

**BRANDON UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF HEALTH STUDIES**

Subject: Thesis Advisor and Committee Members Policy **Date: September 11, 2024**

Program: Master of Psychiatric Nursing

Revised: December 11, 2024

Approved at Faculty Council:

January 27, 2025

Approved at Senate: March 18 2025

Purpose:

Thesis advising is essential to the Master of Psychiatric Nursing Program. To maintain a robust and rigorous thesis-based program it is important to support students' research endeavours with faculty who are skilled and experienced. This policy outlines the required criteria for the role of thesis advising and committee members within the Master of Psychiatric Nursing Program.

Policy:

Thesis Advisor

To Thesis Advise within the Master of Psychiatric Nursing Program an Academic member of the Faculty of Health Studies (FHS) must be an Associate or Full member in the Brandon University Faculty of Graduate Studies. An advisor from another Faculty within Brandon University may be considered when their expertise is deemed appropriate. Other criteria are as follows:

1. A record of having been a Principle Investigator of a Research Ethics Board (REB) approved research project(s);
2. A record of knowledge mobilization initiatives ;
3. Sufficient experience and knowledge of student's field of research for providing mentorship, or a willingness to acquire further knowledge and experience prior to agreeing to be thesis advisor;
4. Experience as the Principle Investigator or Co-Investigator writing at least one grant application with subsequent funding attainment to support research activities;
5. A record of serving as a thesis committee member or co-advisor on, at minimum, one thesis committee within the Masters of Psychiatric Nursing program.

Committee Members

The thesis advisor and the student will choose committee members in collaboration. All thesis committees should have a minimum of one internal committee member and one external committee member. In rare situations, the thesis advisor and student may require more than one internal or external committee member. The thesis advisor and student should ensure that the committee has research, population, or topic knowledge of the thesis.

Internal Committee Members

Internal committee members are Associate or Full Members in the Brandon University Faculty of Graduate Studies from the Faculty of Health Studies at Brandon University. In situations where the Thesis advisor is outside the Department of Psychiatric Nursing, the internal committee member needs to be an academic faculty from the Department of Psychiatric Nursing.

External Committee Members

External Committee Members have a Master's degree, or are those with equivalent academic or professional credential, normally in the area of specialization, or experiential/traditional equivalency, or are those with doctoral preparation from outside the Faculty of Health Studies at Brandon University. These individuals must be eligible for Adjunct Professor and Associate or Affiliate membership with the Brandon University Faculty of Graduate Studies.

Length of Term

After the student has successfully completed their Thesis Proposal Defense the Thesis Advisor, Internal Committee Member, and External Committee Member shall remain in those roles for the duration of the student's thesis completion. If the student has already defended their thesis proposal and the status of one of the committee members, or thesis advisor changes (ie. they terminate employment at Brandon University, changing their status from internal to external) they can remain in the role they were in at the thesis proposal defense until the students completion. In rare cases where a member has to resign from the thesis committee, the student in collaboration with the thesis advisor will determine another committee member and reapply to the Faculty of Health Studies Graduate Committee.