

**UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-COLUMBIA  
SINCLAIR SCHOOL OF NURSING  
N8900 Research Practicum**

**Course Number:** N8900

**Course Title:** Research Practicum

**Credit Hours:** 3

**Course Description:** Selected independent research activities in conjunction with ongoing research programs of faculty. Prerequisites: N7150, graduate statistics, consent of Instructor.

**Expanded Course Description:**

**Expanded Description:** According to Sinclair School of Nursing policy, BSN-to-PhD students are provisionally admitted to the PhD program until they fully qualify, for which successful completion of 3 credits of N8900 is required. All 3 credits of N8900 may be taken in a single semester or divided among several semesters, in agreement with the student's advisor. In addition, BSN-to-PhD students must earn a B or above in N7100, N7150, a 3-hour graduate-level statistics course, and 9 credits of nursing applied science coursework.

The purpose of this course is to provide BSN-to-PhD students with an opportunity to:

- a) Meet qualifying exam requirements and demonstrate appropriate developing understanding of basic research methods and theory;
- b) Participate in a mentored research experience.

The mentored research experience is designed collaboratively by the student, faculty mentor, and the student's Doctoral program committee members (hereafter "committee"). The course culminates in a scholarly paper and an oral examination by the committee. The course can be utilized as a Research and Inquiry course and to meet the Qualifying Exam requirements.

**Course Objectives:**

1. Develop skills in specific research activities such as critical review of literature, data collection, data management, and/or data analysis.
2. Participate in research team activities.
3. Advance critical thinking and scholarly writing skills.
4. Discuss the research process within the context of the practicum, including as applicable, the application of theory, the research design, and methodological approach.
5. Relate practicum activities to intended program of research.

**Methods of Instruction:**

Prior to registration for the course, and under the direction of the student's committee, the student will select a faculty research mentor(s) for N8900.

- Mentor(s) may or may not be the same as the faculty advisor.
- Mentor(s) supervise the student in selected steps of the research process.

- Mentor(s) may involve the student in their own ongoing research, or may supervise the student in independent research activities appropriate to the student's preparation, skills, and interests.

The faculty advisor is the instructor of record for N8900. The faculty advisor will consult with student and mentor(s) and will be responsible for grade assignment in the course.

### **Modes of Evaluation:**

The faculty mentor evaluates the student's research activities based upon the mutually agreed upon practicum objectives and anticipated scholarly outcomes (see attached Research Plan for N8900 form). Completion of a written paper and oral examination are required for successful completion of N8900.

### **Written Paper**

At least two weeks prior to the date of the oral examination, the student will submit a written paper to the committee for review. This paper should be formatted in APA style and include the following components:

- 1) Title page with acknowledgements of mentor(s)
- 2) Summary of mentored research experience activities ( $\leq 2$  pages)
- 3) Analysis of how the mentored research experience has helped move the student forward and how their experiences apply to their own future research ( $\leq 2$  pages)
- 4) One of two options:
  - a. *Brief research proposal* ( $\leq 12$  pages) which may include a proposed quantitative or qualitative research project. This may include a brief background/literature review, research question, description of setting, sample, procedures, and analysis, and include application of a theoretical framework. The proposal can be related to the student's research interests and/or the mentor(s) research area (e.g., a related study, a sub-study, a next step).
  - b. *Manuscript-style paper* (no more than 12 pages) which may include an introduction, review of literature, and description of methods and results applicable to the student's activities for N8900.

### **Oral Examination**

An oral examination is the culminating requirement in N8900. The examination is intended to gauge whether the BS-to-PhD student has a developing understanding of research that is appropriate to the level of coursework they have completed (i.e., they understand basic quantitative and/or qualitative research methods and the ability to apply a selected theory to research design.). *Questions should be pertinent to the student's topic area/area of interest*, and may address issues such as:

- A. Theoretical foundations for development of scientific knowledge;
- B. Existing and evolving scientific knowledge in their topic area;
- C. Methods and processes of theory/knowledge development;
- D. Research methods and scholarship appropriate to inquiry.

Arrangements with the committee for the date and time of the oral examination will be initiated by the student. The oral examination is usually about one hour in length, but the time scheduled should be long enough to ensure an adequate examination. This examination should include, but is not limited to:

- determining the student's understanding of the research process and his or her ability to justify the tools and techniques employed;
- ascertaining how this learning experience contributed to the total graduate experience;
- exploring further research activities from questions raised by their mentored research experience
- exploring their understanding of the contribution their mentor(s) research offers to nursing and other disciplines.

Members of the committee generate questions dealing with each area to be measured. At the completion of the examination, the student will be asked to leave the room while the committee arrives at a pass/fail decision.

Should a student fail the examination, she or he may schedule a retake after conferring with the advisor. If the student should fail a second time, the committee may require additional coursework prior to scheduling the oral examination a third time.

A student may appeal the results of the examination through the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs to a committee of three faculty members (representative of the clinical area, role area, and research component) and two students appointed by the Student Admission and Progression (SAP) Committee.

**Grading Scale:** This course is graded as Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory only.

### **Major References:**

American Psychological Association (2009). Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (6<sup>th</sup> Ed.). Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association.

Other textbooks may be required or recommended by faculty for this course.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

*Academic integrity is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards breaches of the academic integrity rules as extremely serious matters. Sanctions for such a breach may include academic sanctions from the instructor, including failing the course for any violation, to disciplinary sanctions ranging from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, collaboration, or any other form of cheating, consult the course instructor.*

**Academic Integrity: Honor Pledge**

*I strive to uphold the University values of respect, responsibility, discovery, and excellence. On my honor, I pledge that I have neither given nor received unauthorized assistance on this work.*

Students are expected to adhere to this pledge on all graded work whether or not they are explicitly asked in advance to do so.

**ADA Statement**

If you need accommodations because of a disability or if you have emergency medical information to share, please inform your instructor immediately. Please send your instructor an email privately or make an appointment to meet at their office.

*To request academic accommodations (for example, a notetaker), students must also register with the [Office of Disability Services](http://disabilityservices.missouri.edu), (<http://disabilityservices.missouri.edu>), S5 Memorial Union, 882-4696. It is the campus office responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students requesting academic accommodations, and for accommodations planning in cooperation with students and instructors, as needed and consistent with course requirements. For other MU resources for students with disabilities, click on "Disability Resources" on the MU homepage.*

**Intellectual Pluralism Statement**

*The University community welcomes intellectual diversity and respects student rights. Students who have questions concerning the quality of instruction in this class may address concerns to either the Departmental Chair or Divisional leader or Director or the Director of the [Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities](http://osrr.missouri.edu) (<http://osrr.missouri.edu>). All students will have the opportunity to submit an anonymous evaluation of the instructor(s) at the end of the course.*

**Grievance Policy:**

Information concerning student grade appeal procedures and non-academic grievances and appeals may be found in the Student Handbook.

**Online Class Netiquette:**

Your instructor and fellow students wish to foster a safe on-line learning environment. All opinions and experiences, no matter how different or controversial they may be perceived, must be respected in the tolerant spirit of academic discourse. You are encouraged to comment, question, or critique an *idea* but you are not to attack an *individual*.

Our differences, some of which are outlined in the University's nondiscrimination statement below, will add richness to this learning experience. Please consider that sarcasm and humor can be misconstrued in online interactions and generate unintended disruptions. Working as a community of learners, we can build a polite and respectful course ambience.

**Sinclair School Of Nursing Nondiscrimination Statement:**

Faculty and staff at the Sinclair School of Nursing are committed to cultural diversity and nondiscrimination toward all people with regards to race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, gender, age, all veterans, and sexual orientation.

**UM System Statement on Nondiscrimination:**

The University of Missouri System is an Equal Opportunity/ Affirmative Action institution and is nondiscriminatory relative to race, religion, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability or status as a Vietnam-era veteran. Any person having inquiries concerning the University of Missouri-Columbia's compliance with implementing Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, or other civil rights laws should contact the Assistant Vice Chancellor, Human Resource Services, University of Missouri-Columbia, 130 Heinkel Building, Columbia, Mo. 65211, (573) 882-4256, or the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education.

**Safe Nursing Practice and Research:**

Safety in nursing practice and research is required of all professional nurses and all students of professional nursing. All students have signed the Safe Nursing Practice and Research Policy and will be held accountable to it.

**Administrative Drop Policy:**

Participation in class discussions and posting is critical for success in an online course. In order to facilitate an online environment that encourages learning and decreases disruption, students who fail to meet minimum course participation requirements may be administratively dropped from the course. Please refer to the Masters Student Handbook

(<http://nursing.missouri.edu/handbooks/grad-programs-handbook.pdf>) for details regarding this policy.

## **N8900 Research Practicum:**

### **Information on Enrollment**

#### ***Course Rationale***

Students are expected to participate in selected steps of the research process, but are not expected to complete an independent study or pilot project.

- N8900 activities should be feasible to complete in no more than 3 credit hours/180 clock hours over a single semester.
- Approximately 60 – 90 hours of the 3-credit practicum should be devoted to hands-on research activities arranged by the mentor(s) (e.g., data collection and/or analysis) and the remaining 60-90 hours devoted to producing the scholarly paper.
- If activities encompass more than 3 credit hours (180 clock hours) and/or one semester, students and faculty may consider whether components might be completed in the future for credit in later courses (e.g., N9132, Research Proposal or N9710, Advanced Research Practicum.)
- If a student is already working as a paid research assistant on a research project, and this project fulfills the goals her/his program committee thinks are needed for the student's progress, these hours can be counted

#### ***Enrollment Policies***

Upon registration in N8900, the student and research mentor(s) will collaboratively agree upon the following:

- ✓ achievable objectives to be completed in the course;
- ✓ research activities which address these objectives;
- ✓ any scholarly works that may emanate from the coursework, and
- ✓ an authorship plan for any scholarly works.
- ✓ Determination from the IRB whether research activity constitutes human subjects research requiring IRB review.

This agreement will be documented via a written Research Plan form (attached). This will be reviewed by the student's committee, who may suggest modifications to enhance the fit between research activities and the student's scholarly interest area/probable dissertation focus.

The student's faculty advisor will sign the form to indicate the committee's approval of the Research Plan. The Research Plan is placed on file with the PhD Program office. The faculty advisor will consult with student and mentor(s) and will be responsible for grade assignment in the course.

#### ***Options for the Mentored Research Experience***

Options for the mentored experience include, but are not limited to, one or more of the following:

- Participation in data collection
- Analysis of previously collected data
- Interviewing or observing subjects to gather information essential to plan an investigation of a larger scope
- Assisting faculty with development or pretesting of a tool or procedure
- Assisting with IRB application and participant recruitment
- Preparing grant proposals and manuscripts

## Research Plan for N8900 Research Practicum

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty Mentor(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Semester: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Hours: \_\_\_\_\_

Research Topic(s): \_\_\_\_\_

List of Objectives and Research Activities To Achieve Each Objective (*please include timelines as appropriate*):

Possible Scholarly Works Emanating From N8900 and Plan for Authorship of Each Work:

### Approval of the N8900 Research Plan:

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Student's Signature**                      **Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Research Mentor's Signature**                      **Date**  
*(indicates agreement to mentor student)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Faculty Advisor's Signature**                      **Date**  
*(indicates committee's approval of plan)*

### Completion of N8900 Research Plan and Date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Research Mentor's Signature**                      **Date**  
*(signed by research mentor(s) when objectives completed)*

### Completion of Oral Examination and Date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Faculty Advisor's Signature**                      **Date**  
*(signed by faculty advisor when oral examination completed; indicates committee's approval of examination)*

**Please submit completed and signed agreements to your faculty member and Student Advising office.**