

6.7 Progression

(Reviewed 6/12/2022)

Doctoral requirements for progression include the following:

1. A minimum grade of “B” is necessary in all required courses for the Ph.D. and DNP degrees. Students are responsible for monitoring grades in the course learning management system throughout the semester and communicating with course instructors regarding grade status. Two course failures will result in dismissal from the program.
2. Core courses must be taken in sequence, as indicated in the U.T. Tyler catalog.
3. Nursing courses within the Ph.D. and DNP curricula may only be repeated once. A course withdrawal is counted as one course attempt. Exceptions may be made for extenuating circumstances.
4. Any elective hours are subject to approval by the student’s faculty advisor.

6.7.1 Doctoral Proficiency Exam (for Ph.D. only)

Before entering candidacy, the student must successfully pass the Doctoral Proficiency Exam (DPE). The purpose of the exam is to articulate the knowledge accumulated throughout the coursework. This written exam is scheduled near the end of coursework. The specific dates are posted in the NURS 6337 syllabus as students enrolled in NURS 6337 are those eligible to take the exam. The final two weeks of the semester are dedicated to the exam. The processes are as follows:

1. Students receive the DPE packet via their Patriot email account.
2. The packet includes research articles and guidelines for the completion of the DPE.
3. Two weeks are allotted for completion of the exam.
4. During this time, the only person to whom questions may be addressed is the Ph.D. Program Director.
5. Students may not discuss the exam or consult one another during the DPE time frame.
6. Exams are returned to the designated administrative assistant by the due date, which is included in the DPE instructions.
7. Late submissions are not accepted.
8. Following submission, de-identified papers are sent by the administrative assistant to 2-3 faculty to grade.
9. Faculty submit grades for the anonymous papers back to the administrative assistant who compiles the results, which are shared with the Ph.D. Program Director after the due date has passed.
10. Results will be emailed to students within two weeks from the due date for submission.

6.7.2 Candidacy (For Ph.D. only)

Students are admitted to candidacy upon completing all coursework and successfully passing the DPE. The request for candidacy initiates with the student and Faculty Advisor but is submitted by the Doctoral Program Director. The form for submission is located on The Graduate School Doctoral Forms website. <https://www.uttyler.edu/graduate/thesis-dissertation/>

6.7.3 Dissertation (For Ph.D. only)

The dissertation is a culmination of the student’s program of research while enrolled in the doctoral program at The University of Texas at Tyler. The dissertation process at The University

of Texas at Tyler School of Nursing is a hybrid between the traditional U.S. model, which emphasizes beginning a major research project upon completion of coursework, and the European model, which emphasizes publication and a discourse of the program of research at the end of the study. Specific guidelines for dissertation are provided on the Ph.D. learning management site Canvas PhrnDz Café Org.

6.7.4 DNP Project (DNP only)

The DNP Project is a culmination of the DNP's exploration of a clinical question that results in the implementation of an evidence-based practice project, a practice or leadership innovation, or instituting a quality improvement initiative. The DNP Project is formulated and completed in a sequence of key assignments across courses in the DNP Curriculum. A final presentation and submission of an electronic portfolio are required.