

## **PART II: PLAN OF STUDY**

### **THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY THE STUDENT**

*On a separate sheet, please provide a narrative in which you discuss your academic plan of study in detail. This document should make clear your specific interests and areas of concentration in your chosen major(s), connections between the majors you have chosen, and the ways in which your curriculum reflects breadth, depth, and/or focus. In sum, you are to discuss the ways in which the course work you have completed (or plan to complete) is demanding, interesting, and rigorous. This statement should include a consideration of course work outside your major. This statement must be reviewed and approved by your major advisor (if you have multiple majors, review by only one major advisor is required).*

The nursing program at the University of Pittsburgh is a structured, demanding, and rigorous program that begins at the beginning of your first year. I have taken all the background knowledge classes related to nursing such as anatomy and physiology I and II with a lab, chemistry, microbiology, and foundations of nursing practice. These classes provided a strong basis for the core of nursing and were important in providing me a solid understanding of health-related concepts. With nursing, I also have taken introduction to statistics, introduction to genetics, and a research class which have allowed me to grow my research knowledge to help me in writing my thesis. These classes helped me to better understand the background and importance of nursing research. My most recent classes include pathophysiology and advanced nursing management of adults with acute/chronic health problems allowed me to dive deeper into the body systems and medical diagnoses. With these classes, I really enjoyed learning about the cardiovascular system which is why I am choosing this as my focus in my thesis. I also had clinical on a cardiac floor and a telemetry floor which allowed me to work one on one with patients affected by cardiac conditions thus furthering my knowledge and hands on experience. I plan to spend a clinical semester senior year on a cardiovascular intensive care unit and to take a critical care nursing class to further my breadth of experience with cardiac cases. With the few open credits I have available each semester, I chose to take social work classes to broaden my skills and help provide the most holistic care to my patients. I have taken Introduction to social work and Foundations of the Welfare State which have allowed me to better understand the welfare system and medical care in America.

**Student's Name (printed)** \_\_\_\_\_

### **THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY THE STUDENT'S ACADEMIC ADVISOR**

I affirm that I have reviewed this student's Plan of Study and it represents an accurate description of the student's academic program.

**Academic Advisor's Name (printed)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Academic Advisor's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**PART III: THESIS PROSPECTUS**

**Thesis Topic**

The Role of Inflammation, Immune Responses, and Ischemic Preconditioning in Acute Myocardial Infarction

**Description of Research**

*On a separate sheet, please provide a detailed description of your thesis project. Include a statement of the question under investigation, a description of your research methodology, and a discussion of your expected results. You should include a theoretical justification for your work to explain how this project will contribute to the field in which the research/project is being conducted. This statement must be reviewed and approved by your thesis advisor.*

During an acute myocardial infarction, many inflammatory and immune responses are at work and I aim to better understand these processes through my thesis. These responses are not well researched currently. By researching them, I will help to contribute to more knowledge about these responses which will further treatment and understanding of acute myocardial infarctions. By first completing a thorough literature search, I plan to isolate specific genes involved in the inflammatory and immune response at work during an acute myocardial infarction. I then plan to look at already-existing blood samples from 30 patients taken when they previously undergone percutaneous angioplasty intervention due to an acute myocardial infarction. These blood samples will be analyzed to assess the gene expression of the particular inflammatory / immune genes that I identified during my literature search. This will allow a better understanding of the inflammatory and immune responses that the body undergoes during an acute MI.

**Student's Name (printed)** \_\_\_\_\_

**THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY THE STUDENT'S THESIS ADVISOR**

I affirm that I will be able to provide this student with a research/scholarship experience similar to that of graduate students in my academic discipline. Furthermore, I believe that the scope of the student's proposed project is similar to that of a master's level student and that the candidate is capable of producing a thesis/project of the same caliber as a master's thesis/project in my academic discipline.

**Thesis Advisor's Name (printed)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Thesis Advisor's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_