



## Research Framework

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Research is a very important part of nursing education and nursing practice. Research sharpens critical thinking, deepens and broadens knowledge and research outcomes can enhance the quality of healthcare. For CUN's BSN programs, multi-cultural, multi-ethnic and holistic principles are key, besides internationally standardized parts of the curriculum and Evidence Based Practice. CUN's nursing programs don't just focus on Western (medical and pharmacological) therapies or other typically Western ways of cure and care.

Research, at CUN, mainly focuses on the following.

1. The role of traditional aspects of cure and care, in different non-Western cultures, countries and communities and how these aspects relate to (modern) Western cure and care, where healthcare outcomes are concerned.
2. The role of traditional, natural and alternative medicines and therapies and how they relate to holism and modern pharmaceutical therapies.
3. The level of healthcare in different countries, related to standards of living, government (financial) support, number and level of healthcare workers and other relevant factors and how they effect healthcare outcomes.

Research at CUN starts already during the first academic semester of the first year, in the form of Research Assignments', for entry-level students. Research for these students will be mainly literature research and research that is part of the curriculum itself (Scenario Research), since these students are, at that point, not yet adequately equipped to conduct or take part in any other kind of scientific research.

During the first semester of the third year (semester 5), courses are offered, dedicated to Nursing Research and Statistics, to take the students to the next level, where research is concerned.

An important educational aspect of CUN's initial (entry level) research is therefore Information Literacy (discovering, selecting and studying relevant literature resources, evaluating them based on its relevance, accuracy, reliability and evidence). Students and researchers can also make good use of online nursing research-databases, like Academic Search Premier, CINAHL, Cochrane Library, PubMed, Academia, ResearchGate and Medline.

CUN students and researchers have access to its research-database and its electronic and physical library.

Students and researchers at CUN are also expected to stay informed about nursing and other relevant issues, by reading relevant scientific magazines and publications, like The International Journal of Nursing Studies (Elsevier), International Journal of Nursing ([American Research Institute for Policy Development](#)), International Journal of Nursing Practice (Wiley), BMC Nursing (BioMed Central) and several nursing specialty magazines and publications. Subscriptions for its 'library copies' are paid by CUN. Paper versions are always available in CUN's library and electronic versions are available in CUN's research-database and electronic library.

### Guidelines

Research papers must be written in APA-style (<https://apastyle.apa.org/about-apa-style>), being the international standard for scientific papers. The APA Workbook and the APA Manual are available in CUN's physical library, but in a limited number of copies. They can also be ordered online. Students and researchers are also allowed to use the PERRLA MS Word add-in or PERRLA Online. Already during the second semester of the first year, students follow a dedicated academic writing course.

Students and researchers may be asked to orally and digitally present their research, using a presentation application, like MS PowerPoint's Research Presentation Template or similar software.



Research is conducted in at least the following stages.

- 1 Name(s) of the researcher(s) and title of the research project.
- 2 Formulation of the type of research (quantitative, qualitative or mixed, literature, clinical, other).
- 3 Formulation of adequate research question(s).
- 4 Formulation of the importance of the research question(s), for nursing and/or healthcare.
- 5 Description of the relevant existing theoretical and/or practical framework(s).
- 6 Formulation of an hypothesis, if possible and feasible.
- 7 Definition and description of
  - 7.1 research method(s), materials used, procedures followed,
  - 7.2 research 'objects' and/or 'subjects' (sample population),
  - 7.3 research data-collection method(s),
  - 7.4 planning.
- 8 Pilot Study, if necessary and if so, evaluation and description of the outcomes.
- 9 The actual Research.
  - 9.1 Collection of data.
  - 9.2 Categorization and coding of the collected data, in a meaningful way.
  - 9.3 Analysis of quantitative data, using statistical method(s).
  - 9.4 Analysis of qualitative data, using descriptive method(s).
  - 9.5 Meaningful conclusions (interpretation of findings) and the answer(s) to the research question(s).
- 10 Preparation and writing of the research paper.
- 11 Publication of the research paper.
- 12 Preparation of an oral and/or digital presentation.
- 13 Presenting the research and its outcomes.

## Revision History

Revision number	Date of Change	Summary of Change
1	January 1, 2023	NA
2	October 30, 2023	Text adjusted to changes in curricular structure.