GRADUATE SCHOOL POLICIES
The Graduate School’s Academic Policies and Procedures (https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/) provide essential information regarding general university policies. Program authority to set degree policies beyond the minimum required by the Graduate School lies with the degree program faculty. Policies set by the academic degree program can be found below.

MAJOR-SPECIFIC POLICIES

PRIOR COURSEWORK
Graduate Work from Other Institutions
With program approval, students are allowed to count no more than 18 credits of graduate coursework from other institutions. Graduate work should be less than five years old to be considered; additional justification and/or documentation are needed for work taken between five and ten years. Work ten or more years prior to admission to the program will not be considered.

UW–Madison Undergraduate
With program approval up to 7 credits numbered 300 or above will be allowed to count toward the Ph.D. degree. This applies to students in the Early Entry Ph.D. route in the School of Nursing.

UW–Madison University Special
With program approval, students are allowed to count no more than 9 credits of coursework numbered 300 or above taken as a UW–Madison University Special student. These credits are considered part of the total allowable credits available for a student to transfer. Coursework should be less than five years old to be considered; additional justification and/or documentation is needed for work taken between five and ten years. Work ten or more years prior to admission to the program will not be considered.

PROBATION
A semester GPA below 3.0 will result in the student being placed on academic probation. If a student has not returned to satisfactory progress by the determined deadline, a decision about whether the student will be permitted to continue will be made by the Graduate Admissions & Progression Committee (or appropriate subcommittee) with input from the student’s advisor.

ADVISOR / COMMITTEE
Ph.D. students complete an annual progression review which includes a written review from the advisor. This is submitted to the Ph.D. Subcommittee of the GPC. The Subcommittee reviews the student CVs and advisor comments to gain an overall sense of student progress in the program. Comments from the Subcommittee regarding progression are then sent to the advisor who shares the result of the review with the student.

Graduate School policy specifies the following with regard to dissertation committees:

Dissertation committees advise and evaluate satisfactory progress, administer preliminary and final oral examinations, evaluate a dissertation, and/or sign a degree warrant. A student arranges a committee with appropriate expertise to afford the breadth and depth needed in degree examinations. In all cases, a student’s advisor (major professor) chairs the committee. The executive committee (or its equivalent) is responsible for approving the composition of all dissertation committees.

Minimum Graduate School requirements for the dissertation committees are as follows:

1. The chair or co-chair of the committee must be Graduate Faculty* from the student’s program.

2. PhD dissertation committees must have a minimum of 4 members, 3 of whom must be UW–Madison graduate faculty, former UW–Madison graduate faculty up to one year after resignation or retirement. At least 1 of the 4 members must be from outside of the student’s major program or major field (often from the minor field).

3. The chair may designate 1 of the 4 members of the committee as a non-reader

   a. Readers are committee members who commit themselves to closely reading and reviewing the entire dissertation. While graduate programs cannot have fewer than three readers, they may require all members to be readers. The rationale for specifically designating non-reader status is to facilitate faculty participation in dissertations without automatically expecting the level of commitment associated with deeply engaging a PhD thesis. Given faculty workloads, designating a non-reader in some cases may permit faculty participation where engagement would otherwise be impossible.

4. The required 4th member of a dissertation committee, as well as any additional members, all retain voting rights.

5. * Graduate Faculty are those who hold tenure track appointments. Non-tenure track faculty (e.g., CHS professors) may participate as 4th or extra committee members, but do not count toward the four “Graduate Faculty” members.

The student and major professor should work together to identify dissertation advisory committee members with appropriate breadth and depth of knowledge. In addition to the Minimum Graduate School requirements for the dissertation committees outlined above, the School of Nursing has additional expectations for committee membership:

1. At least 2 members will be from the School of Nursing faculty.

2. In general, all committee members will serve as readers. However, in line with UW-Madison Graduate School Policy and Procedures of Graduate Advisor Committees, the chair may designate 1 of the 4 members of the committee as a non-reader.

CREDITS PER TERM ALLOWED
15 credits
TIME CONSTRAINTS
A candidate for a doctoral degree who fails to take the final oral examination and deposit the dissertation within five years after passing the preliminary examination may require to take another preliminary examination and to be admitted to candidacy a second time.

GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS
These resources may be helpful in addressing your concerns:

- Bias or Hate Reporting (https://doso.students.wisc.edu/bias-or-hate-reporting/)
- Graduate Assistantship Policies and Procedures (https://hr.wisc.edu/policies/gapp/#grievance-procedure)
- Hostile and Intimidating Behavior Policies and Procedures (https://hr.wisc.edu/hib/)
- Office of the Provost for Faculty and Staff Affairs (https://facstaff.provost.wisc.edu/)
- Dean of Students Office (https://doso.students.wisc.edu/) (for all students to seek grievance assistance and support)
- Employee Assistance (http://www.eao.wisc.edu/) (for personal counseling and workplace consultation around communication and conflict involving graduate assistants and other employees, post-doctoral students, faculty and staff)
- Employee Disability Resource Office (https://employeedisabilities.wisc.edu/) (for qualified employees or applicants with disabilities to have equal employment opportunities)
- Graduate School (https://grad.wisc.edu/) (for informal advice at any level of review and for official appeals of program/departmental or school/college grievance decisions)
- Office of Compliance (https://compliance.wisc.edu/) (for class harassment and discrimination, including sexual harassment and sexual violence)
- Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (https://conduct.students.wisc.edu/) (for conflicts involving students)
- Ombuds Office for Faculty and Staff (http://www.ombuds.wisc.edu/) (for employed graduate students and post-docs, as well as faculty and staff)
- Title IX (https://compliance.wisc.edu/titleix/) (for concerns about discrimination)

Student Appeals and Grievance Procedures
Students who feel that they have been treated unfairly have the right to question this treatment and receive prompt hearing of the grievance. Before instituting an appeal or grievance, students should discuss their particular situations with an appropriate staff member, e.g., faculty member, assistant dean, associate dean, or adviser.

Section One: Appeals
Appeals are limited to requests to continue in the curriculum after being dropped from the program for academic reasons.

Procedure
Filing Appeal
Graduate Student: A written appeal must be filed with the Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs within 10 working days of the date of the letter notifying the student of the decision to discontinue the student in the program, or the right to appeal is waived. The appellant (student) must submit to the Assistant Dean the following information:

1. A written statement addressed to the Chairperson of the appropriate appeals committee specifying:
   - Precise grounds on which the appeal is based.
   - Circumstances associated with the need to appeal.
   - Arguments supporting the appeal.
   - Description of proposed remedial actions to be taken to improve the student's academic performance.

2. The appellant may also submit letters of support from persons knowledgeable about the appellant's current and/or past academic work and/or other matters related to the appellant's academic performance. Any such letters must be submitted to the Assistant Dean by the same deadline.

Appeals Committee
Graduate Student: For the purposes of hearing the appeal, the Assistant Dean will arrange an appeals committee that consists of at least three School of Nursing faculty members and that includes at least one member of the Graduate Programs Committee. The Assistant Dean will collect the information relative to the appellant's academic situation and forward the information to the Appeals Committee.

Appeals Committee Meeting

- Within 15 working days of the filing of the appeal, the Appeals Committee will schedule a meeting date for the purposes of hearing the appeal.
- Appellant must appear before the Appeals Committee to present the appeal. Appellant may have a support person accompany him or her to the meeting with the Appeals Committee. Appellant must address the Appeals Committee under all circumstances. Appellant’s chosen support person is limited to providing advice and support to appellant. No fewer than three working days prior to the meeting the Appeals Committee, the appellant shall identify to the Committee the individual’s appellant wishes to be present at the meeting for the purpose of providing the Appeals Committee with information about the appeal.

The Appeals Committee is authorized to decide the appeal and is responsible for the following:

1. Reviewing all data presented by the Appellant and others.
2. Discussing the argument presented by Appellant and inviting Appellant to contribute to the discussion.
3. Limiting statements of appellant and other individuals where information being presented is irrelevant, unduly repetitious, or disrespectful.
   - Deciding the appeal and providing a written decision, including the reasons therefore, to the Appellant and the appropriate Assistant Dean within 15 working days of the Appeals Committee meeting. The written decision shall identify and include where appropriate:
     - Appellant’s stated reason for the appeal
     - Action taken by the Appeals Committee
     - Stipulations and recommendations for appellant’s continuation in program (where appeal granted)
     - Rationale for decision
     - Names of individuals present at the hearing
Any student in the School of Nursing who believes that he or she has been treated inequitably is encouraged to resolve the matter informally. The student should first talk with the person or group at whom the grievance is directed in an attempt to resolve the issue informally. The student may contact the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs for assistance in resolving the matter informally. The student may also contact the following groups for assistance in reaching an informal resolution and/or information regarding other possible formal procedures to resolve the matter.

1. Contact the UW-Madison Equity and Diversity Resource Center for information and assistance regarding discrimination or disability issues.
2. Contact the Dean of Students for information about resources for addressing student concerns.

Section Two: Grievances
Informal Resolution

4. If the appeal is granted, the Appeals Committee will discuss with the Appellant any stipulations (binding) and recommendations (non-binding) for continuation in the program.

Review of Appeals Committee Decision

1. A written request for review of the Appeals Committee Decision by the Dean of the School of Nursing or the Dean's designee must be submitted to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs within 20 working days of the date of notification of the Committee's initial decision. The request must state the specific grounds for appeal which are limited to:

   - School policies were incorrectly applied;
   - Decision is contrary to state or federal law;
   - Proper appeal procedures were not followed; or
   - Unfounded, arbitrary, or irrelevant assumptions of fact regarding the appellant's performance were made by the Appeals Committee. Appellant must also identify the specific aspects of the Committee decision that he or she believes meet the criteria cited as a basis for appeal.

The Dean of the Dean's designee may meet with the appellant to discuss the request for review.

a. Copies of the information submitted to the Appeals Committee and the Appeals Committee decision shall be provided to the Dean or the Dean's designee for review. Only facts and information presented to the Appeals Committee may be introduced to and considered by the Dean or the Dean's designee.

b. The burden of proof shall be on the student to demonstrate by a preponderance of the evidence that the Appeals Committee's decision was the result of one or more of the above bases for appeal.

c. The Dean or the Dean's designee shall notify Appellant and the Appeals Committee in writing within 30 working days of receipt of the request for review of the Appeals Committee decision or the appellant's meeting with the Dean's or Dean's designee, whichever is later, stating the action on the appeal and the grounds for the action taken.

d. The decision by the Dean or the Dean's designee on review is final.

e. Graduate students may seek Graduate School Procedural Review of the decision by the Dean or the Dean's designee. Please contact The Graduate School Office of Academic Services & Fellowship Administration in 217 Bascom Hall or at 608-262-2433 for information regarding this process.

Note: Deadlines referenced herein may only be altered by mutual agreement of the parties. Any such agreement must be in writing.
report shall include notice to the student of his or her right to appeal the 
Committee's recommendation to the Dean of the School of Nursing.

6. A student wishing to appeal the Committee's recommendation to 
the Dean of the School of Nursing must submit a written appeal to the 
Dean within 10 calendar days of the date of the Committee's report. The 
request must state the specific bases for appeal and identify the specific 
aspects of the Committee's recommendation that he or she believes are 
the subject of the bases for appeal. Where an appeal is filed with the 
Dean, a copy of the Committee's report shall be provided to the Dean 
for review. Only facts presented to the Committee may be introduced to 
and considered by the Dean. The Dean shall notify the appellant and the 
Committee in writing within 30 calendar days of receiving the written 
appeal stating the action on the appeal and the grounds for the action 
taken.

Section Three: Course Grade Appeals Process
If a student believes s/he has been awarded a grade for a course that 
does not adequately represent her/his performance in the course, they 
should speak with the course faculty member in an effort to attempt to 
resolve the issue informally. This must be done within 10 working days 
of receipt of the grade. During this informal process both student and 
faculty may consult with the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs to seek 
resolution of the issue.

If the student remains dissatisfied with the grade, the student has 
the option to initiate the formal Grievance procedure. To do this, the 
student must submit the grievance, in writing, to the Associate Dean 
for Academic Affairs within 10 working days. The Associate Dean 
will appoint a committee to hear the grievance. The decision of the 
committee is final. There is no further appeal.

OTHER
The School of Nursing makes a strong commitment to funding students 
admitted into the Ph.D. program who are enrolled full-time. Sources of 
funding include extramural, campus, and internal School of Nursing 
funding. The majority of funding decisions are made in the Spring for the 
following academic year. Continuing and newly admitted students are 
encouraged to apply for funding.