Guidelines for Master’s Paper:
Research Practicum Option

NOTE: Sixty hours of practicum time is only a portion of the effort for the research practicum option. It is recommended that students maintain a time log for preparation and the actual hands-on participation with the research team. N992 is a 3-credit course and will require approximately 2-3 hours of independent work per week for each unit of credit.

| Proposal Defense (3-5 pages, not including the reference list) | • Provide a brief overview of the larger study (sample, setting, data collection plan, and analysis) including the significance to advanced nursing practice  
• Describe the purposes, specific learning objectives, and specific experiences for the practicum that facilitate the aims of the research team  
• Relate the relevance of the student’s work to the larger study or the aims of the research team.  
• Provide a tentative work plan for the research practicum. Include the time frame for the 60 hours of hands-on experience as well as independent work involved with preparing for and carrying out the activities:  
  Examples:  
  o If a research practicum involves human subjects or working with de-identified data, include time to complete CITI training and the addition of your name to the IRB  
  o Reading of grant proposals and manuscripts leading up to the current study and manuscripts centered on study  
  o Participation in seminars of the research team  
  o Learning of the methods, techniques, or tools used in the research project  
  o Independent work related to carrying out the agreed-upon activities  
  o Attendance at regular research team meetings as agreed-upon |
| Final Report: (10 page minimum not including the reference list) | • Overview of the endeavor: The information provided in the proposal defense above  
• Evaluation of the student’s experience  
  o Describe, in detail, the:  
    ▪ Nature of the student’s experience of being part of a research project  
    ▪ Results of each activity or component of the student’s work  
    ▪ Implications of the research team’s goals and the student’s work to advanced nursing practice.  
  o Specifically reflect on:  
    ▪ Problems or challenges encountered during the research practicum and how these were resolved or met  
    ▪ How the experience added to an understanding of research and the role of the research team  
    ▪ How the experience may influence their advanced nursing practice |
| References and report format | APA style should be used for the preparation of the report. |
| Appendices | As applicable:  
  • Tables and Figures  
  • Charts and Diagrams |

Approved by MEC, 11/24/14