



Doctor of Nursing

Academic Program Rules

- 1 There shall be a degree of Doctor of Nursing.

Rules

- 2.1 The Vice-Chancellor, with authority devolved to her/him by Council, and after receipt of advice from the Research Education and Development Committee, 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.

Guidelines

- 3 The Research Education and Development Committee 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 Committee in each case.

Academic standing

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

Credit for work previously completed

- 5.1 The Committee 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 In consideration for acceptance under Rule 5.1, the Committee 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.

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.
- 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 enrol concurrently in another academic program and who is granted leave must intermit all academic programs in which they are enrolled.

Duration of candidature and mode of study

- 7 A candidate may proceed to the degree by full-time study or, if the head of the School/Discipline 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 Committee, 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.

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 School/Discipline of the University in which the candidate is enrolled.
- 8.2 A doctoral portfolio must 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 School/Discipline seminar.
- 8.4 The head of School/Discipline shall certify that the portfolio is worthy of examination.

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 School/Discipline through which the candidate is enrolled and in the first year must include the completion and presentation of one research proposal and other programs and skills training deemed necessary by the School/Discipline.
- 9.4 The research proposal must 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.

Remote candidature

- 10.1 Enrolment as a remote candidate may be permitted on the conditions that the School/Discipline concerned can ensure, and the Research Education and Development Committee is satisfied, that appropriate external supervision, with appropriate affiliation, and facilities are available.
- 10.2 Unless otherwise exempted, a remote candidate will be required to complete a period(s) of residence in the University of Adelaide as determined by the Research Education and Development Committee in consultation with the School/Discipline concerned.
- 10.3 Notwithstanding Rule 10.2, a remote candidate will normally be required to undertake their candidature in an internal attendance mode until such time as the Core Component of the Structured Program has been completed.
- 10.4 In accordance with Rule 7, a remote candidate may proceed to the degree either by full-time or half-time study.
- 10.5 On the recommendation of the School/Discipline, the Committee at any time may permit an enrolled student to enrol as a remote candidate subject to the conditions specified in 10.1, 10.2, 10.3 and 10.4 above.
- 10.6 A remote candidate may be permitted to convert to an internal mode of attendance at any time and shall be subject to the conditions normally applied.

- 10.7 Notwithstanding Rules 10.1 to 10.6 above, remote candidates are also required to abide by the other Rules and guidelines for the Degree of Doctor of Nursing.

Review of academic progress

- 11.1 The Committee 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 School/Discipline at least once a year in accordance with guidelines determined by the Research Education and Development Committee and outlined in the *Research Student Handbook*.
- 11.3 A formal review of progress and confirmation of candidature will occur twelve months after enrolment (see 9.2 above). Additional 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.

Absence from the University

- 12 Except for remote candidates, the Committee, on the recommendation of the School/Discipline 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.

Leave of absence

- 13 A candidate whose work is interrupted for a period of time may be granted cumulative leave by the Committee of up to twelve months. If an application for leave is approved, the minimum and maximum periods specified in Rule 7.1 will be adjusted accordingly by adding the length of the approved leave.
- 14 In exceptional circumstances, the Committee may grant a candidate cumulative leave in excess of 12 months. Where a student is granted this exceptional leave, the University will endeavour to ensure, but cannot guarantee, that appropriate supervision and resources will be available to support the student on return from leave.
- 15 In some fields of study, time plays a critical role in the currency of the research. In such cases, the research project may no longer be current following leave and the University may not be able to secure supervision in an area where currency is compromised. Additionally, the University may not be able to accommodate an amendment to the research project. Under these

circumstances, continuation of candidature may not be possible and the only options will be:

- (i) withdrawal by the candidate *or*
- (ii) termination of candidature by the University.

- 16 The candidature of a student who takes leave from the University without approval will be suspended immediately, on notification of the Adelaide Graduate Centre.
- 17 A candidate granted leave must inform the Adelaide Graduate Centre in writing of resumption of candidature within two weeks of the approved date of return.
- 18 A candidate seeking to extend a period of leave must apply in writing for an extension of leave at least one week prior to the originally approved date of return.

Withdrawal from candidature

- 19 A student may withdraw from candidature at any time. Candidature may be reinstated at a future date without academic consequences, subject to the continuing currency of the research undertaken prior to withdrawal and the currency of the research skills of the candidate. The approval of the Head of Faculty and the ongoing availability of appropriate supervision and resources are also required.

Suspension of candidature

- 20 A student's candidature may be suspended for failure to comply with any formal requirement of candidature, including:
- (i) Failing to abide by the responsibilities of research candidates as detailed in the *Research Student Handbook*
 - (ii) Failing to undertake a required review of progress by the due date or extended due date
 - (iii) Failing to respond to any University correspondence sent to the nominated mailing address or campus email address within two months of the requested date of response
 - (iv) Failing to accept reasonable offers of supervision facilitated by the University
 - (v) Taking leave without prior approval
 - (vi) Failing to return from leave on the agreed date
 - (vii) Failing to notify the Graduate Centre of return from leave within two weeks of return
 - (viii) Non-payment of University fees and charges.
- 21 Reinstatement of a suspended candidature will only be permitted with the approval of the Head of Faculty where:

- (i) the reason for the suspension has been addressed as specified in the *Research Student Handbook*
- (ii) the research undertaken prior to suspension remains current *and*
- (iii) appropriate supervision and resources are available to support the reinstated candidature.

Termination of candidature

- 22 A student's candidature may be terminated where:
- (i) progress is unsatisfactory following a review of progress, whether programmed or otherwise *and*
 - (ii) where candidature has been suspended for more than twelve months.
- 23 A terminated candidature may only be reinstated following a successful appeal.

Extension of candidature

- 24 A candidate may be granted by the Committee 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.

Completion of portfolio outside the University

- 25 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 Committee 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.

Lapsed candidature

- 26.1 A candidature which has lapsed may 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 School/Discipline certifies that it is satisfactory to that School/Discipline.
- 26.2 Approval of the Committee is required for the resumption of a lapsed candidature under any other conditions.

- 26.3 In special circumstances the Committee 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.

Intention to submit portfolio

- 27 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 28. A summary of the portfolio, together with the proposed portfolio title, shall be submitted at the same time.

Submission of portfolio

- 28.1 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.
- 28.2 The portfolio submitted shall:
- (a) display original and critical thought
 - (b) be a significant contribution to knowledge
 - (c) relate the topic of research to the broader framework
of the discipline within which it falls *and*
 - (d) be clearly, accurately and cogently written and be suitably illustrated and documented.
- 28.3 The portfolio shall be assessed by examiners external to the University.
- 28.4 No portfolio presented for any other degree within this or any other institution shall be so submitted.
- 28.5 The Committee shall prescribe the form in which the portfolio shall be submitted and the number of copies to be submitted.

Appointment of examiners

- 29.1 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 27. Such objections do not serve as a veto.
- 29.2 The Committee shall appoint two examiners who are external to the University, taking account of any objections raised under Rule 29.1 and the recommendations of the head of the relevant School/Discipline.
- 29.3 The examiners shall be requested to report in such form as the Committee will determine and to recommend one of the alternatives listed in Rule 30.

- 29.4 After consideration of the reports of the examiners, the Committee may appoint a third external examiner and/or an external arbitrator.

Examination results

- 30 After consideration of the reports of the examiners and such other information as it thinks fit, the Committee 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.

Thesis amendments following examination

- 31 The time limits for revision of the thesis are:
- (i) three months where the examination result is to award the degree following minor amendments to the thesis (see Rule 30b), or where the examination result is to award the degree subject to the specified amendments being made to the thesis (see Rule 30c) *and*
 - (ii) twelve months where the examination result is not to award the degree but to permit resubmission of the thesis in a revised form (see Rule 30d).
- 32 Candidates who require additional time to complete revisions must apply to the Dean of Graduate Studies for permission, stating the reasons for the request. The request should be approved by the principal supervisor and the Head of School/Discipline or the Postgraduate Coordinator.

Deposit of portfolio

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

Loan or photocopy of portfolio

- 34 A candidate who does not wish to allow the portfolio to be lent or photocopied when it is deposited in the Library under Rule 33 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 27. The withholding of such permission and the period of time involved shall be determined by the Committee.

Posthumous award

- 35 If a person dies after completing, or in the opinion of the Committee, substantially completing the requirements of the award, the University may confer the award posthumously.

Revoking the award

- 35 If the Committee is satisfied that, when the Doctor of Philosophy was conferred on a person, the person
- a) did not possess the relevant qualifications *or*
 - b) had not completed the necessary requirements
- the Vice-Chancellor with authority devolved to her/him by Council may revoke the award.
- Upon revocation, the person is taken never to have received the award.

Return of documents

- 37 If requested by the Dean of Graduate Studies, the recipient of a Doctor of Nursing must deliver to the University the documents certifying or evidencing the award.

General

- 38 When, in the opinion of the Research Education and Development Committee, special circumstances exist, the Committee, on the recommendation of the relevant School/Discipline in each case, may vary any of the provisions in Rules 1-37 above.