Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing

Program Description
Advancements in nursing science and health care emerge from the creative research and theory development of nurse scientists. The professionals behind such innovations are most often those who hold a doctorate of philosophy, or PhD. These researchers and scholars who explore and develop the science that drives nursing practice and education are the stewards of the discipline.

The ECU College of Nursing PhD program prepares students for this crucial leadership role. Students are prepared to design and implement a unique research project that will contribute to a lifelong program of discovery and contribution in nursing. Students also develop skills and analytical ability to collaborate on interprofessional projects. The curriculum enriches learning through study in the social, behavioral and biological sciences, and the areas of administrative leadership and nursing education.

The PhD program prepares graduates to:

- Advance nursing science through intellectual inquiry and creative scholarship
- Synthesize knowledge from nursing and other disciplines to promote quality nursing practice, health system improvement, and education
- Contribute productively as scholars within health care, health policy, and academic arenas

The ECU College of Nursing offers a DNP to PhD, MSN to PhD and a BSN to PhD option. All applicants must meet general PhD program admission criteria. The BSN to PhD option blends the doctoral curriculum with two different MSN concentrations: the nursing education concentration or the nursing leadership concentration. This option reduces the number of master’s level courses required in the traditional MSN program and facilitates completion of the PhD in nursing. The DNP to PhD builds upon the previous doctoral education to develop research skills and competencies. DNP to PhD students, with permission of the PhD Program Director, may include up to 21 semester hours from a DNP program to partially fulfill requirements of the 56 semester hour PhD program.

Requirements for Admission
Admission to the Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing program requires the student to meet the minimum admission requirements for graduate study of the university and the following requirements of the College of Nursing:

- Satisfactory performance on the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) within five years prior to admission (not required for DNP to PhD).
- Written personal statement of career, educational and scholarship goals.
- Three written professional references from individuals with expertise to comment on the applicant’s capability for research and scholarship (for example, university professors, employers). At least one of the references must be from a doctorally-prepared nurse.
- A nursing master’s or doctor of nursing practice degree from an accredited school. (Applicants without a MSN must have a BSN from an accredited program.) See below for details on the BSN to PhD admission requirements.
- Grade-point average of 3.2 on a 4.0 scale on all graduate work.
- Evidence of current unrestricted license to practice as a nurse in North Carolina or a NCSBN compact state. Students on foreign student visas must present evidence of professional standing in their respective countries.
- Satisfactory performance on Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) where English is not the first language.
- Computer competency, with proficiency in basic software. The school requires that all students use e-mail and World Wide Web access for communication and course work.
- A graduate statistics course which included inferential statistics.
- A current curriculum vita.
- A representative example of scholarly work done by the applicant.
- A personal interview with two members of the Graduate faculty to include a discussion of congruence between the students research interests/career goals and the expertise and research of the faculty.

Applicants for admission to the BSN to PhD option must meet general admission requirements for the PhD program. Additional requirements include:

- Minimum GPA of 3.3 and no grade below “B” on all previous coursework.
- BSN from an accredited nursing program.
- Approval from the Director of the MSN concentration selected as well as the PhD Program Director.
- Completion of at least two calendar years of full-time employment experience or the equivalent in clinical nursing practice as a registered nurse prior to entering the doctoral courses in the program of study. This is usually accomplished while taking the MSN program requirements.
- A graduate statistics course which includes inferential statistics prior to enrolling in doctoral courses.

Applications are due March 15 each spring for the following fall.
# BSN-to-PhD Nursing Leadership Part-Time Option Plan of Study

## Fall Semester 1
- NURS 6080  Theory for the Practice of Advanced Nursing  3
- NURS 6081  Research for the Practice of Advanced Nursing  3

## Spring Semester 2
- NURS 6082  Influencing Healthcare Quality, Safety, and Policy  3
- NURS 6083  Healthcare, Finance, and Economics  3
- NURS 6986  Analytical Foundations of Nursing Leadership  1

## Summer Semester
- NURS 6983  Administrative and Organizational Theory and Ethics: Applications in Nursing and Health Systems [PhD Elective]*  3

## Fall Semester 3
- NURS 6973  Management of Human Resources and Professional Relationships in Health Systems  3
- NURS 6974  Financial Management and Decision-making in Nursing Leadership  3

## Spring Semester 4
- NURS 6971  Health Policy, Law, and Regulation [PhD Elective]*  3
- Graduate Statistics Course  3

## Summer Semester
- NURS 6978  Nursing Leadership Practicum II  4

## Fall Semester 5
- NURS 8201  Seminar in Research Agendas  1
- NURS 8220  Philosophy of Science  3
- NURS 8226  Statistical Methods for Nursing Research I  3

## Spring Semester 6
- NURS 8202  Seminar in Interprofessional Research  1
- NURS 8260  State of Nursing Science  3
- NURS 8227  Statistical Methods for Nursing Research II  3

## Summer Semester
- NURS 7004  Research Ethics for a Complex World  2

## Fall Semester 7
- NURS 8240  Quantitative Methods  3
- NURS 8241  Instrumentation and Measurement  3

## Spring Semester 8
- NURS 8225  Development of Nursing Knowledge  3
- NURS 8235  Qualitative Methods  3

## Summer Semester
- NURS 8200  Grant Writing for Nursing Research  3

## Fall Semester 9
- NURS 8255  Directed Research*  3
- NURS 8203  Seminar in Research Dissemination PhD Elective*  1

## Spring Semester 10
- NURS 8255  Directed Research*  3
- NURS 8265  Evolving Nurse Scientist Candidacy Exam**  3

## Summer Semester
- NURS 9000  Dissertation Research***  3

## Fall Semester 11
- NURS 9000  Dissertation Research***  3

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*All students must have at least 6 semester hours of directed research and 6 semester hours of an elective. The final 3 semester hours can be either choice.

** Candidacy Exam must be successfully completed before registering for dissertation.

*** Students must take a minimum of 6 semester hours of NURS9000. Students must be continuously enrolled until the dissertation is successfully defended (except summers).

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For more information, contact 252.744.6369

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