

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Nursing

Degree Program

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Nursing is designed for students seeking a traditional research doctorate with the desire to master both the broad discipline of nursing as well as the depth of a specific area of study. The PhD graduate is dedicated to the advancement of the knowledge and science of nursing, the stewardship of the profession, and educating new nurse researchers. Part-time study is available for either program (MSN-PhD or BSN-PhD). Classes are offered online using asynchronous and synchronous methods.

There are 66 credits required to complete the PhD degree. BSN to Ph.D. students complete a minimum of 48 credit hours of graduate-level course work, 6 credit hours of electives, and an additional 12 credit hours of dissertation. MSN to Ph.D. students complete a minimum of 45 post-MSN credit hours and an additional 12 credit hours of dissertation, plus 9 credit hours are earned from Master's level work.

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 credits 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: <https://www.umsl.edu/degrees/doctorate/phd-nursing.html>

Program Contacts

Ph.D. Program Director:

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Application Requirements

1. Complete the on-line [UMSL Graduate School Application for Admission](#).
2. Provide evidence of U.S. permanent resident, citizenship, or visa to the United States.
3. Grade Point Average: Minimum of 3.25 (BSN or MSN) GPA on a 4.0 scale.
4. Submit transcripts:
 - Submit final and official transcripts from all universities attended.
 - International applicants are required to document English proficiency by providing scores from an internationally accepted standardized examination before a decision is made on admission.
- ❖ Applicants must have a BSN or MSN degree from an accredited nursing program in the United States.
5. Submit the College of Nursing PhD supplemental application materials.
 - ❖ Evidence of current registered nurse licensure in all states licensed to practice.
 - ❖ Current CV/Resume
 - ❖ Research Essay, which should respond to the following attributes:
 - Motivation for pursuing a PhD (500 word max)
 - Briefly describe your research interests (250 word max)
 - Briefly describe future short or long-term career goals (250 word max)
 - ❖ Four essays (300 word max each), which should respond to the following attributes:
 - Learning
Describe how you think about and pursue learning in your profession.
 - Diversity
Diversity Awareness is a set of conscious practices that involves recognizing and demonstrating acceptance and understanding different perspectives, which are different from yours. These can be socio- economic backgrounds, race, genders, substance abuse dependence, disabling mental health issues, sexual orientation in a safe, positive, and fostering way. Discuss a nursing practice experience that helped you understand the importance of diversity awareness in everyday nursing practice.
 - Meaningfulness
Describe an activity that brings meaning to your life.
 - Leadership
Describe your experience with leadership and your individual leadership style.
 - ❖ Two Letters of Recommendation
 - Letters of reference should be written on official stationery and should contain evaluations of your work accomplishments thus far and of your potential as a graduate student. Your references are welcome to comment on other matters; for instance, on your leadership or community involvement.

Application Deadline

The priority deadline for receipt of all admission materials is January 15 of each year for the following fall admission. After January 15, rolling admissions across semesters. Only completed applications with all required documents (official transcripts, letters of recommendation, essays, etc.) are reviewed for admission. Notification of acceptance to the PhD program occurs by March for applications received by the priority deadline. Notification of acceptance occurs within four weeks during the rolling admission period.

Application Fee

\$50 for domestic applicants; \$40 for international applicants