The PhD program is a post baccalaureate degree program designed to prepare scientists who initiate and conduct research relevant to nursing. Expertise in clinical nursing and competence in research are required to prepare scholars to disseminate knowledge and build programs of research. To achieve excellence in the academic program, students engage in activities consistent with the areas of research excellence of the faculty. Moreover, the faculty is committed to the intellectual growth of the student, which is achieved through mentorship and collaboration in scholarship.

The PhD student concentrates on the organization and development of knowledge requisite to nursing practice for service to a particular population. The population may include: age group (children, adults), focus of service (individual, family, or community) and position on the continuum of health (health and wellness, acute and chronic disruptions in health). PhD students are culturally diverse, and many develop and apply knowledge relevant to global health needs.

Student Learning Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Themes/ Roles</th>
<th>Characteristics/Expected outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Research/Knowledge Development | • Conduct original research  
• Critique and integrate different scientific perspectives in the conduct of original research  
• Lead interdisciplinary research teams and participate in team science |
| Leadership | • Understand the evolving roles and responsibilities of a nurse scholar  
• Assume leadership in the conduct of culturally and linguistically appropriate scholarship  
• Lead in advancing the discipline through scholarly contributions and science in the global community  
• Provide career and research mentorship to others |
| Dissemination | • Communicate research through publications and presentations for professional, interdisciplinary, and lay audiences |

Policy

• Generate and disseminate knowledge relevant to health care policy  
• Understand the influence of politics and policy on knowledge generation

Values

• Appreciate the history and philosophy of science  
• Understand the evolving nature of the nursing discipline  
• Utilize professional and research ethics and judgment in the conduct of research

Substantive Area of Specialization

• Demonstrate mastery of in-depth knowledge in a substantive area

Degree Requirements

Our PhD in Nursing program prepares students for careers as researchers, scientists, or university-level faculty members. Students have the opportunity to participate in research that has a profound effect on the science of nursing and nursing practices. PhD students concentrate on the organization and development of knowledge requisite to nursing practice for service to a particular population. PhD students are culturally diverse, and many develop and apply knowledge relevant to global health needs.

The PhD requires a minimum of 57 semester hours, including course work, proposal development and research and dissertation completion. The program is individualized, taking into account student interests, aspirations, and work experience. Students entering the program with a BSN who do not wish to obtain an MSN degree will have an option to take NURS 507 Clinical Knowledge and NURS 508 Context of Care; or to take 6 credits of MSN courses to ease their transition from BSN to PhD. A dual degree MSN/PhD program is available for those who also want an MSN degree.

General program requirements are listed below. Additional coursework may be required or recommended, as determined by the faculty advisor, and area of research. Courses may be taken on a full time or part time basis.

Knowledge Development/Theory Core (6 credit hours)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 506</td>
<td>Nursing Epistemology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 511</td>
<td>Strategies for Theory Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Research Methods Core (9 credit hours)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 518</td>
<td>Qualitative Nursing Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 530</td>
<td>Advanced Nursing Research Methods I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 531</td>
<td>Advanced Nursing Research Methods II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statistics Core (9 credit hours)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 532</td>
<td>Applied Statistics (Possibility for waiver if equivalent graduate level statistics course completed within the past 5 years with a grade of B or better)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**NURS 630** Advanced Statistics: Linear Models 3

**NURS 631** Advanced Statistics: Multivariate Analysis 3

**Support Courses (minimum 12 credit hours)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 609</td>
<td>Health Care Policy and Planning (Taught in an executive/intensive format)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 615</td>
<td>Topical Seminar in Health Science Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Electives** 3-6

**Preparation for Research (minimum 3 credit hours)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Practicum (240 hours required)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 671</td>
<td>Proposal Development (minimum of 3 credits required)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Dissertation Research (minimum 18 credit hours)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 701</td>
<td>Dissertation Ph.D.</td>
<td>1-9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Dissertation Fellowship (upon recommendation to the School of Graduate Studies) for a maximum of 4 consecutive semesters after completion of NURS 701**

**Optional PhD Education Courses**

To insure that graduates from our PhD in Nursing program are prepared to assume the full faculty role upon graduation, including preparation for teaching and mentoring others, students are encouraged to take optional courses that specifically address the development of their teaching skills.

While two of these courses are taught in an intensive format, between semesters, the third course consists of a 60-hour teaching practicum.

**Preparation for Nursing Education Coursework**

- NURS 578 Curriculum and Instruction (3 credits)
- NURS 619 Theoretical Foundations of Testing and Evaluation (2 credits)
- NURS 621 Teaching Practicum (1-6 credits)

It is recommended that courses within this education track be integrated within the student’s planned program of study within the first two years of the program.

All coursework and the teaching practicum must be completed before the student will be advanced to candidate status.

**Sample Curriculum Plans**

See the website for details. ([https://nursing.case.edu/phd/sample-plans](https://nursing.case.edu/phd/sample-plans))

**Traditional Format Sample Plan**

Students who already have earned the MSN degree can enter the PhD program directly and complete the PhD core coursework during fall and spring semesters.

- A minimum of 3 credits of proposal development is required; however, students may need more time to complete their candidacy exam and proposal development and may therefore need to take more credits of proposal development.
- Concurrent enrollment in proposal development credits and dissertation credits is not permitted.

- Full time status is defined as 9 credits per semester ONLY while students are enrolled in their coursework and prior to proposal development. However, enrollment in even a single credit of proposal development or dissertation constitutes full time study.
- Total required credit hours for the nursing PhD (post MSN) = 57 credits

**Fast-Track Sample Plan**

Students with a BSN or equivalent can pursue the PhD degree without earning an MSN. Learn more about our Entry Options ([https://nursing.case.edu/phd/entry-options](https://nursing.case.edu/phd/entry-options)).

- A minimum of 3 credits of proposal development is required; however, students may need more time to complete their candidacy exam and proposal development and may therefore need to take more credits of proposal development.
- Concurrent enrollment in proposal development credits and dissertation credits is not permitted.
- Full time status is defined as 9 credits per semester ONLY while students are enrolled in their coursework and prior to proposal development. However, enrollment in even a single credit of proposal development or dissertation constitutes full time study.
- Total required credit hours for the nursing PhD (post BSN or equivalent) = 63 credits

**Advanced Standing for DNP Graduates**

Students who have earned a DNP degree within the past five years may be granted advanced standing in the PhD nursing program and qualify for a waiver of up to 9 credits.

**Dual Degree Programs**

**MSN/PhD Dual Degree Program**

Students must be accepted into both programs. They select an MSN major or clinical specialty and may take MSN and PhD courses concurrently. Up to 8 credits of course overlap are allowed, depending on the clinical MSN major.

**DNP/PhD Dual Degree Program**

Students must be accepted into both programs and must meet course requirements for both doctorates with an overlap of 11 credits. Students develop proposals for the DNP thesis project and PhD dissertation concurrently in order to facilitate timely completion of both degrees.