

PhD in Nursing

Admission Requirements

Students are admitted each semester depending on space. Admission may be considered at a later date depending on space.

The UMSL College of Nursing is committed to admitting a diverse group of students who will become nurse leaders responsive to the specific needs of the communities and populations we serve. We value diversity, intellectual discourse and rigor, caring, professionalism, mutual respect and support, innovation, collaboration, and transparency. Applicants will be selected using inclusive and balanced admission criteria that measure their potential in nursing practice, education, research, and scholarship. We measure our success by graduates who become lifelong learners and leaders in their communities and in the profession of nursing.

Applicants to the PhD program will be holistically reviewed using criteria such as GPA, a personal statement, an essay, work/volunteer experiences, professional activities, leadership roles, honors, award recognitions, etc.

All applicants must submit the following materials:

- UMSL application for admission
- Transcripts from all previous institutions
- Two letters of reference
- PhD program supplemental application including:
 - Personal statement indicating overview of professional experiences, motivation and goals for pursuing a doctoral degree, short and long-term professional goals and proposed research focus. (3-4 pages)
 - Required essay (directions found in the supplemental application)
 - Resume outlining previous education, work/volunteer experience, extra-curricular activities, leadership roles, honors and awards

Applicants are evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Graduation from a nationally accredited baccalaureate or master's nursing program with 3.2 minimum GPA (4.0 scale). (BSN to PhD track) OR from a nationally accredited master's program with a 3.5 minimum GPA (4.0 scale) or equivalent for non-nurse applicants.(MSN to PhD track)
- Satisfactory Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores
- Two letters of reference
- ~~Original essay on professional goals and research interests~~
- Interview by invitation

International applicants must meet minimum requirements on tests of written and spoken English (TOEFL, Minimum 550 or better is desired). International students must also apply through the International Student Services Office.

Degree Requirements

While each program of study is individualized, BSN to PhD students complete a minimum of ~~65~~ 60 credit hours of graduate-level course work and an additional 12 credit hours of dissertation. MSN to PhD students complete a minimum of 47 post MSN credit hours ~~and 18 to a maximum of 30 MSN hours, which support the program of study, and are individually evaluated to determine eligibility for the application of candidacy and an additional 12 credit hours of dissertation.~~ The overall PhD in nursing program design includes nursing science and theory, research methods and statistics, cognates or support courses and dissertation.

Nursing Science, Theory, and Discipline of Nursing: 26 or more nursing credits including:

- Nursing science
- Advanced nursing theory development and validation
- Discipline of nursing

Nursing Research Methods: 12 or more nursing credits including:

- Quantitative Methods in nursing
- Qualitative Methods in nursing
- Biostatistics

Cognates: All PhD students (BSN-PhD and MSN-PhD) are required to take a minimum of 9 credit hours of cognates. BSN-PhD students must also take 6 credit hours of electives. The advisor must approve the cognate to ensure it meets the College of Nursing guidelines.

Dissertation: Minimum is 12 credits.

Sign-offs from other departments affected by this proposal

None

Rationale

The NURSE-PHD Program Admission requirements have been updated to reflect the update of admission requirements statements and the holistic admission requirements criteria.