

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:

- Integrate philosophical, conceptual, and methodological foundations to guide the generation of new nursing knowledge.
- Conduct scholarly inquiry that contributes to a body of nursing science.
- Develop expertise within an area of bio-behavioral or systems nursing science.
- Demonstrate interprofessional collaboration in advancing nursing science.
- Disseminate research findings through multiple modes including publications and presentations.
- Demonstrate professional stewardship through service and leadership.

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 15 semester hours from a DNP program to partially fulfill requirements of the 54 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 Examination](#) (GRE) or [Miller Analogies Test](#) (MAT) (Required for BSN to PhD only; Preferred – MSN and DNP to PhD applicants).
- Written essay describing impetus for pursuing a PhD in nursing, research and scholarship goals (400 word limit).
- Two 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 master's degree in nursing from a [Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education](#) (CCNE) or [National League for Nursing Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation](#) (CNEA) 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.
- Minimum 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. BSN to PhD students must gain an unrestricted license by the end of the fall semester of the year of admission to continue in the program.
- 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 university 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 or other statistical refresher course approved by the PhD Program Director.
- A current curriculum vita.
- A recorded interview via InterviewStream, available through ECU. <https://ecu.interviewstream.com/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2f>

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 of the Director for the MSN concentration selected and the PhD Program Director.
- A graduate statistics course which includes inferential statistics prior to enrolling in doctoral courses.

Applications are due March 15 each spring for the following 11 week summer session.

BSN-to-PhD Nursing Leadership Part-Time Option Plan of Study

YEAR 1						Total for Year 1 s.h. = 16		
<u>Summer Semester 1</u>			<u>Fall Semester 2</u>			<u>Spring Semester 3</u>		
NURS 8205	Nursing Scholarship & Discovery I	3	NURS 8226	Statistical Methods for Nursing Research I	3	NURS 8227	Statistical Methods for Nursing Research II	3
BIOS 7021	Graduate Statistics (if needed)	3	NURS 6081	Research for the Practice of Advanced Nursing	3	NURS 6080	Theory for the Practice of Advanced Nursing	3
						NURS 6986	Analytical Foundations of Nursing Leadership	1
Total s.h. hrs.		3	Total s.h. hrs.		6	Total s.h. hrs.		7
YEAR 2						Total for Year 2 s.h. = 18		
<u>Summer Semester 4</u>			<u>Fall Semester 5</u>			<u>Spring Semester 6</u>		
NURS 6082	Influencing Healthcare Quality, Safety, and Policy	3	NURS 8240	Quantitative Methods	3	NURS 8241	Principles of Measurement	3
NURS 6983	Administrative and Organizational Theory and Ethics: Applications in Nursing and Health Systems [PhD Elective]*	3	NURS 6083	Healthcare, Finance, and Economics	3	NURS 6985	Management of Clinical Services Delivery and Outcomes OR	3
						NURS 6973	Human Resource Management Clinical Administration	3
Total s.h. hrs.		6	Total s.h. hrs.		6	Total s.h. hrs.		6
YEAR 3								
<u>Summer Semester 7</u>			<u>Fall Semester 8</u>			<u>Spring Semester 9</u>		
NURS 7004	Research Ethics for a Complex World	2	NURS 8220	Nursing Philosophy & Knowledge Development	3	NURS 8235	Qualitative Methods I	3
			NURS 6974	Financial Management & Decision Making in Nursing Leadership	3	NURS 6971	Health Policy, Law, and Regulation [PhD Elective]*	3
Total s.h. hrs.		2	Total s.h. hrs.		6	Total s.h. hrs.		6
YEAR 4						Total for		
<u>Summer Semester 10</u>			<u>Fall Semester 11</u>			<u>Spring Semester 12</u>		
NURS 8250	Research Practicum	3	NURS 8225	Theory Analysis & Application in Nursing Science	3	NURS 8206	Nursing Scholarship & Discovery II	1
NURS 6978	Nursing Leadership Practicum II	4	NURS 8200	Grant Writing	3	NURS 8260	State of Nursing Science	3
						NURS 8255	Directed Research* Candidacy Exam**	3
Total s.h. hrs..		7	Total s.h. hrs.		6	Total s.h. hrs..		7
YEAR 5						Total for Year 5 s.h. = 9		
<u>Summer Semester 13</u>			<u>Fall Semester 14</u>			<u>Spring Semester 15</u>		
NURS 8262	Translational Nursing Science	3	NURS 9000	Dissertation Research***	3	NURS 9000	Dissertation Research***(if needed)	3
NURS 9000	Dissertation Research***	3						
Total s.h. hrs.		6	Total s.h. hrs.		3	Total s.h. hrs.		0
						TOTAL PROGRAM HOURS:	77	

* All students must have at least 6 semester hours of research and 6 semester hours of an elective.

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

***Students must take a minimum of 6 semester hours of NURS 9000. Students must be continuously enrolled until the dissertation is completed (except summers).

For more information, contact 252.744.6369

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