Doctor of Philosophy

The purpose of the Ph.D. program is to prepare nurse scholars/scientists for roles in research, teaching, and service. The program prepares graduates who will contribute to the body of nursing knowledge, educate the next generation, and assume collaborative leadership roles in shaping health policy, improving health, and reducing disparity.

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

1. Rigorously test, generate, and extend knowledge to inform nursing science, practice, and policy.
2. Contribute to the development of knowledge and interventions to address health disparity and promote or improve health.
3. Assume collaborative leadership roles in academia, health organizations, research teams, and scholarly networks.
4. Demonstrate expertise within an area of study that incorporates nursing and trans disciplinary perspectives.

Visit the School of Nursing website at http://nursing.hsc.wvu.edu. Call the WVU school of Nursing Office of Student Services at 1-866-WVUNURS or (304) 293-1386. Write to WVU School of Nursing at PO Box 9600, Morgantown, WV 26506-9600

Admission Criteria

1. Transcript of a nursing degree at the baccalaureate level or higher from a nationally accredited nursing program or equivalent.
2. Evidence of current license to practice nursing in the United States or home country.
3. Transcript of master's coursework from an accredited program.
4. A grade of B or higher in graduate-level statistics and research courses.
5. Cumulative GPA of 3.25 in master’s degree work.
6. Examples of scholarly work. This can be a paper from master's work, a submitted article, or some other professional writing.
7. Interview to determine congruence between the applicant's career goals and program objectives and between the applicant's research interests and those of the faculty.
8. Essay describing professional experience, research interests, professional goals, and time management skills.

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

Application Process

The application process is on a rolling basis. The beginning sequence of courses in the PhD 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 PhD 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
   - Application for Admission to Graduate Studies (available at: http://apply.wvu.edu/
   - Supplemental Application of Admission to PhD in the School of Nursing and PhD application checklist (available at http://nursing.hsc.wvu.edu/).

   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 9115
   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 nursing, skills 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 one scholarly essay, describing the applicant’s research interests and career goals.

**Degree Requirements**

**Core Requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NSG 704</td>
<td>Health Care Leadership</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSG 727</td>
<td>Contemporary Nursing Science</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSG 728</td>
<td>Nursing Science Theory/Philosophy</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSG 732</td>
<td>Seminar in Nursing Scholarship</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSG 735</td>
<td>Principles: Nursing Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSG 736</td>
<td>Advanced Health Policy and Ethics</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Cognate/Electives**

Select two 3 credit courses. One course must be an advanced methodology course and at least one of the two courses must be taken outside the School of Nursing.

**Research**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NSG 724</td>
<td>Health Research Statistics 1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSG 725</td>
<td>Health Research Statistics 2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSG 731</td>
<td>Qualitative Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSG 729</td>
<td>Quantitative Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSG 781</td>
<td>Research Mentorship</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSG 733</td>
<td>Research Grant Development</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSG 734</td>
<td>Use of Data</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSG 795</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSG 783</td>
<td>Dissertation Seminar</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSG 797</td>
<td>Research</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Qualifying Examination**

1. Successfully complete the qualifying examination prior to beginning the dissertation.

**Journal Club**

2. Participate in a monthly virtual journal club during the fall and spring semesters.

**Scholarly Events**

3. Attend 2 in-person scholarly events (2 days each fall and spring semester) throughout the program.

**Total Hours**

Total 55 hours

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**Suggested Plan of Study**

Students are required to be on campus for the six-week Summer sessions, once in the Fall for two days, and once in the Spring for two days. During residency, students are provided with an opportunity to participate with nurse researchers and peers in the ongoing development of a scholarly community.

**First Semester**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NSG 728</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSG 732</td>
<td>2</td>
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6 hours

**Second Semester**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSG 735</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6 hours

**Third Semester**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSG 725</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

6 hours

**Fourth Semester**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NSG 727</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

3 hours
Major Learning Goals

**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY**

The PhD in Nursing at WVU is a part-time blended program composed of on-campus classroom and distance learning components. Three years of coursework, delivered online during Fall and Spring and in a blended format with limited time on campus during Summer, are followed by a qualifying examination. Students then complete the research and dissertation phase, culminating in a written and oral dissertation defense. The purpose of the PhD program is to educate nurse scholar-scientists for roles in research, teaching, and service. The program prepares graduates who will contribute to the body of nursing knowledge; educate the next generation; and assume collaborative leadership roles in shaping health policy, improving health, and reducing disparity. The goals of the program are to:

- Rigorously test, generate, and extend knowledge to inform nursing science, practice, and policy.
- Contribute to the development of knowledge and interventions to address health disparity and promote or improve health.
- Assume collaborative leadership roles in academia, healthcare organizations, research teams, and scholarly networks.
- Demonstrate expertise within an area of study that incorporates nursing and transdisciplinary perspectives.

**Academic Progression Standards**

To progress in the PhD program, a student must:

1. Take nursing courses in the sequence stated in the WVU School of Nursing PhD Progression Plan (Appendix B). All prerequisites from preceding semesters must be completed prior to registration for new courses. Courses are only applicable for graduation credit if they have been taken within the last eight years.

2. Achieve an overall academic GPA of 3.0 in all course work. The following guidelines apply to grades in the PhD program:
   - Students may carry forward one C grade in any course. However, a second C will result in dismissal from the program.
   - Students with a grade of D or F in any course will be dismissed from the program.
   - The grade of I (incomplete) is given only when the instructor believes that the coursework is unavoidably incomplete or that a supplementary examination is justifiable. Resolution of the grade of I will occur in the semester following its issuance and before any graduate degree can be awarded. If the I grade is not removed within the following semester, the grade of I is treated as an IF
(incomplete failure). A grade of IF will result in dismissal from the program. When the “I” grade is replaced, the grade point average is recalculated on the basis of the new grade.

- Students can only have one “W” (class withdraw) while in the PhD program.
- If students earn an unsatisfactory or “U” in N797 Research, the chair and student must devise a plan to rectify deficiencies in the next semester. If the student receives another “U”, they will be dismissed from the program.

3. Successfully complete the QE prior to beginning the dissertation. The QE may be repeated once as outlined in the QE section, pages 10-11. If the student passes the 5 year limit and has not successfully completed the QE, they will be removed from the PhD program and their status changed to non-degree at the university level.

4. Adhere to the residency and graduation requirements. This includes active participation in the journal club, attendance at scholarly events as part of residency, and publication of one peerreviewed paper.

5. Meet with his or her advisor at least once a year to review and submit documentation of progression. Following spring advisement, student will complete an online mentor evaluation survey.

6. Generate a syllabus each time an independent study course (N795) and/or a research course (N797) is taken. Working with the chair or instructor, the student will identify course objectives. Before the course is released for enrollment, the syllabus must be signed by both the student and chair and a copy provided to the PhD Program Director.