

**BRANDON UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF HEALTH STUDIES
GRADUATE HEALTH STUDIES**

Subject: Thesis Advisor and Committee Members Policy	Date: September 11, 2024
Program: Master of Psychiatric Nursing	Revised: January 14, 2026
	Approved at Faculty Council: January 26, 2026
	Approved at Senate: February 24, 2026

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.

Membership in Brandon University Faculty of Graduate Studies:

All thesis advisors and internal and external committee members must hold Membership in Brandon University Faculty of Graduate Studies as outlined in the *Membership in the Faculty of Graduate Studies Policy*.

Policy:

Thesis Advisor

Thesis Advisors in Master of Psychiatric Nursing Program require Membership in Brandon University Faculty of Graduate Studies. Other criteria are as follows:

1. A record of having been a Principal 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 Principal Investigator or Co-Investigator writing at least one grant application with subsequent funding attainment to support research activities;
5. Demonstrated experience in leading a research project from conception to dissemination;
6. 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 must be members of the Brandon University Faculty of Graduate Studies within the Faculty of Health Studies. When the thesis advisor is not from the Department of Psychiatric Nursing, the internal committee member must be an academic faculty member from the Department of Psychiatric Nursing.

External Committee Members

External Committee Members have a Master's degree, or doctoral preparation, or are those with equivalent academic or professional credential, normally in the area of specialization, or experiential/traditional equivalency from outside the Faculty of Health Studies at Brandon University.

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, renewing membership in the Faculty of Graduate Studies as required. 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 Steering Committee.