Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing (PhD)

The Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing (PhD) in Nursing program at UAB is designed to prepare nurse scientists for the roles of researchers, scholars and leaders capable of making a substantive contribution to the science of nursing. The program builds on preparation at either the master’s or baccalaureate level. In line with the AACN report “The Research-Focused Doctoral Program in Nursing: Pathways to Excellence”, the PhD Nursing program 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 is known for 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 program 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 for more information about faculty programs of research.

Click here for a fact sheet with more information about the UAB Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing (PhD)

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

- Synthesize historical and philosophical knowledge as a foundation for the design and conduct of research that generates new knowledge.
- Critically appraise and synthesize evolving knowledge as a foundation for a scientific program of research.
- Generate knowledge that informs the design, implementation, and evaluation of interventions that contribute to the advancement of science and facilitate optimal patient, population, and health systems outcomes
- Conduct investigations based upon scientifically sound conceptual and methodological decisions about research designs, measures, and analytic methods
- Demonstrate scientific integrity in the design, conduct, and dissemination of research.
- Generate knowledge that informs the development, implementation, and evaluation of health policy.
- Collaborate with and lead interprofessional teams in the conduct of research and scholarly endeavors that contribute to understanding and improvement of patient, population, and health system outcomes.
- Participate in the education and mentoring of the next generation of nurse scientists.
**PhD PROGRAM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

- A bachelors of science in nursing (BSN) or masters degree in nursing (MSN) from a regionally accredited institution, equivalent to that in the UAB School of Nursing.
- A minimum grade point average of 3.0 overall (based on a 4.0 scale) on all graduate level coursework
- Completion of GRE within the past 5 years
- For applicants from non-English speaking countries: a satisfactory TOEFL score (minimum 550)
- Eligibility for licensure as a registered nurse in Alabama
- A written goal statement which evidences congruence between the applicant’s research interests and School of Nursing faculty research. Specific instructions for essay content and formatting can be found under the “Documents” tab above before upload.
- Submit a current CV/Resume to NursingCAS in the “Documents” tab above.
- At least one sample of independent written work (in English) that demonstrates the applicant’s scholarship potential. Representative examples include a paper, proposal, report, or publication.
- Three (3) 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 doctoral prepared nurse.
- A personal interview by phone or in person with a School of Nursing faculty member or designee.

**PhD Admission Application Instructions**

**Applying for Admission**

The UAB School of Nursing has partnered with NursingCAS, The Centralized Application Service for Nursing Schools, to collect and manage applications to our PhD program. It is extremely important that you carefully read all directions below to ensure successful submission of your application. Successful application submission relies on applicants careful completed of all questions and compliance with the directions.

**DISTANCE ACCESSIBILITY & YOUR STATE**

The *Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing* (PhD) can be completed on-campus or in a distance-accessible format. Applicants who plan to complete any of our distance-accessible programs should become familiar with the regulations governing distance accessible programs in their state. Prospective students residing in states other than Alabama should contact their state’s Board of Nursing and Department of Education for specific rules and regulations pertaining to completion of clinical learning experiences in that state when enrolled in a distance accessible program. The ability to conduct course work is only guaranteed for students in Alabama and in states with an established agreement.

To check on the status of your state, please [click here](#).
Please follow the instructions carefully.

***We recommend ordering all official collegiate transcripts as the first step in the process and have them sent directly to NursingCAS and then complete the required NursingCAS fields for submission of your application.***

Some sections of the NursingCAS application will be REQUIRED by UAB although they are marked “optional”. Please review these instructions/checklist carefully for required PhD Program admission information and note that your application will not be considered until ALL sections listed are completed, submitted, and verified by NursingCAS and all required items are completed for the processing of your UAB PhD Program application. Missing information will delay or disqualify your application.

☐ NursingCAS Application
  - Submit an application to NursingCAS here.
  - Information on how to apply, please use the NursingCAS instruction checklist here
  - Choose the following term designation
    ▪ PhD Fall 2016

Complete the NursingCAS Application and all of the following items

☐ Items to be mailed to NursingCAS
  - Submit official transcripts- All official transcripts must be mailed from the issuing institution’s registrar’s office directly to NursingCAS. In order to expedite the processing be sure to include the transcript request form. Please send transcripts as early as possible and no less than 4 weeks before the application deadline due to the time needed by Nursing CAS to verify your application.
    
    Mailing Address:
    NursingCAS
    Transcript Department
    P.O. Box 9201
    Watertown, MA 02471

    If your transcript is sent to UAB you will be required to reorder your transcript to be sent directly to NursingCAS. UAB cannot forward your transcript as it will not be considered “official”.

☐ Applicant Information Section (REQUIRED)
  - Biographic Information
  - Contact Information
  - Citizenship Information
  - Race and Ethnicity
  - Other Information
• Social Security

The UAB School of Nursing collects the social security number (SSN) for a variety of legally mandated activities, including income tax reporting and administration of federally supported financial aid programs. The SSN is not used as the student’s primary identification; however, students who do not provide this information at the point of application may experience a delay in financial aid processing, and we will not be able to process your NursingCAS application without this information. The UAB School of Nursing has adopted privacy policies and practices designed to protect student’s personal information. Only information required to efficiently conduct our business and meet state and federal reporting requirements is collected.

☐ Academic History Section
• High Schools Attended
• Colleges Attended
• College Transcripts (ALL COLLEGE TRANSCRIPTS REQUIRED)
• Transcript Entry (ALL COURSE WORK ENTRY IS REQUIRED)

Tip: When starting your “Coursework Entry” be sure to have a copy of your transcript(s) in hand in order to complete this section. All college level course work (including in-progress course work) must be entered into the application in this section.

• Tests (GRE is REQUIRED)
  In this section enter: If you have taken or plan to take the GRE.
  ▪ Official GRE Scores within the last 5 years with acceptable verbal, quantitative and writing scores are required for all applicants; (UAB code 1856)
  ▪ TOEFL (for international students only; UAB code 1856)

☐ Supporting Materials Section
• References (REQUIRED)
  Three (3) letters of professional reference and reference forms attesting to the applicants capability for research and scholarship (suggestions include: healthcare supervisor or manager, faculty) and at least one reference MUST be from a doctoral prepared nurse.

• Experience (REQUIRED)
  ▪ Employment, Healthcare Work Experience and Community Enrichment
  ▪ Include the Organization, Supervisor, Dates and Details, this section is a very important part of your application that is required for consideration.
    Please describe your health care setting, and patient population

• Achievements (Highly Suggested)
  List any Awards and Honors you have received

• Licensure and Certifications
  List all Licensure and Certifications
  ▪ Nursing License
  ▪ CPR Certification

***Please upload copies of your nursing license and certifications as instructed below.
Program Materials Section (REQUIRED)

- Documents Tab
  
  TIP: Click here to see submission instructions for the “Documents” section.

  - Curriculum Vitae (CV)/Resume: Submit a current CV/Resume under the “Documents” tab
  - Two Personal Statements (2): Upload personal statements to NursingCAS via the “Documents” tab in your chosen advanced specialty concentration portal. Specific instructions will be given under the “Documents” tab for required essay content and formatting (please answer all parts of the question)
  - OTHER Documents (2): Licensure(s) and Documentation
    Please upload evidence of license as a (1) registered nurse, and (2) CPR certification, all documents must be notarized if you are not a licensed nurse in the state of Alabama. These documents are REQUIRED and must be uploaded in NursingCAS.

- Questions Tab
  
  All supplemental questions in this section are mandatory. Failure to answer all “required” questions may significantly delay the processing of your NursingCAS application.

  ***In this section you will be asked if you currently live in a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA), Medically Underserved Area/Population (MUA) and Rural Area. Please use the following links to answer those questions.


  Rural: http://datawarehouse.hrsa.gov/ruralAdvisor/ruralhealthadvisor.aspx?ruralByAddr=1

International Applicants:

Along with the requirements listed above, international students will also have to:
- Prospective international students are asked to first contact the UAB International Recruitment and Student Services 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. Please note that we cannot ensure program eligibility unless you contact this office. NursingCAS will not issue a refund of the application fee(s) for ineligible students.
- All foreign transcripts evaluated by the Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc. (www.ece.org) OR the World Education Services (www.wes.org), must be sent directly to NursingCAS. Click here for to see submission instructions.
- A degree equivalent to a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited educational institution in the United States
- A score of 500 or higher on the Test of English as a Foreign Language, TOEFL
- Standardized test score. A minimum score of 1000 on the verbal and quantitative sections of the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) or combined score of 297 on the New 2011 GRE.
- Possess a nursing license to practice nursing in the state where you plan to conduct your clinical practicum
** IT IS THE APPLICANTS RESPONSIBILITY TO MONITOR THE STATUS OF THEIR APPLICATION ON A REGULAR BASIS. Please use the “Manage My Programs” section of the application to monitor the status of your application**

*An important note from NursingCAS**:  
Some email providers use filters to prevent users from receiving "Spam" (unsolicited, junk email). Email filters may interpret an email from NursingCAS or a nursing program as "Spam" and automatically delete a message to you. To avoid missing important NursingCAS emails, turn the "spam" or "junk" email filters off during the application cycle. If your email provider does not allow you to turn the filter off, you may have access to a "junk mail file" that archives all messages identified as sent to multiple addresses. Periodically check your spam/junk email file for NursingCAS or nursing program-related messages.

**Who can I contact for help?**

**For questions regarding the NursingCAS application:**  
Contact NursingCAS support via phone at 617-612-2880 Monday – Thursday 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM Eastern Time and Friday 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM Eastern Time and via email at nursingcasinfo@nursingcas.org. Or post questions to NursingCAS by following their Twitter and/or Facebook accounts.

**For questions regarding UAB PhD Program:**  
For additional information on the Nursing program, please contact:

Dr. Karen Heaton – for questions about the curriculum  
PhD Program Director  
kharnp@uab.edu  
(205) 996-9467  
OR  
Ms. Jacqueline Lavier – for questions about the admission process  
PhD Program Manager  
jlavier@uab.edu  
(205) 975-3115