Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing (PhD)

The Research Focused Doctorate

The 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.

*Although the UAB School of Nursing PhD Program is a distance-accessible program, in-person visits are required periodically for orientations, summer intensives, qualifying exams, comprehensive exams, dissertation committee meetings, and research practicums. These visits are a necessary component of the research immersion experience and will be scheduled months in advance with the entire program 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 at http://www.uab.edu/nursing/home/research/research-portfolio 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 program:

- 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.


PhD Nursing Program Outcomes

Graduates of the PhD in Nursing Program will be able to:

- 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.

Benchmarks of Success (in chronological order)

- Qualifying Examination – is standard for all PhD students regardless of their area of study. This is normally taken during the third semester of full-time study.
- Completion of Coursework – takes approximately 2 years full-time or 3 years part-time
- Comprehensive Examination – is taken after the completion of coursework and has both written and oral components. The comprehensive examination is administered and graded by the student’s dissertation committee. The student is provided only two opportunities to pass the examination. This examination may have varying formats depending on the student’s program of study.
- Dissertation Proposal – Must be approved by the student’s dissertation committee. The proposal must include a problem statement, background literature, hypotheses, aims, research methodology, and statistical/data analysis approach.
- Dissertation Defense – consists of a public presentation of the dissertation research followed by private examination by the dissertation committee.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must have an RN and either a BSN or a master’s degree. Applicants are required to submit GRE scores (within 10 years) and demonstrate proficiency in English.

In addition, International Students must meet the following additional requirements:

- Willingness to relocate to the U.S. and Birmingham area in order to become full-time on-campus students.
- A degree equivalent to a bachelor’s degree or higher from a regionally accredited educational institution in the United States.
- A nursing license to practice in Alabama.
- All foreign transcripts must be evaluated by Educational Credential Evaluations, www.ece.org, or the World Education Services, www.wes.org. The transcript evaluation must be sent directly from the evaluation company to the UAB School of Nursing.
- Prospective international students are asked to first contact International Recruitment and Student Services at isss@uab.edu, (205), 934-3328, FAX 934-8664 to determine eligibility in order to submit an application into any academic program listed below.

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Program of Study

The PhD in Nursing Program is offered in a blended format that includes required on-campus meetings (approximately one week per semester) and the use of distance accessible, 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 following program of study is for full time students admitted in Fall, 2014 and thereafter.

Required Courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Pre-reqs./Co-reqs</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
<th>Semester Offered</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NUR 751Q</td>
<td>Philosophical Foundations of Science</td>
<td>Admission to PhD/NUR753Q</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Fall 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>NUR 753Q</td>
<td>Nursing as a Scientific Discipline</td>
<td>Admission to PhD/NUR751Q</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Fall 1</td>
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<td>NUR 752Q</td>
<td>Responsible Conduct of Research</td>
<td>Admission to PhD</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Fall 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>NST 778Q</td>
<td>Data Management</td>
<td>Admission to PhD</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Fall 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>NRM 750Q</td>
<td>Foundations of Quantitative Research</td>
<td>NUR 751Q, NUR753Q/NRM 750Q</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Spring 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUR 755Q</td>
<td>Critical Analyses of Theories, Models, and Frameworks</td>
<td>NUR 751Q, NUR753Q/NRM 750Q</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Spring 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>NUR 742Q</td>
<td>Writing a Career Development Grant Proposal</td>
<td>NUR 751Q, NUR752Q/NRM 753Q</td>
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<td>Inferential Statistics I</td>
<td>NST 778Q</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Spring 1</td>
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<td>NRM 798QL**</td>
<td>Research Immersion</td>
<td>NRM 750Q/NRM 780Q</td>
<td>3-6**</td>
<td>Summer 1</td>
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<td>NRM 780</td>
<td>Application of Research Design Principles I</td>
<td>NRM 750Q/NUR 755Q</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>NUR 760Q</td>
<td>Scientific Dissemination</td>
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<td>Elective*</td>
<td>Substantive Core</td>
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<td>3*</td>
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<td>NRM 781Q</td>
<td>Quantitative Measurement</td>
<td>NRM 750Q</td>
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<tr>
<td>NST 779Q</td>
<td>Statistical Modeling I – Linear Models</td>
<td>NST 758Q</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Fall 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>NRM 783Q</td>
<td>Foundations of Qualitative Research</td>
<td>NRM 750Q</td>
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<tr>
<td>NRM 782Q</td>
<td>Application of Research Design Principles II</td>
<td>NRM 780Q, NRM 750Q</td>
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<td>NUR758Q</td>
<td>Research and Health Policy</td>
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<td>Elective*</td>
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<td>3**</td>
<td>Spring 2</td>
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<td>NRM 798L**</td>
<td>Research Immersion</td>
<td>NRM 750Q</td>
<td>3-6**</td>
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<tr>
<td>NST 780Q</td>
<td>Statistical Modeling II – Topics in Multivariate</td>
<td>NST 779Q</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Summer 2</td>
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**Analysis**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Term</th>
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<tr>
<td>NUR797Q</td>
<td>Writing the Dissertation</td>
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<td>Summer 2</td>
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<td>NUR 799Q***</td>
<td>Dissertation</td>
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<td>Fall/Spring 3</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
<td><strong>74</strong></td>
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</table>

*Students must take a minimum of six credit hours of electives in a substantive core area that will support their dissertation research; additional substantive core elective credit hours may be required by the student’s dissertation committee.**

**Students may elect to complete the six credit hours of Research Immersion all in one summer or they may divide the required credit hours over two summers. Each credit hour of Research Immersion is equal to 60 hours in direct research immersion experiences.***

***The dissertation may require more than 18 credit hours to complete.

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.**

For all PhD students admitted Fall 2014 and thereafter, all regularly scheduled class sessions (e.g., synchronous and asynchronous on-line class session) will be held on Thursday (8 AM to 6 PM, Central Time Zone) for all semesters.

**Scholarships, Fellowships, and Trainee Awards**

Funding for PhD students is awarded on a competitive basis and availability varies from year to year. The PhD program 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**

The application for the PhD in Nursing program is available online through the UAB Graduate School, using a program called Apply Yourself. The link is found at: [https://app.applyyourself.com/?id=uab-grad](https://app.applyyourself.com/?id=uab-grad).

For additional information, visit our website at: [http://main.uab.edu/nursing/](http://main.uab.edu/nursing/) or contact:

Information about the PhD Program:
JoeAnn Kennedy
Doctoral Program Coordinator
(205) 975-9898
E-mail: joeann@uab.edu

Information about the application process:
Jacqueline Lavier, M.Ed
Program Manager Student Affairs
(205) 975-3115
E-Mail: jlavier@uab.edu

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