
GENERAL CURRICULUM FOR EDUCATION AT POST-GRADUATE LEVEL IN NURSING

Board of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences 2018-12-20

1 Subject area

The Nursing subject area aims to help a person to plan and carry out actions that belong to daily life with the aim of improving health/wellness, preventing ill-health/illness and restoring and preserving health/wellness and alleviating suffering when ill and at life's end.

Education at post-graduate level consists of studies focusing on humans and health and related processes. It comprises studies of humans when well, after injury, with disabilities and when ill and humans in vulnerable situations and with special needs. Humans can be studied as individuals or groups, in interaction with other humans and in interaction with the environment. The environment and society can also be studied in respect of their effect on humans. Processes and methods that support humans in good and ill health, during rehabilitation, with special needs, in vulnerable situations, after injury, with disabilities or when ill are included in the subject area.

2 Programme curriculum

Education at post-graduate level in Nursing that concludes with a licentiate degree comprises a total of two years' full time study (120 higher education credits) and consists of a study programme that gives 30-60 higher education credits and a licentiate thesis that gives 60-90 higher education credits.

Education at post-graduate level in Nursing that concludes with a doctorate comprises a total of four years' full time study (240 higher education credits) and consists of a study programme that gives 60-80 higher education credits and a doctoral thesis that gives 160-180 higher education credits.

An individual study programme is drawn up for every post-graduate student (according to a fixed [model](#)) where the study programme is specified in detail. The individual study programme is followed up at least once a year by the post-graduate student and his/her supervisor and is then approved by the head of department, as delegated by the Board of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

The research and the results achieved are presented and discussed at both internal seminars open to the department's staff and national and international conferences, by means of publication in scientific journals and popular science publications and to the surrounding community.

Post-graduate students admitted to education at post-graduate level leading to a doctoral degree shall carry out a mid-point check in the form of a seminar with an external examiner. The purpose of the mid-point check is to provide support for both supervisor and student to assess whether the education is progressing as specified in the student's individual study programme. A licentiate degree may take the place of the mid-point check.

Before a degree is taken, a seminar is held where the comprehensive summary of the doctoral thesis or licentiate thesis is presented and the opportunity is given for questions and discussion. A further seminar is held in the form of a final rehearsal before the disputation or licentiate seminar.

3 Eligibility and selection

3.1 General eligibility requirements

As specified in [Section 39 of Chapter 7 of the Higher Education Ordinance](#) and the local guidelines laid down in the [Admission Rules for Post-graduate Education at Luleå University of Technology](#).

3.2 Specific eligibility requirements

Degree of Master with main subject/main area in Nursing/Degree in Nursing and completed course requirements of at least 160 credits/240 higher education credits including at least 80 credits/120 higher education credits in Nursing. Degrees in other equivalent subject/areas can be examined as specific eligibility requirements upon admission to third-cycle studies in Nursing.

Good skills of oral and written communication in Swedish and/or English.

3.3 Selection

As specified in [Section 41 of Chapter 7 of the Higher Education Ordinance](#) and the local guidelines laid down in the [Admission Rules for Post-graduate Education at Luleå University of Technology](#).

For selection for education at post-graduate level in Nursing the following selection criteria apply:

- Knowledge relevant to the project in question.
- Personal qualities relevant to education at post-graduate level.

4 Examinations included in the education

The education consists of courses and an academic thesis. In normal cases, research education courses are interleaved with an academic thesis. Examinations included in post-graduate programmes are graded Pass or Fail. Course and licentiate thesis grades are decided by specially appointed teachers ([examiners](#)). Doctoral thesis grades are decided by a specially appointed [grading committee](#).

4.1 Courses

During the period of study, the post-graduate student follows courses both with a general orientation and oriented towards his/her specific research. Goal attainment is tested by means of the form of examination specified in the syllabus. In Nursing, courses in Research Ethics and Theory of Science and courses with an orientation towards quantitative and/or qualitative methods are compulsory. These courses should have been completed by the time of the licentiate degree or the mid-point check.

4.1.1 Recognition of prior studies

As specified in the local guidelines laid down in the [Admission Rules for Post-graduate Education at Luleå University of Technology](#).

4.2 Academic thesis

An academic project in the form of a licentiate or doctoral thesis in Nursing shall normally be presented as a brief summary – comprehensive summary – of academic essays (composite thesis) that the post-graduate student has written alone or together with another person or persons. Under certain circumstances a licentiate thesis or doctoral thesis in Nursing may take the form of a **homogenous, cohesive academic work (monograph)**.

In normal cases the licentiate thesis consists of two separate papers of which at least one must have been published or accepted for publication in an international (*peer-reviewed*) scientific journal. In normal cases the doctoral thesis consists of four separate papers of which at least two must have been published or accepted for publication in an international (*peer-reviewed*) scientific journal.

The licentiate thesis is defended orally at a public [licentiate seminar](#) and is graded Pass or Fail. When the thesis is graded both the content of the thesis and the defence of the thesis are taken into consideration. The grade of a licentiate thesis is decided by an [examiner](#) appointed by the head of department.

The doctoral thesis is defended orally at a public [disputation](#) and is graded Pass or Fail. When the thesis is graded both the content of the thesis and the defence of the thesis are taken into consideration. The grade of a doctoral thesis is decided by a [grading committee](#) that is appointed for each thesis.

Before the disputation, the papers included in the doctoral thesis or monograph are examined by the grading committee who assess whether the thesis is of sufficient scope and quality that a disputation can be approved.

5 Degree

In Nursing, a post-graduate student who has been admitted to doctoral studies has the possibility to take a licentiate degree after completing a portion giving at least 120 higher education credits of the education that will be concluded with a doctorate.

5.1 Degree objectives

As specified in the [degree description](#) (Higher Education Ordinance, Appendix 2 – Degree Ordinance. See also the appendix below.

5.2 Degree title

A post-graduate student who takes a licentiate degree in Nursing receives the degree title of Licentiate in Philosophy.

A post-graduate student who takes a doctorate in Nursing normally receives the degree title of Doctor of Philosophy.

Requests for another degree title are made according to established [guidelines](#).

6 Entry into effect and interim regulations

The previous general curriculum will cease to apply for post-graduate students who are admitted to education at post-graduate level after 1st January 2019. Post-graduate students admitted before this date may choose to either follow the previous curriculum or transfer to the present curriculum.

Appendix

THIRD LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS

Objectives (Higher Education Ordinance, SFS 1993:100)

1. Knowledge and understanding

For a degree of Licentiate (Licentiatexamen), 120 HE credits, research students must

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the field of research, including current specialist knowledge in a defined part of the field and a deeper knowledge of scientific methods in general and of methods in the specific field of research in particular.

For a degree of Doctor (Doktorsexamen), 240 HE credits, research students must

- demonstrate broad knowledge in and a systematic understanding of the field of research, together with deep and up-to-date specialist knowledge in a defined part of the field of research; and
- demonstrate familiarity with scholarly methods in general and with methods in the specific field of research in particular.

2. Skills and abilities

For a degree of Licentiate, 120 HE credits, research students must

- demonstrate an ability to identify and formulate issues, critically, independently and creatively, and proceeding with scientific precision; to plan a limited research project and other advanced tasks and to carry them out using appropriate methods within specified time limits, so as to contribute to the development of knowledge; and to evaluate this work;
- demonstrate an ability to clearly present and discuss research and research results in dialogue with the scholarly community and society in general, orally and in writing, in both national and international contexts; and
- demonstrate the skills required to independently participate in research and development work and to work independently in other advanced contexts.

For a degree of Doctor, 240 HE credits, research students must

- demonstrate an ability to engage in scholarly analysis and synthesis and in independent, critical examination and assessment of new and complex phenomena, issues and situations;
- demonstrate an ability to identify and formulate issues, critically, independently and creatively, and proceeding with scientific precision, and to plan and, using appropriate methods, conduct research and other advanced tasks within specified time limits, and to scrutinise and evaluate such work;
- demonstrate, in a dissertation, their ability to make a substantial contribution to the development of knowledge by their own research;

- demonstrate an ability to present and discuss research and research results with authority, in dialogue with the scholarly community and society in general, orally and in writing, in both national and international contexts;
- demonstrate an ability to identify their need of further knowledge; and
- demonstrate a potential to contribute to the development of society and support other people's learning, both in the field of research and education and in other advanced professional contexts.

3. Judgement and approach

For a degree of Licentiate, 120 HE credits, research students must

- demonstrate an ability to make ethical assessments in their own research;
- demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of science, its role in society and people's responsibility for how it is used; and
- demonstrate an ability to identify their need of further knowledge and to take responsibility for developing their knowledge.

For a degree of Doctor, 240 HE credits, research students must

- demonstrate intellectual independence and scholarly integrity and an ability to make ethical assessments relating to research; and
- demonstrate deeper insight into the potential and limitations of scholarship, its role in society and people's responsibility for how it is used.

4. Scholarly essay

For a degree of Licentiate, 120 HE credits,

- research students must have received a passing grade on a scholarly essay worth at least 60 higher education credits.

For a degree of Doctor, 240 HE credits,

- research student must have received a passing grade on a scholarly dissertation (doctoral dissertation) worth at least 120 higher education credits.