

Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing Science Degree

Overview

The Ph.D. degree is designed to prepare graduates for a lifetime of intellectual inquiry through creative scholarship and research. Objectives for this doctoral program are that students acquire the knowledge and skills to conduct research that is theory generating and/or theory testing, and the ability to generate and refine nursing science as the basis for nursing practice, education, and/or administration.

Admission Requirements

Regulations governing admission to graduate study in nursing include those established by both the Graduate School and the College of Nursing. Specific requirements for admission are:

1. One of the following options:
 - a. B.S.N. entry
 - b. M.S.N. entry
 - c. Non-M.S.N. master's entry
2. General GRE verbal and quantitative scores.
3. Registered nurse licensure in South Carolina or eligibility for South Carolina Licensure.
4. Transcripts of all previous college studies.
5. Completed application to The Graduate School with the College of Nursing supplement.
6. Potential for scholarship in nursing science as evidenced by the following:
 - a. Two or three examples of scholarly work
 - b. Written statement of career goals
 - c. Three letters of reference from doctorally prepared nurses
 - d. Admission interview

Application Process

Applications are to be completed and submitted online to the Graduate School at www.gradschool.sc.edu. Completed applications may be submitted throughout the year for annual fall admission (**deadline is May 1st**). Students will be notified of admission status by June 15.

Degree Requirements

1. Completion of USC residency requirement.
2. Completion of an approved program of courses totaling not less than 60 credit hours for master's entry options and not less than 87 credit hours for B.S.N. entry option.
3. Completion of the admission-to-candidacy examination at least one full academic year prior to the date on which the degree is to be granted.
4. Completion of a language requirement, met through either a reading knowledge of a foreign language or competency in statistics/research methods specific to the student's proposed course of study.
5. Completion of a mentored research experience under the supervision of College of Nursing faculty (NURS 898)
6. Completion of a comprehensive examination taken after admission to candidacy and completion of all course requirements except those courses in which the student is currently enrolled.
7. Completion and oral defense of a doctoral dissertation.
8. At the time of graduation, the student's cumulative grade point average must be at least 3.00 (on a 4.00 scale). Additionally, the student's average on all grades recorded on the Program of Study must be 3.00 and the student's GPA for courses numbered 700 or above, recorded on the Program of Study, must be at least 3.00.

For complete information see Graduate Bulletin: <http://www.gradschool.sc.edu>

PhD Curriculum (Masters Entry)

Core Courses (minimum of 27 hours required)

Nursing Theory:

NURS 800	Philosophical Foundations of Nursing Science	3 Hours
NURS 801	Theory Analysis for Nursing Science	3 Hours
NURS 802	Theory Analysis and Development	3 Hours

Nursing Research:

NURS 810	Advanced Research Methods	3 Hours
NURS 811	Quantitative Methods in Nursing Research	3 Hours
NURS 813	Qualitative Methods in Nursing Research	3 Hours

Theory-Research Synthesis:

NURS 803	Scientific Knowledge in Nursing	3 Hours
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Statistics:

At least 3 hours must be taken outside of nursing 3-9 Hours

Mentored Research (minimum of 3 hours required)

Research Internship: NURS 898 (3 hours minimum for students completing 6 hours of statistics outside of nursing; a minimum of 6 hours required for students completing only 3 hours of statistics outside of nursing)

Contributing Courses (minimum of 18 hours required)

Advanced Nursing Courses: (6-12 hours)

Elective Courses: 6 hours must be taken outside of nursing (9-15 hours)

Independent Study: (0-6 hours)

Dissertation: NURS 899 (12 hours)

Revised 1-26-2010