

NURSING, PHD

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More Information: <https://case.edu/nursing/programs/phd>

Degree: Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

Field of Study: Nursing

Program Overview

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 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.

Learning Outcomes

- Conduct original research
- Critique and integrate different scientific perspectives in the conduct of original research
- Lead interdisciplinary research teams and participate in team science
- 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
- Communicate research through publications and presentations for professional, interdisciplinary, and lay audiences
- Generate and disseminate knowledge relevant to health care policy
- Understand the influence of politics and policy on knowledge generation
- 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
- Demonstrate mastery of in-depth knowledge in a substantive area

Graduate Policies

For graduate policies and procedures, please review the School of Graduate Studies section of the General Bulletin.

Program 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 practice. 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 of them develop and apply knowledge relevant to global health needs.

The post-MSN PhD requires a minimum of 57 credit hours, including coursework, proposal development, and research and dissertation completion. 36 credit hours of advanced dissertation research will be posted to the PhD student's record upon successful completion of the dissertation defense and submission of final certification paperwork.

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 the option to take NURS 507 and NURS 508 or to take 6 credit hours of MSN courses to ease their transition from BSN to PhD. The BSN to PhD requires a minimum of 63 credit hours. An advanced standing option is available for those entering with a DNP degree; for those students, a minimum of 48 credit hours is required. Dual degree programs are also available, including MSN/PhD and DNP/PhD programs.

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.

Theory and Research Methods Core (4 courses)

Code	Title	Credit Hours
NURS 504	Nursing Knowledge Development	3
NURS 518	Qualitative Research in Healthcare	3
NURS 530	Advanced Nursing Research Methods I	3
NURS 531	Advanced Nursing Research Methods II	3

Analytic Core (4 courses)

Code	Title	Credit Hours
NURS 532	Applied Statistics ^a	3
NURS 533	Data Science in Healthcare	3
NURS 630	Advanced Statistics: Linear Models	3
NURS 631	Advanced Statistics: Multivariate Analysis	3

^a Possibility for waiver if equivalent graduate level statistics course completed within the past 5 years with a grade of B or better.

Scholarly Foundations Core (4 courses)

Code	Title	Credit Hours
NURS 524	Molecular Methods in Clinical Research	3
NURS 609	Health Care Policy (Taught in an executive/intensive format)	3
NURS 615	Topical Seminar in Health Science Research	3
Outside Elective ^b		3

b May be outside the School of Nursing but within CWRU.

Preparation for Research

Code	Title	Credit Hours
	Research Practicum (240 hours required)	0
NURS 671	Proposal Development	3
	Candidacy Exam	0
	Proposal Defense	0

Dissertation

Code	Title	Credit Hours
NURS 701	Dissertation Ph.D. (1-9 credits per semester)	18
	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 ensure 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. These courses are taught in an intensive format, between semesters.

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

Code	Title	Credit Hours
	Preparation for Nursing Education Coursework	
NUND 509	Foundations of Leadership in Nursing Education	3
NUND 609	Systems Leadership in Educational Practice	2

Sample Curriculum Plans

See the website for details.

Traditional Format Sample Plan

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

- 3 credit hours of proposal development (NURS 671) are required; however, in extenuating circumstances, if students need additional time to complete their proposal development, they should consult their advisor for permission to enroll in NURS 672 Proposal Development II (1 to 3 additional credits).
- The candidacy exam and proposal defense milestones should be completed after proposal development (at the end of NURS 671, during NURS 672, or, if granted pre-doctoral standing, within the first semester of enrollment in NURS 701)
- Concurrent enrollment in proposal development credits (NURS 671 or NURS 672) and dissertation credits (NURS 701) is not permitted.
- Full-time status is defined as 9 credit hours per semester only while students are enrolled in their coursework and before proposal development. However, enrollment in proposal development

(NURS 671 or NURS 672) or dissertation (NURS 701) constitutes full-time study.

- Total required credit hours for the nursing PhD (post-MSN) = 57 credit hours

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.

- 3 credit hours of proposal development (NURS 671) are required; however, in extenuating circumstances, if students need additional time to complete their proposal development, they should consult their advisor for permission to enroll in NURS 672 (proposal development II - 1 to 3 additional credits).
- The candidacy exam and proposal defense milestones should be completed after proposal development (at the end of NURS 671, during NURS 672, or, if granted pre-doctoral standing, within the first semester of enrollment in NURS 701)
- Concurrent enrollment in proposal development credits (NURS 671 or NURS 672) and dissertation credits (NURS 701) is not permitted.
- Full-time status is defined as 9 credit hours per semester only while students are enrolled in their coursework and before proposal development. However, enrollment in proposal development (NURS 671 or NURS 672) or dissertation (NURS 701) constitutes full-time study.
- Total required credit hours for the nursing PhD (post-BSN or equivalent) = 63 credit hours
- BSN to PhD Transition Course Waiver form (PDF)

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 credit hours. Total required credit hours post-DNP = 48 credit hours.

Dual Degree Options

- Nursing, MSN/Nursing, PhD
- Nursing, PhD/Nursing Practice, DNP