Illinois State University
Mennonite College of Nursing
Doctor of Philosophy

PhD Student Benchmarks

Year 1 (or after 18 semester hours)

Academic Plan
1. Submit Plan of Study to Mennonite College of Nursing Graduate Program
2. Begin to identify courses for cognate/minor
3. Begin to identify committee members for comprehensive exam and dissertation
4. Begin to assemble annotated bibliography
5. Maintain academic good standing

Research
1. Regularly attend research colloquia
2. Begin to define dissertation research area
3. Participate in a guided research team
4. Attend one scientific conference (MNRS)
5. Write and plan for submission of pre-doctoral application

Service
1. Participate in service activities*

Year 2 (or after 36 semester hours)

Academic Plan
1. Begin to assemble annotated bibliography
2. Gain experience as a teaching assistant, if necessary
3. Prepare for comprehensive exam
4. Maintain academic good standing

Research
1. Regularly attend research colloquia
2. Participate in a guided research team
3. Attend and present at one professional conference
4. Submit (or resubmit, as appropriate) of pre-doctoral application
5. Co-author manuscript with advisor or other faculty member
6. Prepare and submit one journal article as first author

Service
1. Participate in service activities*
Year 3 (or after 54 semester hours)

Academic Plan
1. Successfully complete coursework
2. Successfully complete comprehensive exam
3. Complete research residency
4. Maintain academic good standing

Research
1. Regularly attend research colloquia
2. Participate in a guided research team
3. Attend and present at one professional conference
4. Present at a research conference
5. Submit co-authored manuscript with advisor or other faculty member for publication
6. Prepare and submit one journal article as first author

Service
1. Participate in service activities*

Year 4 (or after being admitted to candidacy)

Academic Plan
1. Schedule dissertation defense
2. Successfully defend dissertation
3. Complete graduation forms

Research
1. Conduct dissertation research
2. Present at a research conference
3. Prepare and submit one journal article as first author
4. Submit co-authored manuscript with advisor or other faculty member for publication
5. Prepare post-doctoral application

Service
1. Participate in service activities*

* Examples of service activities include membership on academic committee and professional society and participation in a MCN committee.