Doctor of Philosophy

The purpose of the Ph.D. program is to prepare nurse scholars/educators for roles in research, teaching, and service. The program prepares graduates who will contribute their unique nursing expertise to the collaborative development of knowledge to improve health and reduce health disparities.

The goals of the program are to prepare graduates who will:

1. Critically analyze phenomena using a variety of approaches to contribute to the development of nursing science
2. Synthesize, reorganize, and expand knowledge from nursing and related disciplines to inform nursing science and practice
3. Contribute to the development of the science of caring to improve quality of life
4. Disseminate advances in scientific knowledge to diverse audiences
5. Assume collaborative leadership roles in academia, healthcare organizations, research teams, and scholarly networks to promote and improve health
6. Demonstrate integrity in the design, conduct, analysis, interpretation, and dissemination of research

Admission Criteria

1. Cumulative GPA of 3.0 of four points in master's degree work
2. Competitive achievement on the GRE
   - If taken prior to August, 2011, a minimum score of 400 each on the verbal and quantitative, a total of the two sections of 1000, and an analytical writing score of 4.0
   - If taken after August, 2011, a minimum score of 150 on the verbal section, 142 on the quantitative section, a total of the two sections of 300, and an analytical writing score of 4.0
3. A grade of B or higher in graduate statistics and research courses
4. Congruence between the applicant’s career goals and program objectives and between the applicant’s research interests and those of the faculty

Note: Admission criteria are subject to change. Please see the School of Nursing website for the most up-to-date criteria at http://www.hsc.wvu.edu/son.

Application Process

The application process is on a rolling basis. The beginning sequence of courses in the Ph.D. in nursing program starts in the summer semester only. Class size and progression plans may be limited based on available faculty resources and space. Applicants to the Ph.D. in nursing program need to complete the following steps in order to be considered for admission:

1. Complete two application forms as indicated below and return to the appropriate offices by the deadline
   A. Application for Admission to Graduate Studies (available at: http://apply.wvu.edu/)
   B. Supplemental Application of Admission to Ph.D. in the School of Nursing and Ph.D. application checklist (available at http://hsc.wvu.edu/son). Students should be certain that all materials are sent to the following:
      WVU School of Nursing, Student Services Office
      P.O. Box 9600
      Morgantown, WV 26506-9600

2. Request an official transcript of records from each college or university attended. Transcripts and records should be sent directly to the following:
   WVU Health Science Center Office of Admissions
   P.O. Box 9815
   Morgantown, WV 26506-981

3. Send three letters of recommendation directly to the following:
   WVU School of Nursing Student Services Office
   P.O. Box 9600
   Morgantown, WV 26506-9600
   Letters should address the applicant’s expertise in the advanced practice of nursing, skill in research and scholarly writing, and likelihood for success in doctoral work. One letter should be from a former professor of the applicant.

4. Submit a current curriculum vitae.

5. Submit two, two-page scholarly essays, one describing the applicant’s research interests and one describing the applicant’s career goals.

For more information, write to West Virginia University School of Nursing, P.O. Box 9600, Morgantown, WV 26506-9600; phone (304) 293-1386.