



Florida Atlantic University
Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing
Research Practicum Guidelines for PhD Students

Research Practicum Requirement

In order to assist doctoral students in gaining experience in conducting research, all students are required to perform 90 hours (as this is a practicum it equates to 1 University credit hour) of supervised research with research faculty during their program. Students will work with faculty members to accomplish research tasks like collecting, transcribing, and analyzing data or by synthesizing literature and writing summaries. It is acceptable that research hours be done with more than one faculty member as long as a well-developed plan of activities is approved by their academic advisor of record and all hours are completed. All signed paperwork must be filed with the PhD program coordinator. The form for reporting research hours can be found on the college website under the Research and Writing section within the Resources for PHD Students webpage. Students should note the following about the research practicum requirement:

- Students are advised to talk with their academic advisor of record about accomplishing the required 90 research hours (equates to 1 University credit) and, if possible, should work with their academic advisor of record to accomplish the hours.
- The required research practicum experience may be completed over one to two semesters, but not more than 2 semesters. This should be negotiated with the faculty advisor of record and research practicum advisor.
- The research practicum objectives are to be individually designed by the student and the research practicum advisor, and in collaboration with the academic advisor, when not the practicum advisor.
- The student is advised to begin the research practicum by the second year of PhD studies.
- Paid research assistant hours cannot be used for the research practicum experience (90 research hours; 1 credit hour) requirement.
- The research practicum must be completed prior to enrollment in comprehensive exams.

Nursing PhD students are required to complete 90 hours of a supervised research practicum with faculty who are conducting research. The purpose of the practicum is to promote the research mission of the College and to develop student research skills through engagement with active research projects. Research practicum activities and developed related objectives vary and may include any or all of the following aspects of the research process:

- developing research proposals and study protocol
- recruiting and consenting of research participants
- collecting/generating/analyzing data
- participating in developing presentations and papers disseminating research findings (e.g., tables, figures, charts, products to display research findings)

The research practicum can start as early as the student's second semester of study in the first year of the PhD program. The process begins with the student identifying faculty whose research aligns with the student's area of interest. In addition, the Office of Nursing Research, Scholarship, and PhD Studies

Submit signed form to the Office of Nursing Research, Scholarship, and PhD Studies (Room NU 215), Coordinator of PhD Program.

and/or Director of the PhD program will assist in matching students with faculty researchers, as needed. The research practicum requirement will be monitored through the PhD Program Director along with the Associate Dean of Nursing Research, Scholarship, and PhD Studies; all requirements must be completed prior to registration for NGR 7978, Doctoral Synthesis/Comprehensive Examination.

Process:

1. The PhD student is responsible for identifying a faculty member with whom he/she can learn the research process and will negotiate the research practicum experience, if at all possible, that is in alignment with the academic faculty of record's research project. Students along with their research practicum advisor will meet to clearly define the objectives of the research practicum.
2. The PhD student is responsible for completing *Form A – PhD Research Practicum Objectives and Activities* and filing the form with the Coordinator of the PhD Program, and that will be reviewed and approved by the PhD Program Director and the Associate Dean of Nursing Research, Scholarship, and PhD Studies.
3. The PhD student may change faculty research practicum advisors by notifying the Coordinator of the PhD Program (completing Form A), and that will be reviewed and approved by the PhD Program Director and the Associate Dean of Nursing Research, Scholarship, and PhD Studies.
4. The PhD student will report their research activities and hours by maintaining *Form B - Research Practicum Activities Log* (or similar documentation). Faculty research practicum advisors are required to sign the form, indicating the research practicum objectives have been met.
5. Completed Form B, are submitted to Coordinator of the PhD Program (completing Form A), and that will be reviewed and approved by the PhD Program Director and the Associate Dean of Nursing Research, Scholarship, and PhD Studies at the completion of the research practicum experience.
6. At the completion of the research practicum experience, the PhD student and advisor complete a *Research Practicum Evaluation* (Forms C and D) and return the forms to the Coordinator of the PhD Program, and that will be reviewed and approved by the PhD Program Director and the Associate Dean of Nursing Research, Scholarship, and PhD Studies.
7. Once all forms are completed, the PhD student will be notified by the Coordinator of the PhD Program that they are eligible to register for NGR 7978, *Doctoral Synthesis/Comprehensive Examination*.

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Form A - PhD Research Practicum Objectives and Activities

Student Name: _____

Date: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Academic Advisor of Record: _____

Date: _____

Practicum Advisor (as appropriate): _____

Date

Objectives for Research Practicum:

Planned Research Activities related to Advisor's Research Project:

Proposed Timeline for Completion of PhD Research Practicum:

Comments:

Academic Advisor of Record: _____
Signature Date

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Form C – PhD Research Practicum Student Evaluation

PhD Student Name: _____

Date: _____

Academic Advisor of Record: _____

Date: _____

Practicum Advisor (as appropriate): _____

Date: _____

Date (month/year) Research Practicum began: _____

Date (month/year) Research Practicum ended: _____

- | | Very | | | | Not at all |
|---|------|---|---|---|------------|
| 1. How satisfied were you with the research practicum experience? | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 2. How satisfied were you with the faculty/student collegial relationship? | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 3. How helpful was this learning experience as you prepare for dissertation? | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 4. What was the greatest benefit of your research practicum experience? | | | | | |
| 5. What additional experiences would have enhanced your research practicum experience? | | | | | |
| 6. What are your suggestions for improving the research practicum experience? | | | | | |
| 7. Write a brief reflective statement on achievement of the research practicum based on your learning objectives. | | | | | |

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Form D – PhD Research Practicum Faculty Advisor Evaluation

PhD Student Name: _____

Date: _____

Academic Advisor of Record: _____

Date: _____

Practicum Advisor (as appropriate): _____

Date: _____

- | | Very | | | Not at all |
|--|------|---|---|------------|
| 1. How satisfied were you with the student's work ethic? | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 0 |
| 2. How independent was the student in meeting the objectives? | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 0 |
| 3. Did the student have the necessary skills to appropriately complete the practicum? Yes No | | | | |
| If no, what skills did the student lack? _____ | | | | |

4. Did the PhD student successfully meet the research practicum objectives?

5. What additional experiences would you have liked to have had the student gain during the research practicum experience? How would this be accomplished?

6. What are your suggestions for improving the experience for other research practicum advisors?

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