)	22
Continuous Enrollment.....	22
Non-Matriculating Students	22
Transfer Credit.....	22
Academic Integrity & Plagiarism	23
Acceptable Use of Artificial Intelligence.....	24
Policies Related to General Conduct & Professionalism	24
General Principles.....	24
Involuntary Class Withdrawal.....	25
Non-Academic Suspension or Dismissal from a Program	25
Diversity and Inclusion	25
Anti-Bias Statement	25
Tobacco Policy	26
Alcohol and Drug Policy	26
Social Media Policy	26
Accommodations for Qualified Students with Disabilities	26
Computer Lab and Printing Policy	26
PhD Student Lounge and Workspace	27
Email Policy	27
Brightspace.....	27
Graduate Writing and Presenting Lab.....	27
APPENDICES.....	28
Appendix A: Graduate Program Forms	28
Appendix B: AACN Recommendations for Doctoral Programs in Nursing.....	28

STUDENT SERVICES

Academic Success	
Help Desk	401-874-4357
Academic Advising	401-874-2993
Academic Enhancement Center	401-874-2367
Enrollment Services	401-874-9500
Career Services	401-277-5015
Office of Ombudsman	
Libraries	
Robert L. Carothers Library & Learning Commons	401-874-2672
Pell Marine Science Library	401-874-6161
Health and Wellness	
Health Services	401-874-2246
Counseling Center	401-874-2288
Disability Services	401-874-5694
Student Life	
Gender and Sexuality Center	401-874-2894
Women's Center	401-874-2097
Division of Student Affairs	401-874-2427
Office of International Students & Scholars	401-874-2018
Office of Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity, and Diversity	401-874-2442
Graduate Student Associations	
Graduate Assistants United	401-874-2826

Introduction

The College of Nursing Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Student Handbook provides academic information, policies, and procedures for the PhD in Nursing program at the University of Rhode Island (URI). It also serves as a guide to resources within the College and across the university. Students are responsible for the regulations listed within this handbook.

University Policies

In addition to this handbook, all graduate students are responsible for the regulations listed in the [URI Graduate School Handbook](#), a collection of policies that relate to student life at URI. These policies outline the general responsibilities of being a student at URI. All students are expected to have read and understood both policies before coming to campus.

Program Contacts

At URI, graduate programs leading to the PhD are overseen by the faculty of the College of Nursing through shared governance. The PhD in Nursing program is administered by the Associate Dean for Graduate Programs with input from the faculty and the Dean of the College of Nursing.

The Associate Dean for Graduate Programs is responsible for the overall direction of the PhD program, including oversight of policies, curriculum development, student admission and progression, and strategic planning. The PhD Program Committee supports the Associate Dean by maintaining and monitoring the program for rigor and quality, developing and refining curricula, and ensuring alignment with university, regulatory, and accrediting standards.

Students are encouraged to consult with the Associate Dean for Graduate Programs as needed throughout their time in the program. The Graduate Program Office is also available to assist students with administrative and program-related inquiries.

Graduate Program Office Contacts

Dr. Danny G. Willis, Dean, College of Nursing
danny.willis@uri.edu

Dr. Denise Coppa, Interim Associate Dean for Graduate Programs
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Ms. Shandra Pelagio, Higher Education Administrative Assistant
shandra@uri.edu

Disclaimer

The policies and procedures described in this manual are continually revised and updated. The College of Nursing reserves the right to make changes affecting policies, fees, curriculum, or any other matters announced in this publication. If you have questions regarding the contents of this handbook, please contact the Graduate Program office.

College of Nursing

This College of Nursing Student Handbook serves as a comprehensive guide for students enrolled in the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Nursing program at the University of Rhode Island (URI). It aims to provide students with:

- 1) An overview of the College and its history, vision, mission, and values.
- 2) A description of the competencies and outcomes students are expected to achieve prior to graduation; and
- 3) A description of the College's academic and professional policies.

All students are expected to review the College of Nursing PhD Student Handbook at the start of the academic year and as necessary throughout the academic year. Each student assumes responsibility to become familiar with the information contained in this Handbook. Students are expected to comply with all policies and curricular requirements that were in place at the time they matriculated into the College of Nursing, although students have the option to follow updated policies, curricula, etc. Procedures change periodically; all students must follow the current procedures being followed in any academic year. The College of Nursing PhD Student Handbook may be accessed electronically on the College of Nursing website. This location contains the most up-to-date version of the Handbook and supersedes all other versions. The College of Nursing reserves the right to add, delete, revise, or change the information, including policies and procedures set forth in this Handbook at any time. Any questions pertaining to any of the contents of this Handbook should be directed to the Associate Dean for Graduate Programs.

History

In September 1945, the University began its first nursing program with nine students in the School of Home Economics. In 1947, the Division of Nursing was established and Miss Louisa White, Associate Professor, was appointed Director. The College began offering a Master's degree in Nursing in 1970, a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in 1985, and a Doctor of Nurse Practice (DNP) in 2010. Until 1968, nursing students lived in Providence during the clinical portion of the program and most of the faculty had offices at Rhode Island Hospital. In 1963, on the Kingston campus, Fogarty Hall was dedicated, and office space was provided for the Dean, several faculty members, and two secretaries. White Hall, named in honor of the first director of the nursing program, was designed specifically for the College of Nursing and dedicated in 1977. In 2017, URI College of Nursing expanded to an additional location in Providence – the Rhode Island Nursing Education Center (RINEC). RINEC is now home to the College of Nursing graduate programs and upper division undergraduate courses.

Accreditation

The baccalaureate degree in nursing, master's degree in nursing, Doctor of Nursing Practice and post-master's certificate programs at The URI College of Nursing are accredited by the [Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education \(CCNE\) of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing \(AACN\)](#). PhD programs are not accredited by AACN/CCNE; however, the PhD program follows the AACN recommendations for research focused doctoral programs in nursing ([AACN, 2010](#)).

Mission Statement

To prepare nurses to excel as outstanding and compassionate clinicians, scholars and leaders who will enhance the health and health care of individuals, families, communities, and populations, both locally and globally.

Tagline

Nurse Leaders Transforming Wellbeing and Environments

Values

- Social justice, diversity, inclusivity, & civic engagement
- Respectful, ethical, humanistic, & compassionate care
- Intellectual curiosity, innovation, & scholarly inquiry
- Leadership, lifelong learning, & excellence in practice

Vision Statement

The URI College of Nursing is a dynamic catalyst for improving health and transforming healthcare through innovation and excellence in education, knowledge development, discovery and professional practice to meet the needs of a global society.

PhD Program Outcomes

- **Knowledge and Inquiry:** Expand the scientific knowledge base within and beyond the discipline through generation and dissemination of relevant theoretical knowledge and independent and/or collaborative research.
- **Nursing Practice:** Produce knowledge that has relevance for nursing and health care.
- **Professionalism:** Develop knowledge while upholding ethical and social responsibility.
- **Communication and Collaboration:** Disseminate knowledge generated from individual and/or team science.
- **Societal and Global Influences:** Provide leadership in generating and disseminating nursing knowledge to guide research and/or policy related to societal and global health and health care.
- **Leadership:** Assume leadership in conducting and disseminating high impact, translational and innovative research and scholarship that addresses health and health care challenges.

Students demonstrate competency in these outcomes by meeting course objectives outlined in each course syllabus, passing a comprehensive examination and finally, completing and defending a dissertation research project. Dissertations are expected to be scientifically sound, methodologically rigorous and publishable.

PhD Program Curriculum

The PhD program includes four main components: coursework, examinations, experiential learning and the dissertation. The PhD degree requires completion of a minimum of 49 credits beyond the master's degree. The Ph.D. program consists of a minimum of 34 credits of course work, including core and elective courses and 15 credits of dissertation research.

The core courses in theory and research methods provide the basic knowledge and skills necessary for generating new knowledge in nursing. In addition, a minimum of 6 credits in advanced statistics and 9 credits of cognates/electives are required. Students are also required to complete a minimum of 150 hours of mentored experiential research training.

Following the second year of full-time coursework (completion of all required courses), all PhD students complete a Comprehensive Examination (written and oral). Successful completion of the "Comps" signal that the student is ready to enter PhD "candidacy" and undertake the dissertation. The program culminates with the completion of a dissertation seminar (3 credits) and dissertation research (12 credits).

To guide academic progress and career planning, all students are supported using an Individual Development Plan (IDP).

Students are required to complete the program of study that is in place at the time they matriculate. Students have the option to follow the revised curriculum with permission from the College of Nursing Graduate Program Office. Any course substitutions must be approved and listed as such on the student's individual program of study.

Core Courses (19 credits)

- NUR 600 - Philosophical Foundations of Healthcare Research
- NUR 601 – Theoretical Foundations of Nursing Science
- NUR 649 – Responsible Conduct of Nursing and Health Research
- NUR 650 – Research Roles and Methods in Nursing
- NUR 651 - Advanced Methods in Nursing Research I (Qualitative Methods)
- NUR 652 - Advanced Methods in Nursing Research II (Quantitative Methods)
- NUR 661 – Integrative Review in Nursing Science

Advanced Statistics Sequence (6 credits)

Students must complete a two-course statistics sequence. In most cases, students should follow the recommended sequence as determined by the academic department. Students should consult with their faculty advisor(s) to choose the appropriate statistics sequence based on prior experience and the type of dissertation.

- NUR 655 - Applied Data Management and Analysis I
- NUR 656 - Applied Data Management and Analysis II

- With approval, an equivalent two-course statistics sequence offered through another department may be substituted.

Cognates & Electives (9 credits)

Cognates are graduate level courses that are offered in the College of Nursing that are not core requirements but enhance the PhD student's knowledge of *nursing science* and/or related methodologies. *Electives* are graduate courses that are offered in other departments that complement learning of the core PhD courses and may address a unique gap in knowledge or skills specific to the focus of the dissertation research (e.g., health policy, epidemiology, or bioethics). Courses must be graduate level (typically 500-level and above) and taught by doctorally-prepared faculty.

Dissertation Seminar/Research (15 credits)

Dissertation seminar is designed to prepare students to develop, submit and defend a viable dissertation proposal. All PhD students should participate before undertaking their independent dissertation research.

- NUR 689 – Dissertation Seminar (3 credits)
- NUR 699 – Dissertation Research (6 credits)

Non-Credit Requirements

Mentored Research Experience

Students are required to complete a minimum of 150 hours of mentored research training; this is a 0-credit requirement. This hands-on experience, guided by qualified URI faculty member(s), aims to develop the essential skills needed for your independent dissertation research. These hours are strictly for skill-building purposes and may **not** to be used for dissertation data collection or to pursue your own research projects and ideas. The 150 hours **must be completed prior to your dissertation proposal defense**.

Students are expected to identify their own research mentors. We encourage you to network with faculty whose research interests align with yours. You can work with any PhD-prepared faculty from the College of Nursing, or other departments at URI, who hold a faculty appointment and are actively engaged in research. Mentors must have an **ongoing research project** that offers learning opportunities appropriate for first- or second-year PhD students, with an emphasis on developing research competencies. Depending on the nature of the work and if agreeable with your mentor, some research activities may be completed remotely. You are encouraged to work with **more than one research mentor** for a broader range of learning experiences. If you encounter challenges in finding a suitable mentor or project, please reach out to the Assistant Dean for Graduate Programs or the PhD Committee for assistance.

Activities should be appropriate for PhD students, with an emphasis should be on acquiring and developing skills that are necessary for a new researcher. Such activities may include conducting focus groups or interviews, building a survey, survey administration, coding and managing qualitative and/or quantitative data, preparing IRB applications, preparing manuscripts and presentations, etc. Literature reviews should be limited. Activities that could be

undertaken by an undergraduate student (e.g., filing, preparing mailings) are not appropriate. Students should discuss opportunities with their faculty advisor. Prior to beginning the mentored research experience, the student **must** obtain approval for their proposed research experience and objectives from both their advisor and the College of Nursing Associate Dean for Graduate Programs. These forms can be found on the Graduate Program Brightspace page.

Full-time or Part-time PhD Study

PhD students are encouraged to pursue the PhD degree on a full-time basis whenever possible, to allow for full engagement in coursework, scholarship, participation in scholarly colloquia, formal and informal research training and as a member of the scholarly community. A full-time program of study may outline a plan for completing required coursework within two years, two years plus some summer work or three years. “Full-time” is defined by the Graduate School as being registered for 6 or more credits per semester while enrolled in coursework. Full-time PhD students who wish to complete coursework in two years should limit outside work commitments to summers, semester breaks and weekends.

Time Limit

All PhD students (full-time and part-time) have a maximum of seven (7) years to complete the PhD degree requirements including the dissertation. The 7-year limit to degree completion can only be extended under a few specific circumstances including official Leave of Absence (LOA) for serious illness and/or active-duty military service. Students should review the [URI Graduate School Handbook Section 7.51](#) for further details.

Student Progress

The College of Nursing uses Individualized Development Plans (IDP) to support student success and track progress throughout the PhD program. The IDP is a personalized tool that helps each student set goals, monitor progress, and engage in meaningful mentorship aligned with the PhD Core Competencies and program milestones. Students begin by setting goals for the semester with their faculty advisor, and the IDP serves as a flexible “contract” between the student and major advisor before the student is ready to create their PhD committee. At the end of each semester, both students and their relevant course faculty are asked to reflect on progress. The IDP is reviewed by the PhD Committee to provide tailored guidance and support throughout the doctoral journey. Students then meet with their faculty advisor to review feedback and suggestions and set new goals. This process reflects the program’s commitment to flexible, student-centered career development and scholarly growth. Importantly, the IDP is a living document and can be adjusted as the student’s goals and ideas evolve. Students are encouraged to work closely with their faculty mentors to develop and regularly update their IDPs.

Example Plan of Study - Full-Time Program

First Year – Fall Semester		
<u>Course #</u>	<u>Course Title</u>	<u>Credits</u>
NUR 600	Philosophical Foundations of Healthcare Research	3
NUR 650	Research Roles and Methods in Nursing	3
NUR 655 or similar	Applied Data Management & Analysis I / Statistics I	3
	Total Semester Credits	9
First Year – Spring Semester		
NUR 601	Theoretical Foundations of Nursing Science	3
NUR 652	Advanced Methods in Nursing Research II (Quant)	3
NUR 656 or similar	Applied Data Management & Analysis II / Statistics II	3
NUR 649	Responsible Conduct of Research in Nursing & Health	1
	Total Semester Credits	10
Second Year – Fall Semester		
NUR 651	Advanced Methods in Nursing Research I (Qual)	3
NUR 661	Integrative Review for Nursing Science	3
xxxxxx	Elective/Cognate	3
	Total Semester Credits	9
Second Year – Spring Semester		
xxxxxx	Elective/Cognate	3
xxxxxx	Elective/Cognate	3
NUR 698	Dissertation Seminar	3
	Total Semester Credits	9
Third Year – Fall Semester		
NUR 699	Dissertation Research	6
Third Year – Spring Semester		
NUR 699	Dissertation Research	6
Each Semester until Graduation		
CRG 999	Continual Registration	1
	PhD Program Total Credits (post-Master's):	≥ 49

PhD Timeline and Milestones

Selecting a Major Professor and Forming a Doctoral Committee

The major professor shall serve as the chair of the student's doctoral committee and should be selected by the end of their coursework. The responsibilities of the major professor are described in the Graduate School Manual, [Section 8.30](#). The major professor must be a tenure track or tenured faculty member in the College of Nursing with graduate faculty status and should be an experienced scholar and knowledgeable researcher with the expertise necessary to mentor and support the PhD student as a beginning researcher and have adequate time to devote to mentoring the PhD student.

In consultation with the student, the major professor will recommend appointment of two or more additional members of the doctoral committee. The second member will be in the same discipline and/or department as the major professor or in one closely related to it, and the third member will be from another area unless specifically approved by the Dean of the Graduate School. Expertise from outside consultants as additional members of the dissertation committee may be considered on a case-by case basis with approval from the Associate Dean for Graduate Programs. Recommendations for members of the doctoral committee should be submitted to the Graduate School with, or before, the submission of the student's Program of Study. The form requesting establishment of a student's doctoral program committee and the Program of Study can be found [here](#). A doctoral program committee is officially established when approved by the Dean of the Graduate School.

Comprehensive Examination

The College of Nursing process for the Comprehensive Examination is consistent with the [Graduate School Manual, Section 7.57](#). Comprehensive examinations should be designed to assess a student's intellectual capacity and the adequacy of training or scholarly research. The comprehensive exam is intended to demonstrate the student's attainment of a core set of knowledge, ability to apply the knowledge to a phenomenon of interest in a meaningful way, and readiness to undertake independent dissertation research. The comprehensive examinations that each student must pass shall consist of two parts, written and oral.

Comprehensive Examination Committee

The comprehensive examination committee may either be the student's doctoral committee (described above), if already established, or a separate committee formed specifically for the comprehensive exam in consultation with the PhD committee. When the student has met all prior requirements, the committee is authorized to prepare, administer, and evaluate the examination.

Written Examination

Timing: The Comprehensive Examination is taken when all courses required for the degree (including electives) are completed and/or within 12 months of course completion. Ordinarily, all students in a cohort complete the written portion of the exam at the same time. The written portion of the exam is usually scheduled shortly after the end of the final semester of coursework (for example, within one week of final exams). The exact start and due dates will be set by the student's Comprehensive Examination Committee and communicated to the student in advance.

Format: The written examination will assess students' ability to integrate and apply knowledge from their coursework to their area of research interest. Typically, students will be asked to prepare written responses to 3–4 questions, over several days as a take-home examination. Students will receive specific instructions regarding the format and length of the examination at the time it is assigned. The PhD Committee, in consultation with the examination committee, is responsible for preparing the examination questions for each student. The examination content will not be released until the start date established by the student's examination committee. All submissions must follow APA style (7th Ed.) unless otherwise approved. With approval, students may use The Graduate Writing & Presentation Center for assistance with structure or formatting (not content). Communicating with others about the examination content or receiving assistance of any kind, including from AI tools, during the exam is strictly prohibited.

Evaluation and Grading: The written exam is graded Pass/Fail. Unanimous approval by all members of the doctoral committee is required for passing. Both the student and the Dean of the Graduate School will be informed promptly of the results of the examination(s) in accordance with the procedure described in 7.70. The form for reporting the results of the examination can be found at [here](#). After the examination has been graded, the results will be accepted in partial fulfillment for the degree for which the student is registered for up to five years from the time the examination is taken.

Retake Policy: A student who fails the written portion of the examination may be allowed one re-examination in the part or parts failed if recommended by the committee and approved by the Dean of the Graduate School. A second examination, if permitted, may be taken only after a minimum of two weeks has passed to allow for additional student preparation. In all cases, a second examination must take place before one year has elapsed.

Oral Examination

The purpose of the oral exam is to defend your written arguments, clarify ambiguities, demonstrate integration of knowledge, and discuss research trajectory.

Timing: The oral comprehensive examination shall be given only after passing the written examination and normally within four weeks following successful completion of the full written examination.

Scheduling: The examination committee chair will be responsible for scheduling the oral comprehensive examination in consultation with the student and all potential members of the committee.

Format: An oral examination, of no more than two hours exclusive of committee deliberations, is conducted by the oral comprehensive examination committee. The customary format of the oral exam is for physical attendance of all oral comprehensive examination committee members and the student; however, modifications of this format can be considered prior to the beginning of the exam. The location of the oral comprehensive examination must be agreed upon by unanimous consent at the time when the oral exam is scheduled, whether that location be virtual, physical, or hybrid in form. The full oral examination committee must be present for the duration of the oral exam, including the discussion of the results and final vote. Following the given program's

guidelines, the examination committee chair must communicate the expected format for the oral exam to the student and the committee members in written form upon scheduling the exam.

Structure: The purpose of the oral exam is for the student to clarify areas that were not explicitly addressed in the written exam, and to utilize knowledge gained throughout the curriculum to advance the science.

Evaluation and Grading: Unanimous approval by all members of the oral examination committee is required for passing. The student will be notified orally of the results of the examination as soon as the committee has completed its deliberations. The exam chair is responsible for notifying the CON Associate Dean for the Graduate Program and the Dean of the Graduate School of the results of the examination promptly on the form provided for this purpose, digitally signed by all members of the oral examination committee and acknowledged by the CON Associate Dean Graduate Program.

Retake Policy: A student who fails the examination may be permitted one re-examination if re-examination is recommended by the committee and approved by the CON Associate Dean for the Graduate Program Dean of the Graduate School. A second examination, if permitted, may be taken only after a minimum of two weeks has passed to allow for additional student preparation. In all cases, a second examination must take place before one year has elapsed.

Dissertation (Thesis) Proposal

A thesis proposal states a problem to be investigated and describes how the research will be performed and reported. No dissertation data collection may occur until: (1) the dissertation proposal has been approved by the doctoral committee; (2) IRB approval has been granted; (3) the College of Nursing, Associate Dean for Graduate Programs has reviewed and signed off; and (4) the Graduate School has approved the proposal. Approval signifies that it meets the standards of the University of Rhode Island for the desired degree.

Students must satisfy two parallel requirements for the thesis proposal

- 1) the CON requirements; and
- 2) the URI Graduate School requirements.

CON Requirements

Written Proposal

Graduate students in the College of Nursing may complete their dissertation in one of two formats: the traditional five-chapter format or the three-manuscript format (see, Dissertation Formats below). Regardless of which option is chosen, the thesis proposal serves the same purpose: to present a clear and detailed plan for the dissertation research and to obtain committee approval before data collection begins. Students preparing a traditional dissertation submit a written proposal consisting of the first three chapters: introduction, literature review and theoretical framework, and methods. Students pursuing the three-manuscript format submit a written proposal consisting of the first four chapters; introduction plus one chapter for each planned manuscript, up to the point where results would be reported. In both cases, references and

appendices should be included as needed, and the written proposal must be defended orally before the committee.

Oral Defense

Regardless of which format is selected, the oral defense of the proposal follows the same process. After the written proposal has been completed and reviewed by the chair, the student presents it to the full committee in a scheduled meeting. The defense typically includes a 30–45-minute presentation of the proposed research followed by a question-and-answer session in which committee members offer feedback and request clarifications. The purpose of the defense is to ensure that the student can clearly articulate the significance, theoretical basis, and methods of the planned studies and to give the committee an opportunity to recommend refinements before data collection begins. At the conclusion of the session, the committee deliberates and either approves the proposal, approves it pending minor revisions, or requests substantial changes. Only after the committee grants approval and all required Graduate School and IRB paperwork is submitted may the student proceed with the dissertation research.

URI Graduate School Requirements

The specific requirements for the dissertation proposal are listed in the Graduate School document titled, "[Thesis/Dissertation: From Proposal to Defense](#)". All proposals are limited in length to the signature coversheet plus 15 or fewer double-spaced, numbered pages in a font size no smaller than 12 point. Proposals longer than this will not be accepted, however, appendices and references are not included in the 15-page limit, and must be numbered separately, using lower-case Roman numerals. The dissertation proposal is considered a piece of scholarly work and should be well-written, meticulously edited for grammar and syntax, and should adhere to APA format 7th edition. Because the College of Nursing requires a comprehensive written proposal, your initial CON document will almost always be longer than the URI Graduate School limit of 15 double-spaced pages. To meet the Graduate School's requirement, you should treat the CON proposal as your "full draft" and then distill it into a concise summary. We recommend you work closely with your chair during this process to ensure that the summary accurately communicates the same information and key points as your approved CON proposal.

Submission to the Graduate School

There are two required items for submission of the thesis/dissertation proposal:

1. Digital copy of the proposal.
2. The Thesis/Dissertation Proposal Approval Form, signed by the committee members, the Office of Research Integrity, and the Graduate Program Director

Thesis proposals should be submitted and approved before substantial research has been completed. Typically, it should be submitted before or during the first semester in which the student registers for research credits. In all cases, however, the proposal must be submitted at least one semester before the semester in which the thesis itself is to be submitted and defended. For dissertations, the proposal must be submitted at least six (6) months prior to the defense.

The Dean or Associate Dean of the Graduate School is charged with responsibility for review and approval or rejection of all proposals. Proposals that do not meet the standard of the Graduate

School will be returned to the student for revision and resubmission. Once approved, one copy of the approved proposal is sent to the department, and the original plus one copy is retained in the student's file at the Graduate School. The student is notified via e-mail once their proposal is approved.

IRB Approval

After the dissertation proposal is approved by the student's committee, they must obtain approval for the dissertation study from the URI IRB. The major professor will be listed as the Principal Investigator (PI) in the IRB application. The IRB application will be developed by the student in collaboration with the major professor (with input from other committee members as needed). The process for IRB and overview of required forms can be found on the page [Human Subjects Protections: Application Review Process](#).

After approval is obtained from the URI IRB, it is forwarded to the College of Nursing, Associate Dean for Graduate Programs for approval and sign-off. After the College of Nursing, Associate Dean for Graduate Programs signs off, the proposal is sent to the Graduate School for final approval.

Dissertation Research

No dissertation data collection may occur until after: (1) the dissertation proposal has been approved by the doctoral committee; (2) IRB approval has been granted; (3) the College of Nursing, Associate Dean for Graduate Programs has reviewed and signed off; and (4) the Graduate School has approved the proposal.

The dissertation research is conducted in keeping with the dissertation proposal that was approved. Any substantive changes to the research plan that was approved (e.g., site, study participants, sample size, instruments, or procedures) must be approved by the IRB, the committee and the College of Nursing Associate Dean for Graduate Programs.

Preparing the Dissertation

The final dissertation is developed and written under the direct supervision of the major professor and often with input from other committee members. The process for development and review shall be at the discretion of the major professor in concert with the other committee members and the student. Students should allow plenty of time to draft the dissertation. It is to be expected that candidates will submit multiple drafts and complete numerous revisions while writing the dissertation.

[The Graduate School Manual, Sections 11.10 – 11.29](#) outline the requirements for doctoral dissertations. Specific dissertation requirements are listed in the Graduate School document titled, "[Thesis/Dissertation: From Proposal to Defense](#)".

College of Nursing PhD students should note that some of the Graduate School and URI deadlines are final dates for all URI PhD students may work for lab science PhD students or those who will be working with existing data, but they will probably not work for students in the College of Nursing who plan to undertake dissertation research that includes primary data collection.

College of Nursing Students must have a dissertation proposal approved by their committee before they can obtain IRB approval. Proposal approval, IRB approval, data collection and data analysis often take far longer than students anticipate. The timeline should include realistic estimates of how long participant recruitment and data collection will take. If data collection can be completed in a few months, then students should plan to have proposal approval at least 10 – 12 months before the dissertation submission deadline for the desired date of graduation (e.g., June 2025 at the latest for those who wish to graduate in May 2026), with IRB approval obtained in June or July of 2025 at the latest.

Dissertation Formats

When preparing the dissertation, students are expected to consult with the major professor and members of the dissertation committee. The student's major professor will be the principal supervisor of the dissertation and will decide, in consultation with the student, which structure will be used. URI allows for two different formats for preparation of dissertations: the **Standard Format** and the **Manuscript Format**. Regardless of the format used, all dissertations must be prepared in accordance with the accepted standards of academic integrity, including proper citation and attribution of all material that is not the original product of the writer.

Standard Format

The Standard Format consists of one of the formats for which electronic templates have been prepared. Theses templates are available on the [Graduate School website](#). All dissertations, regardless of format, must adhere to University guidelines regarding features such as pagination and margin size.

The style and formatting for all aspects of the dissertation should adhere to APA manual 7th edition (2023) and the Graduate School guidelines. The methods and results sections of the final dissertation are usually written in the past tense in the final dissertation because the study has been completed. (e.g., the final study sample included. . .; the participants were. . .).

A generic outline is provided below, although the content outline will be modified for dissertations that employ qualitative approaches or mixed methods and as deemed appropriate by the major professor and/or committee members.

ABSTRACT

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION / STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Statement of Problem

Significance of Problem

Purpose of the Study

Definitions and Assumptions Based on Existing Knowledge

Overview of the Theoretical Foundation (sometimes goes here)

Aims, Research Questions and/or Hypotheses

CHAPTER TWO: REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

Theoretical foundation or framework (sometimes goes here unless qualitative methods

requiring inductive theory development are proposed)

Background / Synthesized Review of Literature

Other information deemed relevant by the Major Professor.

CHAPTER THREE: DESIGN & METHODS

Study design / Methodology

Site and Sampling

Procedures

Measures / Instruments

Data Analysis Plan

CHAPTER FOUR: RESULTS

CHAPTER FIVE: DISCUSSION

APPENDICES

Instruments / Consent forms / Letters of support or approvals from agencies and/or IRBs.

Manuscript Format

In April 2020, the College of Nursing PhD Committee approved the following guidelines related to the use of the manuscript format option for dissertations in the College of Nursing. Students electing the manuscript option must follow the [guidelines](#) from the Graduate School and the College of Nursing.

The dissertation must consist of at least five chapters, of which three will be manuscripts: at a minimum, two must be submitted to a peer reviewed journal and one may be in manuscript form. All journal selections and submissions must be approved by the doctoral committee. The student must be the first author on all manuscripts. Committee members may be included as co-authors if they provide substantive contributions, consistent with accepted ethical authorship guidelines, and this should be discussed and agreed upon by all parties. At least one manuscript must report findings from a data-based research study conducted by the student. The first manuscript (e.g., literature review, concept analysis, preliminary work, or pilot study) may be submitted or published prior to formation of the doctoral committee with the approval of the major professor and subsequent approval from the doctoral committee, providing that the content is relevant to the dissertation research. All dissertation manuscripts must be approved by the doctoral committee. An introductory chapter containing an overview of the problem and significance, a methodological chapter, and a final chapter including discussion, limitations, conclusions, and implications are required. Substantive review of the literature must be provided either in one of the manuscripts, as an additional chapter, or in the introductory chapter. Evidence of theoretical thinking and a theoretical framework, where appropriate for guiding research and understanding results, must be included.

Some examples for organizing the chapters in a dissertation using the manuscript option include:

Example A:

- Introductory chapter
- PUB#1: literature review/concept analysis/theory focused paper
- Methods chapter
- PUB#2: methods paper
- PUB#3: data-based study
- Final chapter

Example B:

- Introductory chapter
- PUB#1: literature review/concept analysis
- PUB#2: data-based study
- PUB#3: data-based study
- Final chapter

Example C:

- Introductory chapter
- Literature review
- Methods chapter
- PUB#1: data-based study
- PUB#2: data-based study
- PUB#3: data-based study
- Final chapter

Example D:

- Introductory chapter (including literature review)
- Methods chapter
- PUB#1: data-based study
- PUB#2: data-based study
- PUB#3: data-based study
- Final chapter

Scheduling the Dissertation Defense

To set up the defense, the request to schedule an oral defense form ([found on the Graduate School website](#)) must be signed by the entire oral defense committee. This form should be signed and submitted to the Graduate School electronically as specified on the form.

At least 20 calendar days before the proposed defense, the form, and defense copies must be submitted to the Graduate School for scheduling of the examination.

Students are responsible to distribute defensible copies directly to faculty members. The Graduate School no longer requires submission of a hard defensible copy to our office. Once the set-up is complete, a memo will be sent to all parties regarding the details of the defense.

The Dissertation Defense

Per the Graduate School Manual, Section 11.27. *It shall be the responsibility of the chair of the oral examining committee to conduct the examination and to provide for changes and corrections to be made in a successfully defended thesis/dissertation before it is given committee approval. A unanimous vote of approval is required for a student to have passed the defense. The Defense Chair shall submit the Results of an Oral Examination in Defense of a Thesis/Dissertation form found [here](#). All members of the oral examining committee will sign this form certifying the student's successful defense of the thesis/dissertation. When a student's performance is unsatisfactory, one re-examination may be recommended and the conditions under which it is to be given will be stated by the committee.*

Per the Graduate School Manual, Section 11.28. *Approval of the thesis/dissertation itself will be certified by the signatures of the major professor and the remainder of the program committee on the formal signature page of the thesis/dissertation. Handwritten or secure digital signatures are required. These signatures confirm that any changes and corrections to the thesis/dissertation required by the entire defense committee have been made. Only the members of the program committee, not the additional members of the defense committee, sign the formal signature page of the thesis/dissertation. In the event that a student passed the oral examination in defense of the thesis/dissertation but is required to have a member or members of the defense committee in addition to the major advisor certify that the required changes were in fact made, the major professor or defense chair must ensure the formal signature page is not signed until all mandatory corrections were made to the thesis/dissertation document. (Amended April 10, 2023)*

Submitting the Final Dissertation

After a successful defense, final copies of the dissertation must be digitally submitted to the graduate school, and they must be accompanied by a signed title page. Type size, margins and typed pagination must all conform to Graduate School standards (see Graduate School web document titled 'Thesis/Dissertation: From Proposal to Defense' that can be found [here](#).)

For formatting, the document must be exported to .pdf and uploaded to [ProQuest ETD Administrator](#). Be sure to complete the submission. Merely uploading the document will not start the process. After the formatter's comments and your committee's comments have been incorporated, you will initiate a final submission email in accordance with the [Checklist for Final Submissions](#).

Academic Policies

All academic policies in the College of Nursing Graduate Program are consistent with those of the URI Graduate School. In some instances, the College has policies that are more stringent than the minimum requirements put forth by the Graduate School.

Formatting for Papers

The College of Nursing uses APA format for all formal course papers, written comprehensive examinations and dissertations. Please refer to: APA (2020). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, (7th ed.). APA.

Grades & Grading

Consistent with the University, the following grading system is used for graduate courses in the College of Nursing:

A	93-100%
A-	90-92%
B+	87-89%
B	83-86%
B-	80-82%

C+	77-79%
C	73-76%
C-	70-72%
D+	67-69%
D	60-66%
F	below 60%

Academic Standing & Academic Review

Although the Graduate School does award credit for graduate courses with earned grades of C or C+, College of Nursing graduate students with earned grades of less than a B- will undergo academic review within the College of Nursing. Students will also undergo academic review if they do not maintain a cumulative GPA of B (3.00) or better. Academic review within the College of Nursing will determine whether the student will: (a) continue in the program without special conditions; (b) repeat the course; (c) complete remediation; (d) continue a provisional status; or (e) be dismissed. If a student receives a grade of D, F, or U in a course, or does not maintain a cumulative average of B (3.00) or better, her/his status as a graduate student will also be reviewed by the Dean of the Graduate School in consultation the College of Nursing Associate Dean and graduate faculty. Such review may result in being placed on provisional status, being suspended, or being dismissed from the university. (See Graduate School Manual (GSM), Appendix A; See Section A.26.1 for Graduate Student Academic Appeals procedures.)

Grade of “Incomplete”

According to the University Manual and GSM, a graduate student will receive a grade of “incomplete” in any course in which the coursework has been passing up until the time of a documented precipitating incident or condition but has not been completed because of illness or

another reason which in the opinion of the instructor justifies the report.” “Incomplete” grades must be resolved and a grade change submitted within one year. An ‘incomplete’ not removed within one calendar year shall remain on the student’s permanent record, except that the instructor with the approval of the College of Nursing Associate Dean for Graduate Programs may extend the time limit. In the instructor’s absence, the Associate Dean with the approval of the Dean of the Graduate School, may extend the time limit by which the incomplete work must be finished. (See UM 8.53.20, GSM 10.42.) Extensions are only granted under unusual and compelling circumstances and only when the student is passing the course at the time the incomplete is requested.

“The instructor shall accompany a report of ‘incomplete’ with a written explanation and file a copy of the explanation with the College of Nursing Associate Dean. The student receiving an ‘incomplete’ shall make satisfactory arrangements with the instructor to remove the deficiency and the new grade shall be immediately reported to Enrollment Services and the department Chair.” (See UM 8.53.21) Because the College of Nursing does not have department chairs, the Associate Deans act in this capacity.

Grade Appeal Procedures

If a student thinks that a grade they received in a particular course is incorrect, the student has the right to appeal the grade in the following procedure. [**Note:** The student must commence the appeal process within 5 calendar days of the posting of the grade, and if the appeal is taken to steps 2, 3 or 4, the student must commence each next step within two calendar days after the conclusion of the prior step]:

- 1) The student shall first discuss the grade with the instructor.
- 2) If unresolved, the student shall discuss concerns with the Associate Dean for Graduate Programs, who will discuss the matter with the Instructor.
- 3) If still unresolved, the student may submit a written appeal to the Associate Dean.
- 4) If the Associate Dean believes the grade should be changed, and the instructor does not agree to the change, the Associate Dean shall issue a written decision to the student and the instructor which includes his/her recommended grade change, and his/her reasons for recommending the change. If the Associate Dean does not believe the grade should be changed, he/she shall issue a written decision to the student and Instructor stating his/her conclusions and reasons.
- 5) If still unresolved, the student may make a second written appeal to a College of Nursing Graduate Scholastic Standing Committee by notifying the Associate Dean of the further appeal. The Associate Dean will convene an ad hoc Graduate Scholastic Standing Committee comprised of 3 to 5 PhD-prepared faculty with graduate status. The Committee will provide the Instructor the opportunity to respond to the appeal, following which, unless the Instructor voluntarily agrees to make a grade change acceptable to the student, the Committee will issue a final decision on the matter, stating its conclusions and reasons. If the Committee decides that the grade should be changed over the objection of the Instructor, the grade shall be changed in the manner specified in the University Manual.

University Withdrawal (Voluntary)

Students may withdraw from College of Nursing and URI at any time. Graduate students who wish to withdraw from the University and College of Nursing must notify the College of Nursing Graduate Program Office, complete the Withdrawal form found on the Enrollment Services website and forward it to the Dean of the Graduate School for his/her signature.

Leave of Absence (LOA)

Students who must leave the University for a period of one semester or more, whether due to military service, illness, childbirth, adoption, financial hardship or other circumstances, should apply for a Leave of Absence. The student should contact the College of Nursing Graduate Program Office first. If approved, the College of Nursing Associate Dean for Graduate Programs will sign off on the LOA form. The formal request for LOA is then made by the student, in writing, to the Dean of the Graduate School, accompanied by the Leave of Absence form that has been endorsed by the College of Nursing Associate Dean. The written petition should be sufficiently specific so that the Dean of the Graduate School can determine whether the LOA is warranted. A LOA can be requested for one year or less. LOA requests must be submitted before the last day to add courses in the URI calendar (See GSM 4.30).

Continuous Enrollment

Graduate students must remain continuously enrolled in one or more graduate-level credits until all requirements are met and they have received their degrees. Please see Graduate School Manual Section 4.40 for information related to continuous registration (CRG 999) for 1 credit each semester, after all coursework and dissertation credits are completed, until graduation. CRG 999 may only be registered for when all other coursework has been completed.

Non-Matriculating Students

As is described in the Graduate School Manual Section 3.30, individuals holding a baccalaureate degree who are not students in a graduate degree program may take graduate level courses during the academic year or in the summer as non-matriculating students. Non-matriculating students who wish to enroll in a graduate course in the College of Nursing must obtain permission from the College of Nursing Graduate Program Office prior to enrolling. Non-matriculating students may take a maximum of two graduate-level courses in the College of Nursing without matriculating.

Notes: Non-matriculating students do not have the privileges regularly enjoyed by students in a degree program (see GSM Section 3.32). Non-matriculating students are not eligible for financial aid or assistantships. Enrollment in courses as a non-matriculating student does not imply acceptance or enrollment in any University graduate program.

Transfer Credit

PhD students who already have a master's degree may transfer in a maximum of 9 advanced standing credits to apply towards their degree, with the permission of the College of Nursing Associate Dean for Graduate Programs and the Dean of the Graduate School. These include credits taken as a non-matriculating student at URI or course credit being transferred in from another university. Please refer to Graduate School Manual Section 3.33. Any credits transferred

in to apply towards the degree may not have been used to fulfill the requirements for another degree and must have been earned within the past seven years.

Academic Integrity & Plagiarism

The College of Nursing and its Graduate Programs adhere to the university's standards regarding academic integrity. The University Manual (UM) and the Graduate School Manual (See GSM A.13) list the expectations of the University concerning academic integrity as follows:

"Students are expected to be honest in all academic work. Cheating is the claiming of credit for work not done independently without giving credit for aid received, or any unauthorized communication during examinations." (See UM 8.27.10) "A student's name on any written exercise (theme, report, notebook, paper, examination) shall be regarded as assurance that the work is the result of the student's own thought and study, stated in the student's own words and produced without assistance, except as quotation marks, references, and footnotes acknowledge the use of other sources of assistance. Occasionally, students may be authorized to work jointly, but such effort must be indicated as joint on the work submitted. Submitting the same paper for more than one course is considered a breach of academic integrity unless prior approval is given by the instructors." (See UM 8.27.11.)

"In preparing papers or themes, a student often needs or is required to employ sources of information or opinion. All such sources used in preparing to write or in writing a paper shall be listed in the bibliography. It is not necessary to give footnote references for specific facts which are common knowledge and have obtained general agreement. However, facts, observations and opinions which are new discoveries or are debatable shall be identified with correct footnote references even when restated in the student's own words. Material taken word for word from the written or oral statement of another person must be enclosed in quotation marks or otherwise clearly distinguished from the body of the text and the source cited. Paraphrasing or summarizing the contents of another's work usually is acceptable if the source is clearly identified but does not constitute independent work and may be rejected by the instructor." (See UM 8.27.12, GSM A.13.4)

Assignments, homework and reports of investigations or experiments shall meet the same standards as all other written work. If any work is done jointly, this must be acknowledged in the report. "Obviously, it is dishonest to falsify or invent data." "Written work presented as personal creation is assumed to involve no assistance other than incidental criticism from others." (See UM 8.27.13 - 14).

"Instructors shall have the explicit duty to take action in known cases of cheating or plagiarism. The instructor shall have the right to fail a student on the assignment on which the instructor has determined that a student has cheated or plagiarized. The circumstances of this failure shall be reported to the College of Nursing Associate Dean for Graduate Programs. The student may appeal the matter to the instructor's dean, and the decision by the dean shall be expeditious and final. "If the violation warrants more severe censure, the instructor may recommend additional action to the instructor's dean. Upon this recommendation the dean may authorize the instructor to fail the student in the course. The student or instructor may appeal the dean's decision to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs whose decision on the appeal shall be final." (See UM 8.27.18)

Acceptable Use of Artificial Intelligence

We at the University of Rhode Island College of Nursing understand that generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools (e.g. ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, and Copilot) have become more integrated into academic and professional work, and present new opportunities for creativity, problem-solving and revision, and is a rapidly emerging and changing field. As an academic college focused on educating and preparing the next generation of nurse leaders who will transform wellbeing and environments, we want to ensure academic honesty, integrity and critical thinking are kept at the forefront for all our programs.

Unless explicitly allowed by a course instructor (e.g., listed in the course syllabus or required to complete specific course activities), it is expected that students submit their own original work that has not been completed with the support of AI. In our courses, AI tools can be used to help you in preparing notes, study guides, and to summarize important information. We highly encourage and recommend review of what is produced by the AI tool(s) you choose to use. It is important to ensure accuracy, clarity, and appropriateness for your intended purpose. Additionally, any use of AI tools should be documented and, when relevant, cited appropriately. This promotes transparency, maintains academic integrity, and allows others to understand how the tools contributed to your work.

If any assignments that are submitted for a grade, and said assignments are to be presented as your own, original work, and the use of AI tools is not clearly disclosed with which and how AI tools were used to the faculty member(s) and/or teaching assistant(s) of record for the course, this will be considered a violation of the University of Rhode Island's Academic Honesty and Academic Integrity policies. See both [Academic Requirements – University Manual](#) Chapter 8, Academic Regulations, sections 8.27.10 – 8.27.22 and the [University of Rhode Island Student-Handbook; Appendix I – Academic Misconduct](#), sub header “Academic Honesty” section for the University of Rhode Island's regulations and guidelines on these matters.

Policies Related to General Conduct & Professionalism

General Principles

Life in the academic community must be one of integrity, honesty, acceptance of responsibility, and a willingness to clearly and accurately represent oneself, one's work, and one's activities. The College of Nursing believes that professional conduct is critical to the practice of nursing and fully supports the University policies and the ANA Code of Ethics presented in the *ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements* (ANA, 2015). Students are expected to observe the standards of professional conduct and ethics in all settings. Students are expected to conduct themselves as representatives of the profession, the College of Nursing, and the University. Failure to meet these may make one subject to suspension or dismissal from the College of Nursing. Professional conduct and civility are expected and always required. Bullying, threatening, yelling, verbal and/or physical assaults and other types of intimidating behavior will not be tolerated. Anyone exhibiting these types of behaviors may be subject to suspension or dismissal from the College of Nursing.

The commission of illegal or unprofessional actions is also prohibited, including but not limited to violations of HIPPA or privacy regulations, illegal drug sales, possession or use, chemical impairment, violation of other state or federal laws, and/or sexual assault or sexual harassment.

Involuntary Class Withdrawal

Breach of professionalism is a serious offense which will be dealt with firmly. The College of Nursing reserves the right to remove (involuntarily withdraw) a student from a course for a minimum of one day or up to the remainder of the semester in the event it is determined that a student's behavior or actions violate essential program or professional standards or requirements, threaten harm to self or others, and/or indicate that the student is not fit to continue. The student will be required to attend a mandatory meeting with the College of Nursing Associate Dean for Graduate Programs to discuss the incident or problematic behavior.

Non-Academic Suspension or Dismissal from a Program

In the event it is determined that a student's behavior or actions violate essential program or professional standards or requirements and/or indicate that the student is not fit to continue in the program, the College of Nursing may suspend or dismiss a student. The College will normally provide notification to the student of the reasons for the contemplated suspension or dismissal and give the student an opportunity to address those reasons before the College deliberates and makes a final decision to suspend or dismiss the student. The nature of the opportunity provided to the student (e.g., a less formal meeting with a College administrator, or a more formal hearing before multiple College officials or a panel, etc.) will depend on the nature and duration of the sanction and the reasons for the contemplated suspension or dismissal and other relevant factors. The College reserves the right to immediately suspend the student if the student's continuation in the program constitutes an imminent risk to the student or to other students in the program, or for other compelling reasons.

Diversity and Inclusion

The College of Nursing embraces diversity and understands that each student brings unique experiences, strengths, and ideas to our classroom. These differences can be along dimensions of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, socioeconomic status, age, ability, religious or political beliefs, or other differences in lived experiences and/or ideologies. The inclusion and valuing of these differences enrich learning and in and out of our classrooms. Each member of the University has the responsibility to foster an environment of inclusion, acceptance, mutual respect and understanding.

Anti-Bias Statement

At URI and the College of Nursing, we respect the rights and dignity of each individual and group. We reject prejudice and intolerance, and we work to understand differences. We believe that equity and inclusion are critical components for campus community members to thrive. If you are a target or a witness of a bias incident, you are encouraged to submit a report to the URI Bias Response Team at www.uri.edu/brt. There you will also find people and resources to help.

Tobacco Policy

The College of Nursing is dedicated to maintaining a healthy work and learning environment. While the College already prohibits smoking inside its buildings and facilities, the College of Nursing policy prohibits smoking or use of tobacco products by students at any time when representing the College of Nursing.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

Violation of the University's drug and alcohol policies prohibiting illegal use or possession of any controlled substance without a prescription while enrolled in The College of Nursing is considered a serious offense and may result in suspension or dismissal.

Social Media Policy

Social media, such as X (formally Twitter), YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, SnapChat, TikTok etc. are to be used in compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). The purpose of this policy is to maintain the protection of sensitive and confidential information and to uphold professionalism.

College of Nursing students, faculty and staff must always protect individuals' rights to privacy and confidentiality and communicate sensitive and confidential information in accordance with all applicable laws, regulations and policies (including the policies of clinical training sites), including the requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) when applicable.

Violations of patient and/or student privacy will be subject to applicable HIPAA policies, procedures and sanctions, and may subject the student to other sanctions imposed by the College. Students who wrongly share confidential information, or otherwise engage in unprofessional communication, may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the Nursing program.

Accommodations for Qualified Students with Disabilities

Students are expected to notify faculty at the onset of the semester if any special considerations are required in the classroom or clinical setting. If any special considerations are required, it is expected that the student will notify the faculty with the appropriate paperwork from [Disability Services](#).

Computer Lab and Printing Policy

For quiet, individual work, there is a student computer lab located in White Hall (Room 201) available to nursing PhD students. Students are expected to behave with courtesy and respect toward fellow students and equipment. Hours of operation are posted outside the door. All files left on the computers will be purged. Printing is made available to all nursing students at the Rhode Island Nursing Education Center (RINEC). The student printing station within the RINEC Second Floor URI Faculty suite uses [URI's pay for print system](#).

PhD Student Lounge and Workspace

The graduate student lounge is located on the second floor of the RINEC. Cubicles are available as PhD student workspace on the RINEC second floor immediately after the entrance to the URI faculty office area. In addition, offices 257 and 259 are set aside as “hotel space” for faculty who do not have offices in the RINEC. PhD students may use these offices on a space available basis, provided that faculty and TAs do not need them to meet privately with students.

Email Policy

All email communications to students by the College, or its faculty and staff, will be via the URI email system, with communications sent to the students' URI assigned email address. Students are also required to use their URI email account for all communications with college faculty or staff. Students are expected to obtain a URI email account as soon as possible and frequently monitor their URI email for announcements. Faculty and staff email addresses may be obtained by searching the [directory on URI's website](#).

Brightspace

The College of Nursing – Grad Student Resource Brightspace site serves as a communication portal between College of Nursing graduate students, faculty and administrators. Important information such as research opportunities, events, job postings, important dates, deadlines, and graduation information will be shared through this site. It is important that you become familiar with Brightspace and check the College of Nursing site frequently.

Graduate Writing and Presenting Lab

The [URI Graduate Writing and Presenting Lab](#) provides writing support to all URI doctoral and master's students to foster continuing development of academic and professional writing skills necessary to succeed in graduate programs and academic or professional careers.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Graduate Program Forms

Forms for the URI Graduate School are powered by Adobe. A user guide and links to **all forms** can be accessed using this link: <https://web.uri.edu/graduate-school/forms/>

College of Nursing specific forms can be found on the [College of Nursing PhD Student Resources Site](#) on Brightspace.

Other helpful student manuals and resources include:

- [URI Student Manual](#)
- [URI Graduate School Manual](#)
- [URI Graduate School Resources](#)

Appendix B: AACN Recommendations for Doctoral Programs in Nursing

[AACN \(2001\) "Indicators of Quality in Research-Focused Doctoral Programs in Nursing"](#)

[AACN \(2010\) "The Research-Focused Doctoral Program in Nursing: Pathways to Excellence"](#)