Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing (PhD)

The Research Focused Doctorate

The design of the PhD in Nursing at UAB prepares nurse scientists for the roles of researchers, scholars and leaders capable of making a substantive contribution to the science of nursing. The PhD builds on preparation at either the master’s or baccalaureate level. In line with the AACN report “The Research-Focused Doctorate in Nursing: Pathways to Excellence”, PhD Nursing is designed to be a research-intensive experience. Students are encouraged to attend full-time if their circumstances permit so they will benefit more fully from collaborating with funded SON faculty; however, part-time students are also strongly encouraged to apply. It is through immersion in a research project that PhD students gain the knowledge and skills required for the successful completion of a dissertation. In addition, UAB fosters a wide variety of interdisciplinary research centers and collaborations including the Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS) and the Comprehensive Cancer Center, which welcome participation from School of Nursing doctoral students. Graduates of the PhD are prepared to continue the trajectory towards becoming independently funded investigators whose work will ultimately improve healthcare outcomes for all patients. Please browse http://www.uab.edu/nursing/home/research/phd-faculty-directory for more information about faculty programs of research.

*The UAB School of Nursing PhD offers course work through a dual format (distance-accessible and live formats), with in-person visits required periodically for orientations, summer intensives, qualifying exams, comprehensive exams, dissertation committee meetings, and research practicums for both options. These visits are a necessary component of the research immersion experience and will be scheduled months in advance with faculty and students or on an individual basis when it requires work with an individual student and her/his committee (i.e., dissertation committee work).

Mentoring

Mentoring is at the heart of the PhD student experience. Applicants are encouraged to browse the School of Nursing webpages listed above to become familiar with faculty research expertise and identify those which most closely match their own research interests. Potential students are welcome to contact research faculty to explore mentoring opportunities including opportunities to work on faculty research teams. Mentors will assist each PhD student in planning an Individual Development Plan (IDP) to guide their program of study. Mentoring assures that graduates of the PhD:

- have a solid background in the area of their research interest and will be well connected with researchers in that area, both nationally and internationally.
- have hands-on research skills, experience in developing research proposals, executing research projects, disseminating findings, and functioning as part of an interdisciplinary community of researchers and/or scholars.
- have experience presenting scholarly work in regional, national, and international forums and publish in peer-reviewed journals.
- are prepared for a faculty position in a nationally recognized research intensive or extensive university such as UAB, where research is an important and visible aspect of the university’s mission.
- are prepared for positions in the private or public sector where intervention programs are evaluated and research is conducted.
- are positioned to become national leaders in the profession of nursing.

Admission Requirements

- Prospective students must have a bachelor’s degree in nursing from a U.S. regionally accredited educational institution.
- Applicants are required to submit GRE scores (within 5 years)
- Demonstrate proficiency in English.
**International Students** must meet the following additional requirements:

- Prospective students must have a bachelor’s degree in nursing equivalent to that offered by a U.S. regionally accredited educational institution.
- Minimum 3.0 grade point average (GPA) on a 4.0 scale
- Contact INTO UAB at Phone: 205-934-4686 Email: INTOUAB@uab.edu prior to starting an application
- All foreign transcripts will be evaluated by INTO as part of the application process. Applicants must submit all transcripts, mark sheets, certificates and diplomas from each institution attended in both English and Original language
- Language requirements:
  - TOEFL iBT 90 and minimum of 20 in each of 4 test sections, or IELTS 7.0 and minimum of 7.0 in at least 2 of the 4 test sections
- Applicants are required to submit GRE scores (from exams taken within past 5 years) prior to admission. Students enrolled in an INTO pathway must submit GRE scores prior to completion of the pathway.
- Prospective international students must contact the UAB International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) at isss@uab.edu, (205) 934-3328, FAX (205) 934-8664 to determine eligibility in order to submit an application into any UAB School of Nursing academic program.

**Program of Study**

The PhD in Nursing offers a dual-format, distance accessible or live format, that includes required on-campus meetings (approximately one week per semester) and the use of on-line technology. Full-time enrollment with daily on-campus experiences is encouraged to maximize the student’s opportunities for research immersion and face-to-face guidance by a faculty mentor. Other advantages of being on campus are participation in the research culture of the School of Nursing including daily interaction with other doctoral students and faculty, events such as seminars, lectures, journal clubs, and participation in training and research activities sponsored by the many University Wide Interdisciplinary Research Centers. The web site lists a program of study.

Coursework can be completed in 2 years by a full-time student (minimum of 9 credit hours per term) and 3 years if the student attends part-time (approximately 6 credit hours per term). Students may elect to complete additional coursework to prepare for a specific role. Those students preparing to enter academia upon graduation may elect to complete coursework preparing them for the teaching role; likewise, those students planning to enter an administrative role may elect to complete relevant coursework preparing them for the administrative role. **The graduate school requires that all students complete the entire program including the dissertation within seven years of matriculation.**

**Scholarships, Fellowships, and Trainee Awards**

Funding for PhD students is awarded on a competitive basis and availability varies from year to year. The PhD currently provides full support (tuition and a stipend) for up to five full-time on-campus students; recipients of full tuition and a stipend are required to work 20 hours per week with their faculty mentor’s research team. Additional opportunities for funding for full-time students include School of Nursing Scholarships, teaching assistantships, research assistantships, and the Nurse Faculty Loan Program. Part-time students are also eligible to apply for School of Nursing Scholarships and the Nurse Faculty Loan Program. A listing of current School of Nursing scholarships is available on the School of Nursing website but is subject to change as funds become more or less available. Information about applying for these scholarships can be obtained from the Office of the Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs or the Office of Student Affairs at the School of Nursing. Under the guidance of their mentors, students may be eligible to compete for federal grant funding including NRSA awards from the NIH as well as other competitive national pre-doctoral awards to support their full-time doctoral studies.

**Application Process**

Applications are completed through the School of Nursing at: [http://www.uab.edu/nursing/home/apply-now](http://www.uab.edu/nursing/home/apply-now)

For additional information, visit our website at: [http://www.uab.edu/nursing/home/student-information/acad-prog/phd](http://www.uab.edu/nursing/home/student-information/acad-prog/phd) or contact:

Information about the PhD:

Karen Heaton, PhD, CRNP, FNP-BC
PhD Program Coordinator
(205) 996-9467 | kharpn@uab.edu

Information about the application process:

Jacqueline Lavier, M.Ed
Program Manager Student Success
(205) 975-3115 | jlavier@uab.edu