



Senado
Académico
Academic
Senate

Universidad de Puerto Rico, Recinto de Ciencias Médicas
University of Puerto Rico, Medical Sciences Campus

2024-2025
Certificación 021

Yo, Raúl Rivera González, Secretario Ejecutivo Interino del Senado Académico del Recinto de Ciencias Médicas de la Universidad de Puerto Rico, Certifico:

Que el Senado Académico en su reunión ordinaria del 3 de octubre de 2024, luego de recibir el Informe del Comité de Asuntos Académicos, acordó:

- **Aprobar la Propuesta de cambio en requisitos de admisión y transferencia de créditos del Programa Doctor en Filosofía en Enfermería de la Escuela de Enfermería.**
- **Los cambios propuestos a los criterios de admisión al Programa Doctor en Enfermería tienen efectividad para el año académico 2025-2026.**
- **La propuesta forma parte de esta Certificación.**

Y, para que así conste, expido y remito la presente Certificación bajo el sello del Recinto de Ciencias Médicas de la Universidad de Puerto Rico, en San Juan, Puerto Rico, hoy 9 de octubre de 2024.

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Secretario Ejecutivo Interino

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UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO
MEDICAL SCIENCES CAMPUS
SCHOOL OF NURSING
DOCTORATE IN PHILOSOPHY IN NURSING PROGRAM



ACADEMIC CHANGE PROPOSAL

**ADMISSION CRITERIA
COURSE CONVALIDATION AND CREDIT TRANSFER**

I. ADMISSION CRITERIA

A. Change in Admission Criterion #1

Current Status

“Master’s degree in nursing from an accredited professional program, i.e. CCNE, ACEN, NLNAC, with a minimum 3.00 GPA (on a 4.00 scale). An official transcript of all obtained academic degrees at the undergraduate and graduate levels of nursing must be presented. In the event that the candidate applies for admission while completing their MSN degree, admission to the Doctoral Program will be conditional on presenting evidence of successful completion.”

Requested Changes

We request that the criterion be as follows: “A nurse professional with a baccalaureate in nursing with a master’s degree in nursing science or a master's degree in any other field from an accredited university with a minimum 3.00 GPA (on a 4.00 scale). An official transcript of all obtained academic degrees at the undergraduate nursing level and graduate level must be presented. If the candidate applies for admission while completing their master’s degree, admission to the PhD in Nursing Program will be conditional on presenting evidence of successful completion.”

Justification

Provide the opportunity for nursing professionals with master's degrees in disciplines other than nursing sciences to advance as researchers. Eliminating the criterion of an MSN from an accredited professional program since the PhD is not a professional degree and is not subject to professional accreditation. These changes promise several advantages: (1) enhance academic and professional diversity, the inclusion of students with diverse master's degrees will bring

different perspectives and knowledge, which will enrich academic discussions and research in the Program; (2) equity of opportunities to BSN nurses will allow more qualified professionals to advance their academic and research careers, regardless of their master's discipline, and (3) by broadening eligibility criteria, we align with principles of inclusion and representativeness fundamental to quality higher education.

B. Change in Admission Criterion #2

Current Status

“Present evidence of completion of graduate courses or their equivalents in the fields of a) Statistics, b) Nursing Theories, and c) Two courses in nursing research.”

Requested Changes

We request that the criterion be as follows: “Present evidence of completion of statistics course or their equivalent at the graduate level. It is preferable to have a course in research at a graduate level.”

Justification

After analysis by the PhD faculty, we determined that a nursing theory graduate course is unnecessary as an admission criterion, and a research graduate course would be preferable but not indispensable.

C. Change in Admission Criterion #3

Current Status

“An essay addressing: (a) your professional goals in relationship to doctoral study in nursing (include both your short-term goals for study, as well as your long-term career plans), (b) areas/topics of interest, problem statement, background of the problem, purpose and significance of this research relative to nursing and the advancement of nursing science. Use a separate sheet for each area and limit the essay to three typed pages, single-spaced 12 pt. font.”

Requested Changes

We request that the criterion be as follows: “An essay addressing (a) your personal statement, (b) your short-term professional goals statement focused on doctoral studies in nursing research, and (3) your long-term career plans and contributions you expect to make to the

nursing profession. Use a separate sheet for each area and limit the essay to 3 pages, double-spaced, 11-point Arial font. Include your name and page number in the document.”

Justification

Separate the short—and long—term goals from the research area of interest, which will be evaluated as a unique criterion. Add a personal statement that allows applicants to articulate their reasons for pursuing a PhD and offers insights into their personality, values, resilience, and potential contributions to nursing. Clarify the criterion for specifying the page limit for each area, the font type, and the line spacing mostly used for academic writing.

D. Change in Admission Criterion #4

Current Status

“Provide a sample of a scholarly writing (i.e. published article, masters’ thesis, scholarly paper, etc.).”

Requested Changes

We request that the criterion be as follows: “A short scholarly writing including your research area of interest, problem statement, background, the purpose of your intended research, and the potential impact of your research on nursing practice and the advancement of nursing science. Include relevant citations to support the background and problem statement.

References list in current APA style. The limit is up to five double-spaced pages in 11-point Arial font. Include your name and page number in the document.”

Justification

The faculty decided to eliminate the “sample” of academic writing since this document has been evaluated and edited as a course or journal requirement. Instead, we leave academic writings on the research area of interest.

E. Change in the Percentage of the Formula for Admission

Formula for Admission. The candidate must obtain 70% or more as a result of the following criteria to be considered as a candidate for admission:

Current Admission Requirement	Current %	Proposed Admission Requirement	Proposed %
Interview with Graduate Program Faculty	20%	Interview with PhD in Nursing Program Faculty	25%
Essay on professional goals and research interest	30%	Essay on personal statement and professional goals	25%

Scholarly writing	30%	Scholarly writing in research area interest	30%
GPA from master's degree in nursing	20%	GPA from master's degree	10%
-----		GPA from bachelor's degree in nursing	10%

Justification

The faculty decided to add 5% more to the interview since this is an important admission requisite. This allows us to assess the applicant's research interests and how they align with the faculty's expertise, evaluate communication skills, and clarify research goals. In addition, because we included a master's degree in any field, we consider having a GPA in nursing studies important.

II. ~~COURSE CONVALIDATION AND CREDIT TRANSFER~~

Current Status

Credits accepted for transfer are determined by the Admissions Committee of the Doctoral Program, up to a maximum of 12 credits.

Requested Changes

The acceptance of transfer credits from another accredited university is subject to evaluation and determined by the Admissions Committee of the PhD Program. Equivalency with our courses, for convalidation, is determined based on criteria including course level, content, credits, grade (A or B, or pass), and duration. The transfer credits shall not exceed more than half of the degree's (PhD) total credit requirement, as specified in the Medical Sciences Campus (MSC) Registrar Manual.

Justification

Establish the norm of course convalidation and credit transfer following the one described in the MSC Registrar's Manual.