PhD Curriculum Design

For the PhD in Nursing at the UASON, students will be required to successfully complete a minimum of 66 semester credits beyond the Masters in Nursing or other field. These credits of required coursework are allocated as follows:

- Core (theory, research design, methods, statistics) .......... 30 credits
- Substantive Area .............................................................................. 12 credits (minimum)
- Research Practicum ....................................................................... 6 credits
- Dissertation ....................................................................................... 18 credits (minimum)

Total: 66 credits (minimum)

The curriculum is designed to provide students with a core foundation in theory, research design, methods and statistics (30 credits). A substantive area of concentration (12 credits minimum) allows students to develop depth of knowledge and contributes to an individualized program of study approved by the dissertation committee. Research practicum hours (6 credits) provide the student with mentored research experiences to strengthen skills in the conduct of research.

Students in the Post-Baccalaureate PhD option complete an additional 15 credits of master's level coursework in addition to the coursework listed above. A minimum of 81 semester credits beyond the baccalaureate degree is required to complete the Post-Baccalaureate PhD option.

Upon completion of the program of studies, the student completes a comprehensive exam to demonstrate proficiency in the core, substantive area, and research practicum courses.

Courses required of all PhD students:

- Applied Statistical Analysis Techniques
- Designs for Nursing Studies I
- Designs for Nursing Studies II
- Issues in Leadership and Health Policy
- Linear Models for Clinical Nursing Research
- Qualitative Research Methods
- Quantitative Research Methods
- Research Practicum
- Responsible Conduct of Research
- Theory Building in Nursing

Potential elective courses offered within the School of Nursing include:

- Biobehavioral Foundations in Nursing Research
- Biobehavioral Research: State of the Science
- Child Health Nursing
- Emerging Issues in Child Health Nursing
- Family Health and Caregiving Across the Lifespan
- Theory Development in Family Health and Caregiving
- Family Research Methods
- Protecting, Promoting and Restoring Health
- Interventions to Promote, Protect and Restore Health
- Methods and Measurement in Nursing Research
- Multivariate Methods for Clinical Nursing Research
Elective courses may also be taken within other schools at UAB or, with prior approval, taken at other institutions as transfer credit. Final approval of the individualized program of study is given by the dissertation committee.

Sample Full-Time Plan of Coursework Prior to Dissertation:

A sample plan for full-time study is shown below. The Research Practicum can be scheduled in any combination of credits (1-6) during these terms, and the substantive area credits (a minimum of 12) may also be taken in any term. An additional 15 credits of master's level coursework is required for those in the Post-Baccalaureate PhD option.

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<td>Designs for Nursing Studies I (3)</td>
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<td>Quantitative Research Methods (3)</td>
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Time Frame:

The PhD in Nursing is designed to be completed in three to four years of full-time study.

Part-time study may also be arranged within a planned program of study. The PhD in Nursing part-time plan of study is designed to be completed in four to six years.

All work to be applied towards the PhD degree must be completed within seven years of initial enrollment in the program.