Doctor of Philosophy, Ph.D.

Degree Offered

- Doctor of Philosophy

Nature of the Program

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 https://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

Admissions

CRITERIA

1. Submission of formal transcript of a nursing degree at the baccalaureate level or higher from a nationally accredited nursing program or equivalent.
2. Provide evidence of current license to practice nursing.
3. Official transcripts confirm an earned Master’s degree in nursing from a regionally accredited college or university. A Master’s degree in a health-related discipline will be considered.
4. Official transcripts reflect a grade of “B” or higher in graduate statistics and research methods courses.
5. Official transcripts indicate a cumulative GPA of 3.25 in Master’s degree work.

Notes: To be considered, applicants must meet all WVU admission requirements (https://graduateadmissions.wvu.edu/how-to-apply/apply-for-2022-2023/first-time-graduate-applicant/#anchor-gpa) in addition to program specific admission criteria. Admission criteria are subject to change. Please see the School of Nursing website for the most up-to-date criteria at https://nursing.hsc.wvu.edu. Any student who has been dismissed from the West Virginia University School of Nursing will not be readmitted to the program.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The application process is on a rolling basis. The beginning sequence of courses in the PhD in nursing program starts in the Fall semester only. Class size and progression plans may be limited based on available faculty resources and space. Applicants should plan to submit an application and all official documents that accompany the application by June 30th of the year of the desired admission cohort. Applicants to the PhD in nursing program need to complete the following steps in order to be considered for admission:

1. Application for Admission to Graduate Studies (available at: https://westvirginia.force.com/wvugrad/TX_SiteLogin?startURL=%2Fwvugrad%2FTargetX_Portal__PB)
2. Request an official transcript of records from each college or university attended.
   a. It is preferred that official transcripts be sent via an online, secure service such as eScrip-Safe (https://escrip-safe.com/signup/), National Student Clearinghouse (https://studentclearinghouse.org/), or Parchment (https://www.parchment.com/) to graduateadmissions@mail.wvu.edu.
   b. Alternatively, sealed, untampered, physical official transcripts can be sent directly to WVU Graduate Admissions, P.O. Box 6510, Morgantown, WV 26506-6510.
   c. Applicants who completed prior education outside of the U.S. must have their transcripts evaluated by World Education Services (WES) (https://www.wes.org/evaluations-and-fees/education/graduate-admissions/). Please request a “course-by-course” International Credential Advantage Package (ICAP).
3. Submit a current curriculum vitae or resume.
4. Provide an example of graduate work (if available).
5. Essay: Read about the research (https://nursing.hsc.wvu.edu/research/) focus of our faculty. Select one or two faculty with whom you are interested in working based on their research focus and explain how your interest aligns with the faculty members’ area of research, referring to their relevant publications. Essay should be submitted in APA format and cover the following areas: preparation for doctoral work (background), why do you want
a PhD (how does a PhD fit in your career plan), personal/academic strengths and weaknesses, research area of interest, and current/long term goals.

6. Interview to determine congruence between the applicant's career goals and program objectives and between the applicants research interests and those of the faculty.

7. Applicants must also provide three letters of reference addressing the applicant's likelihood for success in graduate work.

Note: Any student who has been dismissed from the West Virginia University School of Nursing will not be readmitted to the program.

Admission Requirements 2023-2024

The Admission Requirements above will be the same for the 2023-2024 Academic Year.

Major Code: 8652

Degree Requirements

Core Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<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>3</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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSG 737</td>
<td>Leadership</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
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Cognate/Electives 6

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>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<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 729</td>
<td>Quantitative Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSG 731</td>
<td>Qualitative Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSG 733</td>
<td>Research Grant Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSG 734</td>
<td>Use of Data</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSG 781</td>
<td>Research Mentorship</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSG 783</td>
<td>Dissertation Seminar</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSG 797</td>
<td>Research</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSG 785</td>
<td>Qualifying Examination</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Residency Requirement 1

Total Hours 55

1

Meet the residency requirement of the university prior to taking the qualifying examination.

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 Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fall Hours</th>
<th>Spring Hours</th>
<th>Summer Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NSG 724</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>NSG 725</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSG 727</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>NSG 732</td>
<td>3</td>
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Second Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fall Hours</th>
<th>Spring Hours</th>
<th>Summer Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NSG 731</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>NSG 736</td>
<td>3</td>
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Major Learning Outcomes

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

The PhD in Nursing at WVU is a blended program composed of on-campus classroom and distance learning components. For part-time students it will require three years of coursework, delivered online during fall and spring semesters with both synchronous and asynchronous components. Students are not required to come to campus for fall and spring semesters for regular nursing course work. Summer courses for the first two summers will include limited time on campus. Once a student successfully passes the written and oral components of the qualifying examination, they must 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 trans-disciplinary 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. All prerequisites from preceding semesters must be completed prior to registration for new courses unless a student has obtained permission from the PhD Program Director and the course instructor. Note: Students must be continuously enrolled in order to maintain active status. See the Leave of Absence and Withdrawal Policies in the PhD Student Handbook.

2. Courses are only applicable for graduation credit if they have been taken within the last eight years.

3. Achieve an overall academic GPA of 3.0 in all course work. The following guidelines apply to grades in the PhD program:
   • Grades of C. Students may carry forward one C grade in any course. However, a second C will result in dismissal from the program.
   • Grades of F. Students with a grade of F in any course will be dismissed from the program.
   • Withdrawals. Students can only have one “W” (class withdraw) while in the PhD program.
   • Unsatisfactory Grade. If students earn an unsatisfactory or “U” in NSG 797 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.
   • Incomplete Grades. The PhD program follows the West Virginia University Policy for grads of Incomplete (I).

4. Successfully complete the QE prior to beginning the dissertation. The QE may be repeated once as outlined in the QE section of the student handbook. 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.

5. Within the first semester, complete an individualized plan to meet the university residency requirements for doctoral education. Doctoral education involves many learning experiences that take place outside the formal classroom setting. These involve observing and participating in activities conducted by the graduate faculty, using departmental and University libraries, attending lectures presented by visiting scholars, informally debating other students, and similar activities. To ensure that graduate students experience this kind of informal learning, doctoral programs at WVU generally require at least two semesters in residence on campus. However, an individual student or graduate committee may
propose an alternative plan by which the student can gain equivalent educational experience. This plan must be submitted in writing, approved by the college or school dean or designee, and placed in the student’s program file. See the PhD Student Handbook for specific residency requirements.

6. 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. Complete and submit an individualized development plan for program success to the advisor within one year of entering the program.

7. Generate a syllabus each time they are enrolled in an independent study course (NSG 795) and/or a research course (NSG 797). Working with the chair or instructor, the student will identify course learning outcomes. 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.

Grading Scale

The grading scale for nursing as posted in each course syllabus is:

A = 93-100, B = 85-92, C = 77-84, F = 76 and below.

**NSG 724. Health Research Statistics 1. 3 Hours.**
This course provides development of statistical knowledge and skills needed for quantitative health research. Topics include descriptive statistics, probability, hypothesis testing, analysis of variance, chi square and regression techniques.

**NSG 725. Health Research Statistics 2. 3 Hours.**
This course continues the development of statistical knowledge and skills needed for quantitative health research using SPSS, including nonparametric testing, advanced regression topics and diagnostics, ANCOVA, SPSS syntax, classification, and factor, survival and power analyses.

**NSG 727. Contemporary Nursing Science. 3 Hours.**
Focus is on an analysis of the state of the science for a phenomenon for study. Emphasis is placed on the application of the particular phenomenon to a population of interest.

**NSG 728. Nursing Science Theory/Philosophy. 4 Hours.**
This course builds on philosophical basis of nursing. Discovery and verification of scientific knowledge are addressed by focusing on theory development. Methodologies include concept analysis and evaluation of middle-range theories of nursing and related sciences.

**NSG 729. Quantitative Methods. 3 Hours.**
PR: (NSG 724 and NSG 725) with a minimum grade of B-. Quantitative methods and measurement relevant to conducting research in nursing are studied.

**NSG 731. Qualitative Research Methods. 3 Hours.**
PR: NSG 728. An exploration of the philosophical foundation and methods of qualitative inquiry. Research designs, ethical issues, rigor, integrity, data collection, interpretation, and representation are studied in depth.

**NSG 732. Seminar in Nursing Scholarship. 3 Hours.**
PR: Admission to the PhD program. Exploration of the dimensions of scholarship in preparation for future roles as nurse scholars/scientists.

**NSG 735. Principles: Nursing Education. 3 Hours.**
This course examines the research base of educational strategies in nursing education in classroom and clinical settings. The course also examines external determinants on nursing curriculum, accreditation issues, and evaluation of nursing programs.

**NSG 736. Advanced Health Policy and Ethics. 3 Hours.**
PR: NSG 732. Examination of ethical issues of research and current health policy.

**NSG 737. Leadership. 3 Hours.**
PR: NSG 732. Through exploration of contemporary leadership theory and application to self, an authentic personal leadership style will be developed to enable the student to enact a leadership role in health care and/or education.