Degree Program

- **MSN to Ph.D. Applicants:**
  - MSN to Ph.D. students complete a minimum of 45 post-MSN credit hours and an additional 12 credit hours of dissertation. These 57 credit hours, in addition to 15 credit hours earned from Master’s level work, equal the 72 credit hours required for a Ph.D.

- **BSN to Ph.D. Applicants:**
  - BSN to Ph.D. students complete a minimum of 60 credit hours of graduate-level course work and an additional 12 credit hours of dissertation, which equal the 72 total credit hours required for the Ph.D. program.

- Part-time study is available for either program (MSN-PhD or BSN-PhD).
- Classes are offered online using asynchronous and synchronous methods.

**Areas of Study:** Nursing Science, Theory and Discipline of Nursing, Nursing Research Methods, Cognates and/or Electives, and Dissertation.

**Coursework:**

- Nursing Science, Theory, and Discipline of Nursing: 18 or more nursing credits including:
  - Nursing science
  - Advanced nursing theory development and validation
  - Discipline of nursing

- Nursing Research Methods: 18 or more nursing credits including:
  - Quantitative Methods in nursing
  - Qualitative Methods in nursing
  - Biostatistics

- **Cognates:** Minimum of 9 credit hours
  - All Ph.D. students (BSN-PhD. and MSN-Ph.D.) are required to take cognates in the related area of research. The advisor must approve the cognate to ensure that it meets the College of Nursing guidelines.
  - BSN-Ph.D. students must also take 6 credit hours of electives.

- **Dissertation:** Minimum of 12 credit hours.

**Comprehensive Examination:** A written and oral examination covering the student’s program of study and dissertation work.

**Dissertation:** All students must defend orally a written dissertation proposal to their dissertation committee. A dissertation embodying the results of original research must be accepted by the faculty and the Graduate School.

**Program Website:** [http://umsl.edu/~nursingweb/Doctoral%20Programs/phd.html](http://umsl.edu/~nursingweb/Doctoral%20Programs/phd.html)

**Application Requirements**

1. Complete the UMSL Graduate Application Form: [http://umsl.edu/go/Apply-Now](http://umsl.edu/go/Apply-Now)
2. Ph.D. Nursing Application Materials
   a. Complete the Ph.D. Nursing Application under the APPLY button at [http://umsl.edu/~nursingweb/Doctoral%20Programs/phd.html](http://umsl.edu/~nursingweb/Doctoral%20Programs/phd.html)
3. Research essay including:
   a. Motivation for pursuing a PhD, the research focused doctorate (up to 500 words)
   b. Briefly describe your research interests (up to 250 words)
   c. Briefly describe future short or long-term career goals (up to 250 words)
4. Two letters of recommendation
   a. From individuals who can attest to the applicant’s past academic achievement or capacity to accomplish future
5. A copy of a nursing license issued by your U.S. state of residence or country of residence
6. Official transcripts from all universities attended (UMSL not required)
   a. BSN applicants must have at least a baccalaureate degree at the time they begin the program.
   b. MSN applicants must have at least a baccalaureate and master’s degree at the time they begin the program.
7. Entrance examinations
   a. International applicants must meet minimum requirements on a test of written and spoken English (79 TOEFL, 6.5 IELTS, 53 PTE-A, or 105-110 Duolingo). International students may apply through UMSL Global at https://umsl.edu/global/admissions/application.html
8. Grade Point Average
   a. Graduation from a nationally accredited baccalaureate or master's nursing program with a 3.25 minimum GPA (4.0 scale)
9. Current CV/Resume outlining previous education, work/volunteer experience, scholarly writing or projects of any kind (if any), leadership roles, honors, and awards
10. Four essays
    a. No more than 300 words each, addressing learning, diversity, leadership, and meaningfulness.

Application Deadline
Early Acceptance Deadline: January 15
After January 15, Rolling Admissions until class is full
Students are admitted each semester.

International Students: Given the time required to process international applications, all international applicants must apply by the deadline of May 1 for fall admission and October 1 for spring admission.

Application Fee
$50 for domestic applicants; $40 for international applicants

Program Contacts

Ph.D. Program Director:
Dr. Anne Fish, PhD, RN, FAHA
Phone: 314-516-7077
Email: fisha@umsl.edu

Graduate Academic Advisor:
Kelly Hogenmiller
(314) 516-7193
kelly.hogenmiller@umsl.edu