

Case Western Reserve University
Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing

Description of the Research Practicum

Completion of a research practicum is required for advancement to candidacy and completion of the PhD. During a 12-month period of time, the student will be involved for 240 hours in specific research activities with a faculty mentor. We recommend that this experience be completed during the student's first year of study. However, placement of the research experience will be determined by the student in consultation with faculty advisor.

Students will experience many aspects of the research process on-site at the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing during the practicum, including development of the conceptual base of the study, start up of a project, data collection, data management, data analysis, and dissemination of findings. An appropriate faculty mentor for the research practicum will be determined by the student and their faculty advisor. In the beginning of the experience, the student and mentor, who is a member of the FPB PhD Council, will identify learning objectives. Periodically, students and faculty will evaluate the student's progress toward meeting those objectives.

The research process is complex, and coursework provides the student only with a theoretical understanding of that process. The integration of research concepts and their application, however, can only be achieved through practical experience. The research practicum provides the student with a chance to experience the research process on a day-to-day basis and helps the student to integrate and apply theoretical knowledge.

Guidelines for the Research Practicum

1. A list of faculty qualified to participate in the research practicum as a faculty mentor will be maintained and reviewed periodically by the PhD Program Coordinator or an individual so designated by the Coordinator. Qualifications for faculty mentors include: earned research doctorate, member of PhD Council, a history of extramural research funding (not necessarily current funding), and actively engaged in research.
2. Early in the student's course of study, the faculty advisor and the student will identify learning objectives and specific experiences for the research practicum. The advisor will use this information to identify possible mentors. To determine whether the faculty's research activities will facilitate meeting the objectives for the research practicum, students will discuss their interests and objectives with potential mentors. The student and mentor will mutually agree on the objectives of the practicum and methods to achieve them, and the form entitled "Research Practicum" will be completed and signed by the student, the academic advisor, and the faculty mentor.
3. Upon fulfillment of the practicum requirement, the faculty mentor will indicate on this form that the student has successfully completed the experience.
4. The research practicum must be completed before advancement to candidacy can be authorized.

FRANCES PAYNE BOLTON SCHOOL OF NURSING, PhD PROGRAM

RESEARCH PRACTICUM

STUDENT NAME: _____

DATES OF PRACTICUM: _____

MENTOR: _____

ADVISOR: _____

Objectives:

Signatures:

Student _____ Date _____

Mentor _____ Date _____

Advisor _____ Date _____

Completion
Date: _____