Medical University of South Carolina  
College of Nursing  
Written Comprehensive Examination, PhD Program  

Scoring Sheet

Student:____________________  Date:__________________

Scoring Procedure:

1. Refer to PhD In Nursing Program – Comprehensive Evaluation document for detailed instructions and definitions of criteria listed below.

2. Consider each criterion separately, and circle the appropriate rating for each criterion. Criterion scores for “passing” should be predominantly 4 and 5 and the total score should be a 27 or above. A consistently fair (3) performance or lower shall not yield a pass. Scores of 3 or below require written comments by faculty.

  5 = excellent  
  4 = good  
  3 = fair  
  2 = poor  
  1 = very poor or absent

Technical Merit

- Logical flow  
  1  2  3  4  5

- Quality of references  
  1  2  3  4  5

- Followed APA guidelines  
  1  2  3  4  5

Is the technical merit of the paper acceptable?  Yes  No

If NO, do NOT score the rest of the criteria and return the paper to the Chair and student. The quality of the paper cannot be judged based on the poor technical merit.

If YES, continue to evaluate the paper based on the following 7 conceptual merit criteria, which will determine pass/fail of the written comps exam.

Conceptual Merit

- Clarity of topic and purpose  
  1  2  3  4  5

Clearly states in the introduction to the paper the topic or issue and the reason(s) for its selection. The purpose of the paper is well defined, concisely stated, and congruent with the selected topic or issue.
• Significance
States significance of the topic for nursing (practice and research). The history and importance of the topic or issues are described.

• Quality of review of literature
Comprehensive coverage of the literature related to the topic. Literature is synthesized and logically presented.
  Non-research literature (theory and issues) – Clearly articulates main point(s) of article; established credibility of author/content
  Research literature – Sample: subjects and selection criteria; procedure: description of procedural steps; measures: reliability and validity, description/definition of measurement; results: data analyses described, data fully presented, findings logically presented; conclusions: author’s interpretation of findings, author’s discussion of limitations, author’s discussion of generalization

• Quality of references
Selects significant literature, including classic and current articles.

• Quality of theoretical discussion
Clearly discusses a relevant theory that demonstrates an enhanced understanding of the topic or issue. In some cases, theory may more directly related to another section, such as practice implications.

• Quality of critical appraisal of the literature
Analyzes the body of literature. Summarizes the significant accomplishments in the literature, presents discussion congruent with the reviewed articles and appropriate to the topic and purpose.
• Implications

Discusses the relationship between major findings and identifies gaps in literature, the implications for practice, and further research. Formulates pertinent, researchable questions, propositions, and hypotheses based on the synthesis of findings/gaps. Describes the application and significance to nursing.

Total Score for the 7 conceptual merit criteria: _________
(Score must be 27 or above to be considered passing.)

Check one:

Pass ☐
Not Pass ☐

Positive comments regarding examination.

Suggestions for improvement. Items rated “not pass” shall receive comment.

Note: For passing students, the above comments will guide points for clarification or expansion during the oral exam, and will be shared with the student before the oral exam. Areas of conceptual merit that require further exploration or clarity can be addressed by faculty during the oral exam.

Examining Committee Member: ________________________________

Date submitted: ________________________________
Medical University of South Carolina
College of Nursing
Comprehensive Examination

Faculty Comment Sheet
Oral Examination

Student: ____________________ Date: ____________________

1. Positive comments regarding examination.

2. Comments regarding areas needed for improvement.

Check one: Pass ☐ Not Pass ☐

Signature of Examining Committee Member: ________________________________