UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING
FAY W. WHITNEY SCHOOL OF NURSING

NON-THESIS PAPER GUIDELINES

ORIGINAL APPROVAL BY GRADUATE TEAM 11/99; REVIEWED AND REVISED 6/09
University of Wyoming
School of Nursing
Non-thesis Paper Guidelines

General:
• The paper addresses a problem useful to nursing practice.
• The paper contributes to nursing systems in general, patient care or delivery systems.
• The paper contributes specifically to rural health problems and their solution.

Abstract/Summary:
• The abstract/summary is appropriately concise and complete, including statement of the problem, purpose of the paper(s)/project, methods for implementing the findings/project, and conclusions/evaluation.

Problem/Purpose:
• The purpose of the paper/project is clearly stated using a problem format.
• The significance of the problem to be explored is addressed.
• The problem statement is supported by appropriate literature and rationale.
• The purpose flows from knowledge about the problem, those aspects not known, and the scope of the problem that will be addressed.
• Parameters of the problem are clearly defined and directly related to the purpose of the paper/project.
• Limitations and assumptions are clearly identified.

Operational Framework/Review of the Literature:
• A conceptual/operational model may be used in the paper as a framework for studying the problem.
• Relationships among the problem elements and the framework used for the paper are clear.
• Evidence of review of previous relevant research/literature can be identified and is appropriate.

Operational/Evaluation Questions
• Questions posed by the paper/project are clearly stated and can be answered by the method chosen.
• The level of operational/evaluation questions are consistent with purpose, scientific base of the research and the plan.
Methodology

- The method for addressing the purpose, operational/evaluation questions is clearly described, including rationale, model used, contextual framework, objectives/outcome criteria, and procedures.
- The contextual framework includes detailed description of the settings(s) used and their relevance to the purpose of the paper(s)/project.
- A detailed description of the procedures, the participants and their credentials, assumptions and possible biases inherent in the project is provided.
- A plan for evaluation/validation of the operational/evaluation questions is described.

Results/Evaluation Method

- Results are presented in a logical and concise manner.
- Evaluation of the project is consistent with the methodology and the contextual framework within which it took place.
- Full discussion of the paper/project includes examples from the operational context of the methodology.

Discussion/Conclusions/Recommendations

- Discussion and conclusions are consistent with the purpose, operational and contextual framework, methodology and outcomes.
- Results are interpreted in light of previous research, the contextual framework of the paper(s)/project, the participants and the paper's author.
- Nursing and health care implications are included.
- Rural implications are addressed and recommendations made.

Style

- The organization and format of the non-thesis paper is cogent and scholarly.
- Writing style is scholarly, informative, organized and appropriate.
- Documentation is complete and consistent.

APPROVED BY GRADUATE TEAM - 11/15/1999; REVIEWED AND REVISED 6/09
Non-Thesis Paper Guidelines and Checklist

This document is to help the Non-Thesis student progress through the steps necessary to complete a scholarly, well planned and well executed program and graduate successfully. It is important that the Non-Thesis student recognizes that the same Standard of Excellence is required for the Non-Thesis option as expected of the Thesis option students. Additionally, all steps followed for creating, defending and writing a thesis, as well as paperwork required for graduation is required. The STUDENT is responsible for the timely filing of all necessary paperwork. Additionally, the chairperson of the student’s committee provides specific details of this process as it relates to the student and their paper.

ASSUMPTIONS:

- Students will demonstrate critical thinking, communication skills, and scholarly inquiry compatible with the objectives of the graduate program in nursing.

- The Non-Thesis Paper must follow all of the manuscript rules published in the Graduate School Thesis Guide, including appropriate front pages, contents, abstract of the project, references and APA style and format.

- The Non-Thesis Paper is NOT retained in the Graduate School archives. The final paper is forwarded to the chairperson of the student’s committee to be archived in the Nightingale Center for Nursing Scholarship.

PROCESS

- Prerequisite to the writing of the Non-Thesis proposal, the student should secure a chairperson and discuss the proposed scholarly project topic.

- Using the chairperson as a resource, secure a second SON member, and a Graduate School faculty member for your full committee.

- Student will register for 4 credits of NURS 5650 (S/U) over the course of the project (at least 2 semesters; however, for most students it is more than a 2 semester process)

- The chairperson helps the student edit the drafts of the proposal and prepare it for the entire committee proposal defense. The STUDENT is responsible for finding a compatible proposal defense date, securing a room for the defense meeting, and bringing appropriate paperwork to the meeting. Following the proposal defense meeting, the student is free to begin the work of the proposal.

- After the chairperson agrees that the project/paper is complete, a final draft of the completed Non-Thesis paper will be submitted to the entire committee.

- STUDENTS SHOULD SUBMIT THE FINAL PAPER AT LEAST TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE FINAL ORAL DEFENSE MEETING.