



Doctor of Nursing

Academic Program Rules

1 There shall be a degree of Doctor of Nursing.

2 Rules

2.1 The Vice-Chancellor, with authority devolved to her/him by Council, and after receipt of advice from the Board of Research Education and Development, shall from time to time prescribe Rules defining the academic standing required for candidature, eligibility for enrolment, the program of study and research for the degree, the condition of candidature and the assessment for the degree.

2.2 Such Rules shall become effective from the date of prescription by the Vice-Chancellor or such other date as the Vice-Chancellor may determine.

3 Guidelines

The Board of Research Education and Development may from time to time approve guidelines on any matters included in these Rules and may authorise the Dean of Graduate Studies or the Manager, Graduate Administration and Scholarships, to act in accordance with such guidelines without reference to the Board in each case.

4 Academic standing

4.1 The academic standing required for acceptance as a candidate for the degree shall be an Honours degree of Bachelor of at least a IIA Standard or a degree of Master of the University of Adelaide or the equivalent thereof *. Applications from students with other qualifications will require the approval of the Board of Research Education and Development.

* Where a Master's degree is presented as a qualification for admission to a D.Nurs. program, the Master's degree must contain a research component deemed appropriate by the Board of Research Education and Development. A Master's degree which contains only coursework will not be accepted for this purpose.

4.2 A person who holds a degree of another university may be accepted as a candidate provided that the program of study undertaken and the academic standard reached are equivalent to those required of a candidate who is a graduate of the University of Adelaide.

4.3 The Board may accept as a candidate a graduate who does not qualify under Rules 4.1 or 4.2 but

- (a) has completed to the satisfaction of the Board at least one year of full-time postgraduate study or research

and

- (b) has passed a qualifying examination of Honours standard prescribed by the appropriate Faculty and approved by the Board.

5 Credit for work previously completed

5.1 The Board may grant credit in the program for the degree of Doctor of Nursing for research undertaken in another program in the University or in another university or tertiary institution.

5.2 The Board may also grant credit for research undertaken in an organisation other than a University or tertiary institution.

5.3 In consideration for acceptance under Rules 5.1 or 5.2, the Board must be satisfied that

- (a) the person is of such academic standing as would be required of other candidates for the degree and
- (b) the person's progress so far has been satisfactory and the research for which credit is granted is of a satisfactory standard.

6 Enrolment

6.1 A person shall not be enrolled as a candidate for the degree unless:

- (a) the applicant's proposed field of study and research is acceptable to the University and the School/ Discipline responsible for the supervision of the candidate's work
- (b) in the case of a person granted credit under Rule 5.1, at least one year of full-time study and research, or its equivalent, will still be necessary to complete the work for the degree
- (c) in the case of a person granted credit under Rule 5.2, at least two years of full-time study and research, or its equivalent, will be necessary to complete the work for the degree.

6.2 Except with the permission of the Dean of Graduate Studies, a candidate may not enrol concurrently in another academic program.

6.3 Except with the permission of the Dean of Graduate Studies, a candidate who is permitted to enroll concurrently in another academic program and who is granted leave of absence must intermit all academic programs in which they are enrolled.

7 Duration of candidature and mode of study

A candidate may proceed to the degree by full-time study or, if the head of the Department concerned is satisfied that the candidate has adequate time to pursue supervised research under the control of the University, by half-time study. Except in circumstances approved by the Board, the work for the degree shall be completed and the portfolio submitted:

- (a) in the case of a full-time candidate, not less than two years and not more than three years from the date of commencement of candidature
- (b) in the case of a half-time candidate, not less than four years and not more than six years from the date of commencement of candidature
- (c) in the case of a candidate granted credit under Rule 5.1 the candidature shall normally expire
 - (i) in the case of a full-time candidate, not less than one year and not more than three years from the date the candidate commenced work in the other program *or*
 - (ii) in the case of a half-time candidate, not less than two years and not more than six years from the date the candidate commenced work in the other program.
- (d) in the case of a candidate granted credit under Rule 5.2 the candidature shall normally expire
 - (i) in the case of a full-time candidate, not less than two years and not more than three years from the date the candidate commenced work under the control of the University *or*
 - (ii) in the case of a half-time candidate, not less than four years and not more than six years from the date the candidate commences work under the control of the University.

8 Work for the degree

- 8.1 A candidate shall pursue an approved program of study and research under the control of the University and under the general guidance of supervisors appointed by the University. At least one supervisor shall be a member of the academic staff of the Department of the University in which the candidate is enrolled.
- 8.2 A doctoral portfolio will comprise a conventional written narrative presented as typescript (see University Calendar Specifications for PhD).
- 8.3 The candidate shall present the context and importance of the research at a Department seminar.

- 8.4 The head of Department shall certify that the portfolio is worthy of examination.

9 Required program of activities at the commencement of candidature

- 9.1 Each candidate (including those on remote candidature) will be enrolled on a provisional basis for the first twelve months of the degree.
- 9.2 Continuation of enrolment at the end of this period will depend on overall academic progress and the completion of set activities to the satisfaction of the School/ Discipline concerned. These activities will form part of a Structured Program of activities extending through the candidature.
- 9.3 Such activities will be determined by the Discipline through which the candidate is enrolled and in the first year will include the completion and presentation of one research proposal and other programs and skills training deemed necessary by the Discipline.
- 9.4 The research proposal will be agreed and submitted to the Adelaide Graduate Centre preferably within three, but no later than six months from the commencement of candidature.
- 9.5 A major review of progress after twelve months will recommend confirmation of candidature, termination, or the extension of provisional status. In the case of extension, a further review after a clearly defined period, normally three but not in excess of six months, would form the basis for confirmation or termination or change to a Masters enrolment.

10 Remote candidature

- 10.1 Enrolment as a remote candidate may be permitted on the conditions that the Department concerned can ensure, and the Board of Research Education and Development is satisfied, that appropriate external supervision, with appropriate affiliation, and facilities are available.
- 10.2 A remote candidate may be required to complete a period of residence in the University of Adelaide as determined by the Board of Research Education and Development in consultation with the Department concerned.
- 10.3 In accordance with Rule 7, a remote candidate may proceed to the degree either by full-time or half-time study.
- 10.4 On the recommendation of the Department, the Board at any time may permit an enrolled student to enrol as a remote candidate subject to the conditions specified in 10.1, 10.2 and 10.3 above.
- 10.6 Notwithstanding Rules 11.1 to 11.4 above, remote candidates are also required to abide by the other Rules and guidelines for the Degree of Doctor of Nursing.

11 Review of academic progress

- 11.1 The Board may review the progress of a candidate at any time during the program of candidature and, if the candidate's progress is unsatisfactory, may terminate the candidature.
- 11.2 A formal review of a candidate's progress shall be conducted by the Discipline at least once a year in accordance with guidelines determined by the Board of Research Education and Development and outlined in the *Code of Practice for Maintaining and Monitoring Academic Quality and Standards in Higher Degrees*.
- 11.3 The first formal review and confirmation of candidature will occur twelve months after enrolment (see 9.2 above). Subsequent reviews will occur around October each year with written reports forwarded to the Dean of Graduate Studies. A candidate's re-enrolment in the following year is conditional upon satisfactory progress in the year of the review.

12 Absence from the university

- 12 Except for remote candidates, the Board, on the recommendation of the Department concerned, may permit a candidate to pursue away from the University work connected with the research for the degree. Such a permission may only be granted under special circumstances during provisional candidature.

13 Leave of absence

A candidate whose work is interrupted for a period of time may be granted a leave of absence by the Board of up to 12 months. If such an application is approved the minimum and maximum periods specified in Rule 7 will be adjusted accordingly by adding the length of the leave of absence.

14 Extension of candidature

A candidate may be granted by the Board one extension of candidature only of twelve months beyond the maximum period specified in Rule 7. If the portfolio has not been submitted by the end of the extended period the candidature will lapse.

15 Completion of portfolio outside the university

Except for candidates admitted under Rule 6, a candidate who has completed the equivalent of two years of full-time work under the control of the University, who has completed the experimental work (where appropriate) and whose progress is sufficiently well advanced to permit the satisfactory completion of the portfolio outside the University, may be granted permission by the Board to

complete the writing-up of the portfolio outside the University. If such a permission is granted the candidate will be allowed either twelve months or until the end of candidature, whichever is the lesser, to submit the portfolio. If the portfolio has not been submitted by the end of the writing-up period the candidature will lapse.

16 Lapsed candidature

- 16.1 A candidature which has lapsed will be resumed if the completed portfolio, which has not departed from the field of study which was being pursued before the candidature lapsed, is subsequently submitted to the Manager, Graduate Administration and Scholarships. The portfolio will only be accepted if the Department certifies that it is satisfactory to that Department.
- 16.2 Approval of the Board is required for the resumption of a lapsed candidature under any other conditions.
- 16.3 In special circumstances the Board may approve the resumption of a lapsed candidature for one period of up to six months (whether full- or half-time) prior to the submission of the completed portfolio.

17 Intention to submit portfolio

A candidate shall notify the Manager, Graduate Administration and Scholarships, in writing, approximately three months before he or she expects to submit the portfolio required under Rule 18. A summary of the portfolio, together with the proposed portfolio title, shall be submitted at the same time.

18 Submission of portfolio

- 18.1 On completion of the approved program of study and research a candidate shall submit a portfolio embodying the results of studies and research, and may submit also, in support of the portfolio, other relevant material.
- 18.2 The portfolio submitted shall:
- display original and critical thought
 - be a significant contribution to knowledge
 - relate the topic of research to the broader framework of the discipline within which it falls and
 - be clearly, accurately and cogently written and be suitably illustrated and documented.
- 18.3 The portfolio shall be assessed by examiners external to the University.
- 18.4 No portfolio presented for any other degree within this or any other institution shall be so submitted.
- 18.5 The Board shall prescribe the form in which the portfolio shall be submitted and the number of copies to be submitted.

19 Appointment of examiners

- 19.1 Candidates shall have the right to submit objections to the appointment of potential examiners. Any such objections should be submitted to the Manager, Graduate Administration and Scholarships, at the same time as the notification of intention to submit required under Rule 19. Such objections do not serve as a veto.
- 19.2 The Board shall appoint two examiners who are external to the University, taking account of any objections raised under Rule 19.1 and the recommendations of the head of the relevant Discipline.
- 19.3 The examiners shall be requested to report in such form as the Board will determine and to recommend one of the alternatives listed in Rule 20.
- 19.4 After consideration of the reports of the examiners, the Board may appoint a third external examiner and/or an external arbitrator.

20 Examination results

After consideration of the reports of the examiners and such other information as it thinks fit, the Board shall determine that:

- (a) the candidate be awarded the degree *or*
- (b) the candidate be awarded the degree but that minor amendments be made to the portfolio *or*
- (c) the candidate be awarded the degree subject to the specified amendments being made to the portfolio *or*
- (d) the candidate be not awarded the degree but be permitted to re-submit the portfolio in a revised form *or*
- (e) the candidate be awarded the appropriate degree of Master *or*
- (f) the candidate be awarded the appropriate degree of Master upon making suitable amendments to the portfolio *or*
- (g) the candidate be not awarded the degree of Doctor of Nursing or the degree of Master.

21 Deposit of portfolio in the library

Such number of copies of a portfolio shall be deposited in the Barr Smith Library or elsewhere in the University as determined by the Board. Unless otherwise determined by the Board, the copies shall be available for loan and photocopy.

22 Loan or photocopy of portfolio

A candidate who does not wish to allow the portfolio to be lent or photocopied when it is deposited in the Library under Rule 21 shall make a written application to the Manager, Graduate Administration and Scholarships, at the same time as he or she notifies his or her intention to submit under Rule 17. The withholding of such permission and the period of time involved shall be determined by the Board.

23 General

When, in the opinion of the Board of Research Education and Development, special circumstances exist, the Board, on the recommendation of the relevant Department in each case, may vary any of the provisions in Rules 1-22 above.