

Nursing PhD Comprehensive Exam Questions

Student Name:

Instructions: The Ph.D. Program Director or delegate will approve the comprehensive exam questions. If the questions are not approved, then the Ph.D Program Director will work with the committee to refine the questions. Once the questions are approved then the timeline for comprehensive exam will begin. Please email completed form to current Ph.D. Program Director.

Timeline: Once the questions are approved, the Student Affairs office will send the questions to the student via email and copy in the faculty advisor, Ph.D Program Director, and committee members. The student then has 4 calendar weeks from the date the questions are sent to complete the comprehensive exam and return to Student Affairs at gnsao@uci.edu. The student will receive notification of pass/fail from the Student Affairs office within 3 weeks after the comprehensive exam is submitted.

Question 1 Instructions:

Question 1 will focus on evaluating the student's understanding of the domains, theories, frameworks, and/or concepts/constructs involved in their area of interest. The result should be a focused, organized presentation of what is involved and what is at stake in the student's area of interest, including an analysis of what is already known and where potential gaps or areas for further inquiry lie. The student is encouraged to think critically as well, considering the assumptions and implications of the ways their area of interest has been framed/theorized/conceptualized, and how these assumptions and/or implications may affect the discipline and/or practice of nursing. The approach to answering Question 1 is not prescriptive. Some examples include a systematic literature review (we encourage a broad approach and conceptual analysis no matter what review methodology is used); an in depth concept analysis that focuses on both concepts and the relationships between concepts identified as important; a concept mapping methodology; or a critical analysis of seminal papers/books in the field. No matter the method chosen, the answer to the question should be comprehensive, cohesive, logically argued, and enable the reviewers to make a determination as to the student's in depth understanding of the current state-of-the-science of their area of interest and where the next steps should be taken.

Question 1:

Question 2 Instructions:

The student will then be asked to provide a rigorous and coherent delineation of 2 potential research designs, including each design’s supporting methods to generate new knowledge on her/his area of interest based on an explicit articulation of a research question. The student must provide a logical justification for each design and methods -- explain how the research design and methods will answer the articulated research question and why it is an appropriate design for that question; critically evaluate and summarize the strengths and weaknesses of each research design/methods; implications of each approach for translating new knowledge gained into policy or practice; and provide a summary statement and conclusion that clearly articulates your synthesis of these methodological approaches chosen to address the research question(s).

Question 2:

Approved by Ph.D Program Director or delegate: Yes No

Faculty Advisor Signature Date

Ph.D. Program Director Signature Date

