



Course Outline

HCNUR7001 MINOR THESIS (F-T)

Title:	MINOR THESIS (F-T)
Code:	HCNUR7001
Formerly:	NM921
School / Division:	School of Health Sciences
Level:	Introductory
Pre-requisites:	Nil
Co-requisites:	Nil
Exclusions:	Nil
Progress Units:	60
ASCED Code:	60399

Objectives:

After successfully completing this course, students should be able to:

Knowledge:

- Critically evaluate the literature in relation to the body of evidence-based research in the health care field;
- Understand the rights and responsibilities of participants and researchers in the research process
- Understand the rights and responsibilities of supervisors and students in the research process

Skills:

- Engage in supervised research, and manage the project for a timely completion
- Build on skills acquired during study in the core units of the Graduate Studies Program to enable nurses to undertake a supervised research project that is relevant to their area of interest and/or practice;
- Develop skills in disseminating research findings to peers and the nursing profession;
- Prepare and submit for examination, a written thesis that explores a topic of significance to the nursing profession
- Encourage nurses to examine their practice and workplaces with a "critical eye"

Values:

- Develop, in students, an appreciation of lifelong learning and an understanding of the importance of ongoing research to nursing practice

Content:



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Individual negotiations between you and your supervisory team will determine the intent and specific content of your research project. Although you will have already developed a broad view of your project in your previous courses, your supervisors will assist you in limiting the scope of your research to be able to be achieved within the limited time frame available. You will most likely need to develop your research plan further by developing an agreement with your supervisory team about the parameters of the research, a timetable for progress, a communication strategy between the research team members and how completion will be achieved. You are expected to have regular contact with your supervisor(s) (in person or electronically) and support may be offered in the form of workshops and tutorials.

Learning Tasks & Assessment:

Learning Task	Assessment	Weighting
Prepare UBHREC application for ethical approval of the research study	Submit application to UB HREC, and gain approval for the study	Ungraded
Conduct and report upon a research study	A written thesis (15000-20000 words)	100%

Adopted Reference Style:

APA

Handbook Summary:

There has been a significant amount of nursing literature since the mid 1980s that has emphasised the growing importance of research to the development of nursing as a profession. While most early research was conducted by academics and nurses undertaking higher degree studies, it is exciting to see that there is now a 'body of knowledge' emerging that is driven by practitioners. Initially, research efforts tended to address questions about nursing and nurses, but in more recent years have begun to shift their focus to examine clinical issues and patient outcomes. An emphasis on collaborative research projects has also become a pathway for novice researchers to work across disciplines to gain experience in research methods and methodologies. Nevertheless it is important for nurses to develop skills in identifying researchable nursing issues, to plan a research project and manage the project through to completion. It is also vitally important for nurses to communicate the findings of their research to their colleagues by publishing in journals and presenting papers at conferences. These strategies open up new ideas for critical review by ones peers, and validate the claim of nursing to be a profession. The concept of producing work of publishable standard has been emphasised throughout the Graduate Diploma of Nursing and the Master of Nursing (Coursework), and students have been encouraged to submit their essays to conferences and journals. This course may build on work previously developed for students who wish to undertake a research project to complete their Master of Nursing (Coursework) studies. Following successful completion of the core courses to Graduate Diploma of Nursing level, students will have identified a topic of significance to the nursing profession, explored the literature and written a literature review, selected an appropriate research paradigm for the investigation of the topic and prepared a research proposal and ethics application. In addition, study of a relevant elective topic will enable the student to prepare for this next phase of education in the Master of Nursing (Coursework). Students will therefore enrol in the Thesis



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Course with a well-developed research proposal and ready to submit their ethics application. Research at this level prepares nurses to undertake projects in the workplace, as well as to become discerning consumers of evidence-based practice. Constantly changing nursing, medical, scientific, pharmaceutical and technological procedures necessitate the education of practitioners who can access and evaluate up-to-date research and implement appropriate treatments for optimal health care outcomes. This course will assist nurses to develop research skills for application in their workplace environments