

## DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to my family for all of their continued love and support. First and foremost to my parents, Betty and Rick McCrary, for all their years of love and encouragement. It is because of their guidance and example that I am the woman I am today. I am extremely grateful and thankful for all they provided me in the past and continue to provide me today. Although their type of involvement has gone through many phases, one thing has never changed; their commitments to assisting me become the best person I can.

To my sister and her husband, Allison and Joe Koontz. You both continue to support me through words and actions. I value all of your input and appreciate your confidence. To my father-in-law Bill Cramp and mother-in-law Beth Cramp for the assistance with my son, for their involvement in my efforts, and for their love. To my brother and sister-in-law, James and Katharine Cramp. I thank you for constant support, encouragement, and interest in what I am doing.

To my son, Carter Cramp, you are the light of my life. I never knew I could love someone so much. I know this pursuit has taken me away from you for many hours. I also know that one day you will understand why I did this and will hopefully be proud of your mommy for her accomplishments. I want you to know that in the longest hours of this endeavor, your smile, hugs and kisses, and love for life kept me going.

Finally, to my husband Brian, you are my rock in everything and certainly through this five year experience. Without your humor, your hugs, you pushing me forward, your nights alone with Carter, and your love, I could not have done this. You are an equal part in this accomplishment. Thank you for having faith in me when I began to lose it in myself and for not

letting me give up, even through the frustrations. Thank you for understanding how important this was to me and for supporting me every step of the way. I love you with all that I have.

My love and gratitude goes out to you all.