* To expand the dissertation format to include a manuscript option. A minimum of 3 manuscripts, with at least two data-based, are required. One manuscript must be submitted for publication or published before scheduling the dissertation defense. Two other manuscripts must be suitable for publication at the time of the dissertation defense. Each manuscript to be included in the dissertation must be substantially related to the topic of the dissertation and comparable in scope and contribution to the traditional dissertation. Further details are found in the Graduate Program Policy Statement for the School of Nursing, pp.41-45 (both track changes and clean copy attached). Form B2 in which students declare their option (traditional or manuscript) is also attached.

Nationally and internationally, PhD in nursing programs are adding the manuscript option for their doctoral students. Rationale includes recognition that publishing scholarly papers is an expectation of PhD prepared nurses in academic positions and top healthcare systems. Students are mentored during the writing and publication process. Having manuscripts ready for/submitted for publication or actually published prior to program completion puts graduates at an advantage when competing for tenure track positions or postdoctoral fellowships.  School of Nursing faculty voted to approve the manuscript option on 10/23/2018. The traditional dissertation option remains unchanged. The dissertation format must be approved by the student’s Dissertation Committee **no later than** the proposal defense.

We plan to implement this option as soon as approved. There are PhD in Nursing Science students approaching proposal defense time who hope to select this option.