



<p style="text-align: center;"><b>COLLEGE OF NURSING</b> <b>PhD <u>Written</u> Candidacy Exam Rubric</b></p>		
Criteria	Meets Expectations: Pass	Below Expectations/ Unsatisfactory: Fail
Accuracy & Completeness	Facts are reported accurately and are in direct relation to the topic	The response demonstrates poor understanding of the question. Some of the facts are reported inaccurately and substantial parts of the question are not fully answered
Breadth of knowledge	There is a clear, well-focused response that addresses the question; integration of theory, practice, and research is strong. Main ideas stand out and are logically supported by detailed information. Student cites primary sources, directly relevant research references in the response.	The response is not clearly presented. The main idea is not clear. There is very little integration of theory, practice, and research present. Current and/or primary sources are lacking.
Depth of Knowledge	Relevant, convincing, quality details; consistent evidence of effective synthesis and critique of the literature; cites research references that support the response	Supporting details and information are typically unclear or inaccurate; key references are missing. Key issues or portions of the response are unsupported and/or incorrectly cited.
Organization and presentation	The introduction clearly states the main topic and previews the structure of the response, supported by evidence in a coherent manner; good flow of ideas throughout; transitions effectively; establishes a sound <u>scholarly argument</u>	The paper lacks clarity, organization, structure, flow of ideas; weak transitions and gaps in logic occur between topics being addressed
Writing style and mechanics of writing	The paper is essentially free of errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content; APA format is correctly used [e.g., appropriate citations, headings, subordination, references, tables]	Student makes frequent errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content; APA errors

**COLLEGE OF NURING**  
**PhD Oral Candidacy Exam Rubric**

Criteria	Meets Expectations: Pass	Below Expectations/ Unsatisfactory: Fail
Breadth and Depth of Knowledge	Good grasp of relevant topics and concepts; provides convincing, quality responses	Poor grasp of relevant topics and concepts
Focus	Formulates answers in a disciplined, well-focused manner; able to clearly articulate an argument/ point	Wanders off topic; loses the thread of an argument
Accuracy	Facts are reported accurately and are in direct relation to the topic	The response demonstrates a poor understanding of the question. Some facts are reported inaccurately and substantial parts of the question are not fully answered
Articulation and development of positions	Answers are clear, thorough, and insightful	Answers are vague, excessively general or narrow, or marked by significant confusion or error
Capacity to address opposing views	Readily able to understand specific questions and grasp the point of objections, and responds in a thorough and thoughtful manner	Labors to understand, or misunderstands specific questions and is easily derailed by objections
Overall Quality of Oral Communication Skills	Responses are clear; arguments are well-presented; exhibits good verbal communication skills	Responses are incomplete; arguments are poorly presented; exhibits lack of confidence in verbal communication skills