

# The dissertations produced in the Graduate and Master's in Nursing Program at Universidade Federal do Paraná

DISSERTAÇÕES PRODUZIDAS NO PROGRAMA DE PÓS-GRADUAÇÃO E MESTRADO EM ENFERMAGEM DA UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DO PARANÁ

DISERTACIONES GENERADAS EN EL PROGRAMA DE POSGRADUACIÓN, MAESTRÍA EN ENFERMERÍA DE LA UNIVERSIDAD FEDERAL DE PARANÁ

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## ABSTRACT

This descriptive, retrospective documental study was performed with the objective to analyze the dissertations produced in the Graduate and Master's in Nursing Program at Universidade Federal do Paraná, considering the adjustment of its lines of research. To do this, a critical reading was performed of the abstracts and thematic analysis was used to look at the dissertations and their inclusion in the lines of research, as well as the methods, approaches, subjects, location and research techniques used. A total 64 abstracts were analyzed from dissertations that were available online. Of the analyzed productions most make a qualitative focus and use interviews. It was found that the dissertations are in line with the lines of research proposed in the Master's Degree in Program and their analysis can contribute to re-dimensioning pathways, research lines and studies that the program has developed.

## DESCRIPTORS

Education, nursing  
Education, nursing, graduate  
Faculty, nursing  
Academic dissertations

## RESUMO

Trata-se de estudo descritivo, retrospectivo e documental com objetivo de analisar as dissertações produzidas pelo Curso de Mestrado em Enfermagem do Programa de Pós-Graduação em Enfermagem da Universidade Federal do Paraná, considerando o ajustamento de suas linhas de pesquisa. Para tanto foi realizada leitura crítica dos resumos e análise da temática das dissertações e da inserção na linha de pesquisa, bem como de métodos, abordagens, sujeitos, local, instrumentos e técnicas de pesquisa. Foram analisados 64 resumos de dissertações disponíveis on-line. Das produções analisadas há predominância do enfoque qualitativo e da utilização de entrevista. Verificou-se que as dissertações têm anuência com as linhas de pesquisa do Programa do Curso de Mestrado e sua análise pode contribuir para o redimensionamento de caminhos, linhas e pesquisas que o programa tem desenvolvido.

## DESCRIPTORIOS

Educação em Enfermagem  
Educação de Pós-Graduação em Enfermagem  
Docente de Enfermagem  
Dissertações acadêmicas

## RESUMEN

Estudio descriptivo, retrospectivo, documental, que objetivó analizar las disertaciones generadas en el Curso de Maestría en Enfermería del Programa de Posgraduación en Enfermería de la Universidad Federal de Paraná, considerando el ajuste de sus líneas investigativas. Para ello se realizó lectura crítica de los resúmenes y análisis de la temática de las disertaciones y de la inserción en la línea investigativa, así como de métodos, abordajes, sujetos, lugares, instrumentos y técnicas de investigación. Se analizaron 64 resúmenes de disertaciones disponibles online. Entre el material analizado hay predominio del enfoque cualitativo y utilización de entrevista. Se verificó que las disertaciones tienen anuencia con las líneas investigativas del Programa del Curso de Maestría y su análisis puede contribuir al redimensionamiento de caminos, líneas e investigaciones que el programa ha desarrollado.

## DESCRIPTORIOS

Educación en enfermería  
Educación de postgrado en enfermería  
Docentes de enfermería  
Tesis académicas

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## INTRODUCTION

The advancements in science and technology demand a broad opening to diversity and interdisciplinarity of knowledge, as well as an environment that promotes relationships and interactions centered on developing knowledge and practices, which result in new technology and knowledge in view of improving human life. In this setting, it is considered that knowledge development is the fruit of social dynamics, considering the dictates of time and changes that took place in society. Therefore, the knowledge developed in Nursing shows, over time, to be in line with the social demands and the population's coping needs, especially in the construction of its scientificity, as it represents the fulcrum of care for those who nurses dedicate their practice<sup>(1)</sup>.

In this panorama, Graduate Studies (GS) consist of a place of practice that permits the development of researchers, investigative actions, and processes for producing new knowledge and technology<sup>(2)</sup>. GS emerged in Brazil in the 1960s, approved by the Federal Education Committee, through the Sucupira review number 977/65, and instituted by the University Reform in 1968. Its expansion occurred in the 1990s, increasing its areas of knowledge, searching answers to the needs of preparing qualified faculty to meet the expansion of higher education in the country, and improve their investigative skills of universities by preparing new researchers<sup>(3)</sup>.

The main line of the First National Graduate Plan (1975–1979) was the proposal to expand GS. It emphasized the need to prepare faculty for higher education, researchers for scientific work, and high level professionals for the work market at private and public institutions, based on a more balanced structure between areas and regions<sup>(4)</sup>.

The Second National Graduate Plan (1982–1985), despite having as their main focus to prepare qualified human resources for faculty, research and technical activities with a view to serving the public and private sectors, was already concerned with the quality of graduate studies. Its main purpose was to institutionalize and improve the evaluation that had been in use since 1976, aiming at quality in preparing professionals as well as in performing studies. It contemplated the possibility of graduate models in view of the differences between areas and regions<sup>(5)</sup>.

The Third National Graduate Plan (1986–1989) was founded on the understanding that there was an insufficient number of scientists to achieve full scientific and technological capacity which, in turn, required the preparation of high-level human resources. It, therefore, emphasized the development of research through the

university and the integration of graduate studies to the national system of science and technology, stressing the need to institutionalize and expand research as an element inseparable from graduate studies. As in previous Plans, it reinforced the proposal of different models of graduate studies to supply the different areas of knowledge and regions<sup>(6)</sup>.

Based on this retrospective it is observed that the policy of graduate studies in Brazil was, initially, directed developing university faculty. Next, it was concerned with the performance of the graduate system, and, finally, with the development of scientific and technological research in universities and meeting the national priorities<sup>(7)</sup>. However, there has always been an inquietude regarding the regional unbalances and the flexibility of the GS model<sup>(8)</sup>.

New knowledge is important for nursing and health in order to develop both scientific and technologically<sup>(2)</sup>, and is provided by the advances in nursing studies and because of *strictu sensu* graduate studies from the 1970s to the 20<sup>th</sup> century<sup>(9,10)</sup>. Graduate education, today, is a consolidated segment of Brazilian education that, over the last decades, has made significant contributions to the development of qualified human resources and to the scientific development of the country. It has a strategic role and, because of its level of excellence, is among the main reasons that permit the improvement of the educational system as a whole<sup>(11)</sup>.

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According to the Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Educational Personnel (CAPES), Nursing in Brazil, on January 2011, had 48 Graduate Programs, with a total 72 Courses distributed as follows: 42 Academic Masters (AM); 23 Academic Doctorates (AC) and 7 Professional Masters (PM). Of the 48 Programs, 21 received a score 3; 14 a score 4; nine a score 5, and four a score 6. Statistics show that in the year 2000 there were 16 programs, which reveals that the area increased 300% over the last 10 years, that is, 32 Programs as listed in the year 2000 evaluation<sup>(12-13)</sup>.

Aspects to be highlighted in the graduate programs are the areas of concentration and the lines of research. The area of concentration of a program means the boundaries of the field of knowledge addressed in the investigation<sup>(14)</sup>, while the lines of research are the stems from where the classes and scientific production of a program derive, as they emerge from concrete investigations that the faculty is working on and what their research experience means, and some of those studies can be grouped with a unit that has thematic and theoretical meaning<sup>(15)</sup>. The CNPq provides another definition for the lines of research, stating that they represent agglutinating themes of scientific studies that are founded on investigative tradition, which originates projects that have similar results<sup>(16)</sup>.

The Masters Program in Nursing (PPGENF) at the Federal University of Paraná (UFPR) was established in 2002, and has one area of concentration referred to as *Professional Nursing Practice*; four lines of research: *Theoretical-Philosophical Foundations of Care in Health and Nursing*; *Health, Education, and Nursing Policies and Practices*; *The Process of Care in Health and Nursing*; *Health and Quality of Life*; and a curriculum comprised by nine compulsory and twenty optional classes.

The purpose of the Course has always been to prepare individuals with a masters degree to work with teaching aimed at the professional nursing practice, prepare them to develop, practice, and evaluate teaching and nursing care technologies using different lines of knowledge, and prepare them to produce research in association with professional nursing practice, with a view to learn and teach through research.

The knowledge developed through GS can contribute to establishing an effective articulation between university and society, contemplating a variety of contexts in nursing practice<sup>(11)</sup>. A question is thus made: what are the relationships between the dissertations produced by the Masters in Nursing Program at UFPR and the lines of research of the referred Graduate Studies Program?

## METHOD

This descriptive, retrospective and documental study was performed by surveying the abstract of dissertations developed and defended in the Masters in Nursing Pro-

gram at UFPR, from the beginning of the course in 2002, until December 2008, corresponding to 64 dissertations.

All abstracts were read and the following information was obtained: central characteristics of the object of study, objectives, and methodological framework. Data were collected using a registration instrument that included the following items: identifying number, theme, title of dissertation, date of defense, methodological aspects, and location/subjects involved. The theme item is related to the subject that was addressed in the dissertation. This classification permitted grouping the dissertations with similar subjects.

The documental analysis and a new reading of the abstract as a source of research provided the following outcomes: a) analytical reading of 64 abstracts of dissertations produced in the Masters Program between the years 2002 and 2008, which were available on the website of the GS Program<sup>(13)</sup>; b) organizing and mapping the characteristics of the dissertation, considering the theoretical framework; approach method; procedure method; techniques and instruments used for data collection; place of study and subjects involved. The results were presented according to the lines of research, using descriptive language, and were listed in charts.

## RESULTS

Chart 1 lists the numbers of dissertations produced, according to the line of research.

**Chart 1** – Dissertations produced in the UFPR Nursing Graduate Course, from 2002 to 2008, according to the line of research – Curitiba - 2008

Lines of research	Dissertations
Theoretical-Philosophical Foundations of Care in Health and Nursing	17
Health, Education and Nursing Policies and Practices	11
The Process of Care in Health and Nursing	21
Health and Quality of Life	15

The *Theoretical-Philosophical Foundations of Care in Health and Nursing* line of research is related to philosophical currents, theories, concepts, skills, and attitudes that guide the knowledge and practice in health and nursing, and was accounted for 17 dissertations, which involved three different themes: Home care and its different concepts (four dissertations); Care in the human transition processes (five dissertations); Corporeity in the teaching and care settings (two dissertations); Interpersonal relationships in ICU care actions (one dissertation); Nurses' process of care (five dissertations). Chart 2 lists the descriptions of the productions within this line of research.

The line of research *Health, Education, and Nursing Policies and Practices* is related with approaches involving pedagogy, policies, and education technology applied in the fields of health and nursing; the educational dimension of work in health and nursing. There were 11 dissertations within this line, which covered three different themes: Nursing education: historical and pedagogical aspects (three dissertations); Nursing education and care in mental health (two dissertations); Technological foundations of professional practice (four dissertations); Nurses' action (two dissertations). These dissertations are detailed in Chart 3.

**Chart 2** – Description of the dissertations by identification number, theme, title, date of defense, methodological aspects, location / subjects involved – Curitiba – 2008

N	Theme	Dissertation Title	Date of defense	Methodological Aspects	Location / subjects involved
1	Home care and its different concepts	Uma proposta de educação à distância: capacitando enfermeiros tutores no Programa de Triagem Neonatal	October, 2004	Qualitative	School/ Nurses
2	Home care and its different concepts	O cuidado transpessoal de Enfermagem domiciliar ao portador de transtorno mental e sua família	November, 2004	Qualitative Case Study	Home/Mental disorder patients and their family
3	Care in human transition processes	A (in)visibilidade da prática de cuidar do ser enfermeiro sob o olhar da equipe de saúde.	November, 2004	Qualitative Phenomenological Approach	ICU/Health team
4	Care in human transition processes	Cuidado gerencial e gerência do cuidado na interface da utilização do sistema de informação em saúde pelo enfermeiro	November, 2004	Qualitative Exploratory descriptive,	Health Units/Nurses
5	Care in human transition processes	A transição do ser adolescente puérpera ao papel materno sob o enfoque do cuidado de Enfermagem	December, 2004	Qualitative Phenomenological Approach	Hospital/Adolescent
6	Care in human transition processes	O processo de transição do ser adolescente hospitalizado com doença crônica sob a ótica da Enfermagem	February, 2006	Qualitative Research Care	Hospital/Adolescent
7	Corporeity in teaching and care settings	O verso e o reverso do corpo fumante: conflitos vivenciados	March, 2006	Case study Phenomenological Approach	Workers' Health Outpatient Clinic/ Adults
8	Corporeity in teaching and care settings	A sujeição do corpo exaurido da enfermeira na sociedade contemporânea	June, 2006	Phenomenology	Hospital/Nurses
9	Home care and its different concepts	Diretrizes para a organização do atendimento domiciliar à saúde: contribuições da enfermeira	December, 2006	Exploratory, descriptive, qualitative	Health Units/health professionals
10	Interpersonal relationships in ICU care actions	As relações interpessoais nas ações de cuidar em ambiente tecnológico hospitalar	February 2007	Qualitative Phenomenological Approach	Hospital/Health Professionals
11	Nurses' process of care	O processo de cuidar em enfermagem ao portador de doença crônica cardíaca	December, 2007	Qualitative	Hospital/Nurses
12	Home care and its different concepts	As práticas de cuidado domiciliar à saúde desenvolvidas pelos profissionais da Estratégia Saúde da Família.	December, 2007	Research-action	Health Unit/ Health Professionals
13	Nurses' process of care	A sistematização do cuidado em Enfermagem: uma análise da implementação	December, 2007	Qualitative, descriptive	Hospital/Nurses
14	Nurses' process of care	Relação intersubjetiva do enfermeiro e criança com dor pós-operatória.	December, 2007	Qualitative, exploratory-descriptive	Hospital/Nurses
15	Care in human transition processes	Cuidado de Enfermagem à mãe na vivência do processo de transição de saúde-doença do filho com cardiopatia congênita.	December, 2007	Qualitative Research-care	Hospital/ Women
16	Nurses' process of care	A enfermeira desvelando o significado do atendimento às vítimas de violência sexual expresso pelos profissionais de saúde.	February 2008	Qualitative Phenomenological Approach	Hospital/Health Professionals
17	Nurses' process of care	A construção de um marco de referência para o cuidado em saúde mental com a equipe de um hospital psiquiátrico	February 2008	Qualitative, exploratory,	Hospital/Workers

**Chart 3** – Description of the dissertations by identification number, theme, title, date of defense, methodological aspects, location / subjects involved – Curitiba – 2008

N	Theme	Dissertation Title	Date of defense	Methodological Aspects	Location / subjects involved
1	Nursing education: historical and pedagogical aspects	A metodologia da assistência de Enfermagem no Brasil: uma visão histórica	November, 2004	Historical	Revista Brasileira de Enfermagem
2	Nursing education: historical and pedagogical aspects	Educação permanente: o discurso dos enfermeiros no grupo focal	November, 2004	Qualitative	Hospital de ensino/ Enfermeiros
3	Nursing education and care in mental health	As relações interpessoais entre professor e estudante adolescente sustentados no referencial da comunicação terapêutica: percepção dos professores	December, 2006	Qualitative, descriptive	Escola Ensino Médio/ Comunidade escolar.
4	Nursing education and care in mental health	A dimensão espiritual no cuidado de Enfermagem: vivencia do estudante de graduação	December, 2006	Exploratory, descriptive	University/ Undergraduates
5	Nursing education: historical and pedagogical aspects	A representação do docente sobre a formação do enfermeiro	December, 2006	Qualitative Social representation	Universities/ Nurse Faculty
6	Technological foundation of professional practice	O processo de tomada de decisão do enfermeiro no cenário administrativo	March, 2006	Applied research, qualitative, descriptive	Hospital Institution/ Nurses
7	Technological foundation of professional practice	O processo de trabalho da enfermeira na central de material e esterilização: uma perspectiva tecnológica aos instrumentos	November, 2006	Qualitative, descriptive	Hospital/Nurses
8	Technological foundation of professional practice	Sistematização da Assistência de Enfermagem: uma tecnologia de Enfermagem	December, 2007	Qualitative Research Action	Hospital/Nurses
9	Nurses' action	A atuação do enfermeiro no controle de infecção hospitalar no estado do Paraná	December, 2007	Quantitative descriptive, cross-sectional	Hospital/Nurses
10	Technological foundation of professional practice	Processo de Enfermagem em unidade de terapia intensiva: análise de requisitos para a estruturação de um modelo informatizado	November, 2008	Qualitative, descriptive	Hospital/Nurses
11	Nurses' action	Violência Psicológica na Prática Profissional das Enfermeiras	December, 2008	Descriptive	Hospital/Nurses

The *Process of Care in Health and Nursing* is related to developing a systematized process of care for healthy or sick human beings, in the individual or collective scope, and considering the subjective and objective dimensions of care and being cared for. There were 21 dissertations in this line, and comprised six different themes: The perception of the body in the multiple forms of expression (three dissertations); The process of being chronically ill in adults and the involved nursing practices (one dissertation); Family and care (eight dissertations); Self care in the elderly as a working instrument (two dissertations); The power of knowing and doing in the hospital setting (two dissertations); Nursing care in the elderly (four dissertations); Nursing staffing (one dissertation). These dissertations are described in Chart 4.

The *Health and Quality of Life* line of research is related to the determinants, indicators and expressions of health and quality of life and their association with the health-disease process in the individual and collective settings. In this line, there were 15 dissertations, which include five different themes: Phytotherapeutics and primary health care (a dissertation); Professional caregiver and self care (two dissertations); The system of knowledge and care for the elderly (three dissertations); Determinants, repercussions and representations of the process of falling ill (five dissertations); Evaluation of health programs and services (two dissertations); Representation of masculinity (one dissertation); Violence against women (one dissertation). These dissertations are described in Chart 5.

**Chart 4** – Description of the dissertations by identification number, theme, title, date of defense, methodological aspects, location / subjects involved – Curitiba – 2008

N	Theme	Dissertation Title	Date of defense	Methodological Aspects	Location / subjects involved
1	The perception of the body in the multiple forms of expression	O enriquecimento cognitivo na atuação do enfermeiro: uma vivência da prática	October, 2004	Qualitative	Hospital/Nurse
2	The process of being chronically ill in adults and the involved nursing practices	Sentimentos e percepções do cliente no pós-operatório de cirurgia cardíaca	November, 2004	Qualitative Phenomenological Approach	Hospital/Adults
3	Family and care	A diáde: mulheres profissionais de saúde e AIDS	December, 2004	Qualitative	Health Service/ Health professionals
4	Self care in the elderly as a working instrument	Ações cuidativas da terapêutica medicamentosa do idoso: a prática transformadora do cuidado de si	December, 2004	Qualitative	Health units/ Elderly
5	The power of knowing and doing in the hospital setting	O cuidado nas unidades de hemodiálise segundo a percepção dos enfermeiros	December, 2004	Qualitative Phenomenological Approach	Hospital/Nurses
6	Family and care	Relação creche-família: mito ou realidade	December, 2004	Ethnography	Child care centers/ Family
7	The perception of the body in the multiple forms of expression	A trajetória silenciosa de pessoas portadoras do HIV contada pela história oral	December, 2004	Qualitative Thematic oral history	Home/HIV-positive individuals
8	Self care in the elderly as a working instrument	Cuidar/gerenciar: possibilidades de convergência no discurso coletivo das enfermeiras	December, 2004	Qualitative Converging Assistance Research	Hospital/ Nurses
9	The power of knowing and doing in the hospital setting	Ética e estética no ensinar/ cuidar da Enfermagem	December, 2004	Qualitative Phenomenological Approach	University/ Nurse Faculty
10	Family and care	Doação de órgãos e tecidos: a vivência dos familiares de crianças e adolescentes doadores	December, 2005	Qualitative, descriptive, exploratory	Home/Family
11	Family and care	Vivências e expectativas da paternidade pelo adolescentes sob a ótica da Enfermagem	March, 2006	Qualitative Pesquisa social	Hospital/Adolescentes
12	A percepção do corpo nas múltiplas formas de expressão	A percepção da sexualidade do corpo idoso	December, 2006	Qualitative Phenomenological Approach	Home/Elderly
13	Nursing care in the elderly	As avós idosas cuidadoras dos netos hospitalizados	December, 2006	Qualitative Ethnography	Home/Elderly
14	Family and care	Cuidado transpessoal de enfermagem ao familiar cuidador da criança com neoplasia: um marco referencial	February, 2007	Qualitative, descriptive, exploratory	Hospital/Nursing staff and family
15	Nursing staffing	Aspectos quali-quantitativos do dimensionamento de pessoal de enfermagem em uma unidade cirúrgica de um hospital de ensino	November, 2007	Case studies Quanti-qualitative	Hospital/Patients and nursing staff
16	Nursing care in the elderly	Cuidado gerontológico de enfermagem subsidiando o empoderamento do idoso com diabetes <i>mellitus</i>	December, 2007	Qualitative Converging Assistance Research	Health unit and home / Elderly
17	Nursing care in the elderly	As complicações pós-operatórias do paciente idoso e as implicações ao cuidado de enfermagem gerontológico	December, 2007	Quali-quantitative	Hospital / Elderly
18	Family and care	A experiência da coresidência para idosas em família intergeracional	December, 2007	Qualitative descritiva	Home/Elderly
19	Family and care	A enfermeira no contexto da educação sexual dos adolescentes e o olhar da família	February, 2008	Qualitative descriptive	Home/Adolescents' family
20	Family and care	O reconhecimento pela equipe da estratégia saúde da família da violência intrafamiliar contra idosos.	December, 2008	Quantitative exploratory	Health Unit/ FHS Staff
21	Nursing care in the elderly	Cuidado de enfermagem ao idoso no Centro de Terapia Semi-Intensiva	December, 2008	Qualitative exploratory	Hospital/ Nurses

**Chart 5** – Description of the dissertations by identification number, theme, title, date of defense, methodological aspects, location / subjects involved – Curitiba – 2008

N	Theme	Dissertation Title	Date of defense	Methodological Aspects	Location / subjects involved
1	Phytotherapeutics and primary health care	Subsídios para a introdução do uso de fitoterápicos na rede básica de saúde do município de Cascavel, PR	December, 2004	Exploratory, descriptive. Bibliographic and ethnobotanical survey	Health Units / Families, health teams and municipal health administrator
2	Professional caregiver and self care	As significações sobre autonomia e o cuidado de si vivenciadas pelo enfermeiro no cotidiano de ações e interações	November, 2004	Descriptive Symbolic Interactionism	Health Units/ Nurses
3	The system of knowledge and care for the elderly	Os doadores e receptores de sangue e o sistema de significados de sangue referente as transfusões sanguíneas	December, 2004	Qualitative Focused Ethnography	Blood Bank / Donors and blood recipient.
4	Determinants, repercussions and representations of the process of falling ill	As representações da trajetória do atendimento em emergência para vítima de trauma	December, 2004	Qualitative	Hospital/Adults
5	The system of knowledge and care for the elderly	O cuidado cultural de enfermagem com o idoso renal crônico em tratamento hemodialítico	February, 2006	Qualitative Converging Assistance Research	Hospital, Hospital, homes / Elderly individuals
6	Evaluation of health programs and services	Cuidados de enfermagem realizados ao paciente cirúrgico no período pré-operatório	December, 2006	Quantitative, descriptive, cross-sectional	Hospital / Nurses, Patients
7	Evaluation of health programs and services	Percepção das enfermeiras acerca da utilização da base CIPESC na consulta de enfermagem	March, 2006	Quantitative	Health units/ Nurses
8	Professional caregiver and self care	A relação entre o cuidado de si dos profissionais de saúde e seu ambiente de trabalho: um enfoque nas interações humanas	March, 2006	Qualitative, descriptive. Grounded Theory	Hospital/Profissionais de saúde
9	Determinants, repercussions and representations of the process of falling ill	O perfil e as representações de mulheres com alterações no papanicolau	March, 2006	Quali-quantitative	Hospital/Adults
10	The system of knowledge and care for the elderly	O significado do envelhecimento e do cuidado para o idoso hospitalizado e as possibilidades do cuidado de si	February, 2007	Qualitative Converging Assistance Research	Hospital/Elderly
11	Representation of masculinity	Saúde sexual e reprodutiva: representações e práticas do adolescente masculino, sob a ótica da Enfermagem	February, 2007	Qualitative Social Representation	School/Adolescents
12	Determinants, repercussions and representations of the process of falling ill	Enfermeiros com doença crônica: as relações com o adoecimento, a prevenção e o processo de trabalho	December, 2007	Quantitative, descriptive	Hospital/Nurses
13	Determinants, repercussions and representations of the process of falling ill	O itinerário terapêutico: história oral de idosos com câncer	February, 2008	Qualitative Oral History	Hospital / Elderly
14	Violence against women	Perfil da violência contra a mulher em Guarapuava-PR	December, 2008	Retrospective, exploratory research	Women's Police Department/ Police Files and inquiries
15	Determinants, repercussions and representations of the process of falling ill	As representações da agressão física: subsídios para o cuidado de enfermagem	December, 2008	Quantitative, qualitative, Descriptive	Hospital/Adults

The dissertations were analyzed in terms of the lines of research, and the following were identified, with a partially homogeneous number of productions: *Theoretical-Philosophical Foundations of Care in Health and Nursing*; *The Process of Care in Health and Nursing*; *Health and Quality of Life*. The largest difference in number of dissertation was in the line of research *Health, Education, and*

*Nursing Policies and Practices*, which originated 11 dissertations in the studied period.

## DISCUSSION

It was found that the scientific productions, i.e. the dissertations of the UFPR Nursing GS Program, were in

agreement with the four lines of research, and thus appropriate to the propositions presented in the structuring of the GS Program.

As to the methods used in the dissertations, it was verified the studies used qualitative, quantitative, and quali-quantitative approaches and have a predominantly qualitative focus, with a total 56 (87.5%) productions with this approach; six (9.4%) quantitative and two (3.1%) quali-quantitative. It is understood that some domains are quantitative and others are qualitative, and that the phenomenon sometimes needs to be recomposed and at others, decomposed; that the intention is either to measure or to describe, analyze, understand, classify, interpret specificities of behaviors, attitudes<sup>(17)</sup>.

The increase in the number of qualitative studies de-occurred in most GS programs, covering a large variety of themes in nursing, and it became the main research approach in the second half of the 1900s<sup>(2)</sup>. Health issues, as those of social sciences, have a feature particular of a multidisciplinary approach, with a complex field that demands specific and integrated knowledge, thus it often requires a qualitative approach with a view to understand to change. In this context, it is observed that the course of scientific investigation in Nursing in Brazil, as of the 1960s, shows a predominance of the qualitative approach. This fact is perhaps associated with the nurses' search to develop Nursing theories, searching for a theoretical framework specific to their profession, and thus requiring them to understand the social relationships, and, to so this, qualitative studies were made the center of all the investigations performed by this category<sup>(1)</sup>.

Despite the high percentage of qualitative approach studies in the surveyed material, it is emphasized that we do not intend to judge one or any other research approach. It is understood that the quantitative, qualitative and quali-quantitative methods all have strengths and weaknesses, and are essential for the development of science. It is understood that some domains are quantitative and others are qualitative and that the phenomenon sometimes needs to be recomposed and at others, decomposed; that the intention is either to measure or to describe, analyze, understand, classify, understand specificities of behaviors, attitudes<sup>(17)</sup>.

According to the analyses of the abstracts, we identified four lines of scientific reflection: *Theoretical Reflection*, through the categories: case study, research care, nursing practice foundation. We also identified the creation of proposals and methods, also in the theoretical line, but already aimed at specific concrete realities, mainly addressing the innovative character, for creating theories, based on studies of the practice that improve the everyday practice of nursing; *Historical Reflection*, through two categories: rescue, reconstitution, oral history, life history. In a search for recovering towards attachment; *Experiences of intervention* that are covered of richness, as the researcher is naturally

included in the field, has the opportunity to experiment/test the demystification of making science on one side; and, on the other, in a dialectic process and a changing attitude towards the reality, to theorize about nursing practice, through the following categories: research action, participating research and converging assistance research; Reflection that describes and explores, surveys, diagnoses, observes systematically, compares, evaluates applies, analyses cases, correlates and aims at a qualitative change in the problem. It refers to the direction given to a thought, of an intellectual development, by the master's student, his/her existing practice, or about their future practice aimed at reflections that explore the meanings of the experience and/or phenomenon, such as: ethnography and the phenomenological approach.

When reflecting about the knowledge produced in Nursing, it is emphasized there is a certain tendency for some conceptions, which can be classified. To do this, it is suggested to consider those conceptions in two dimensions: objective knowledge *versus* subjective knowledge, and practical knowledge *versus* speculative knowledge. This classification does not necessarily provide an appropriate description of the knowledge required for practice, nor does it consider that all types are essential. It only shows the tendencies in the conceptions that are used and points at the differences between them<sup>(18)</sup>.

As to the techniques and instruments used to bring the phenomenon and research closer, those used in the analyzed studies were: bibliographic survey, documental analyses, interviews, questionnaires, forms, databanks, clinical exams, group dynamics, visits, supervision, lecture, exhibition, dissemination, measurement, participant observation, non-participant observation, discussion workshops, focal groups, educational actions/practices.

The interview modality was predominant in the analyzed dissertations. It is included in the formal part of field work, in which the researcher intentionally collects objective and subjective information through the statements of the social actors, thus permitting them to address the proposed theme using free answers, as well as those directed to the conditions appointed by the researcher. The fact that it is a technique appropriate for collecting quantitative as well as qualitative data, and very simple to use perhaps explains its wide use in the studied universe. Interviews permit to obtain deep and various information, especially when associated with observation<sup>(1)</sup>.

Another mentioned aspect was the integration of one or more data collection techniques in the same study. This strategy can favor detecting more details and nuances of the studied situation, thus permitting the confrontation of the surveyed data and more veracity. Furthermore, it is highlighted that the predominance of the data collection techniques used is in agreement with the results, especially because of the predominance of the qualitative approach. Therefore, students of the Masters Program showed coher-



ence when they adopted the qualitative approach associated with data collection techniques that were the most appropriate for this methodological framework.

As to the field of research, it served to observe and/or interfere in the performed studies, and the analyzed dissertations included the following institutions: hospitals, clinics, health districts, health units, schools, universities, municipal health departments, police departments, groups of individuals from certain programs and/or institutions.

Regarding the subjects involved in the analyzed dissertations, who can be characterized as key elements, it was observed they were: elderly individuals, adolescents, nurses, adults, families, health professionals, nursing professionals, and men, comprising a panorama to approach health and disease in the many areas of nursing.

Nursing is a profession that has significant staff working in various places and developing a variety of functions in the health area<sup>(19)</sup>. The Code of Ethics (Art. 1) of nursing professionals states that: Nursing is a profession committed to the health of individuals and the population. Its work involves promoting, protecting and recovering health, and rehabilitating people, respecting all ethical and legal guidelines<sup>(20)</sup>.

The changes that have taken place in society also happen, significantly, in the field of health (as the latter is part of the former), in its object, as in the process of health, disease and care, as well as in the theoretical and practical instruments that are founded on the practices and organization of health production<sup>(21)</sup>. The health sector has to respond to the multiple needs, that is, the demands for highly complex technology interventions and specialty that take place in tertiary hospitals. It also works at environments where people spend their everyday lives, so as to promote a healthy life.

The present study findings show that there are many fields of investigation of the UFPR Masters in Nurs-

ing Program, but the themes, goals, and methodological paths have been sought and pursued aim at a horizon of respect, seriousness and the search for improvements in nursing practice.

## CONCLUSION

In the UFPR Nursing GS Program, it was found that the analyzed dissertations are involved in the referred lines of research, with a consistent distribution. The qualitative approach was the most used in the dissertations of the UFPR Nursing GS Program from 2002 to 2008. Regarding the methodological procedures, four perspectives were identified as being in agreement with the development of the studies: reflection, theoretical reflection, historical reflection and intervention. There were several subjects and study locations, which is a reference to the heterogeneity of the profession fields. These scientific productions permit to elucidate some gaps of knowledge in themes that are relevant for nursing care.

Analyzing the works produced at the PPGENF helps to develop an evaluation that allows for re-dimensioning the courses, lines and studies that the program has developed. There is a clear need to look more deeply into the theoretical and methodological issues. This reflection helps improve the program through the exam of scientific strengths and weaknesses, and permits faculty to improve the guidance they provide. Furthermore, it provides support for new studies that will result from the expansion of the program.

The knowledge development generated in the UFPR Nursing GS Program has contributed for establishing an effective association between the university and society, contemplating a variety of contexts, nursing practice subjects, showing agreement between projects, lines of research and dissertations.

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