Degree Requirements & Curriculum

PhD In Nursing Science

The PhD in Nursing Science program requires 41 credit hours of coursework plus 9 credit hours of dissertation. Students are required to work with their advisor to develop a plan of study. The initial plan must first be approved by the academic advisor and then the PhD in Nursing Science Program Committee by the end of the first semester of study in the program.

In addition to coursework, degree completion requires successful completion of a written comprehensive examination, successful defense of the dissertation proposal and successful defense of the dissertation.

Please refer to the Graduate Program Policy Manual for more specific details about these processes and selection of examination and dissertation committees. Students are expected to complete the program in seven years.

Curriculum

Coursework will be specified in the student’s plan of study and must include the following:

**Core Courses (13 credits):**
- NURS 810: Philosophical and Theoretical Basis of Nursing Science
- NURS 849: Philosophy Theory & Curriculum in Nursing Education
- NURS 843: Policy & Finance for Health Care Delivery
- NURS 839: Nurse Scientist Seminar I
- NURS 850: Dissertation Proposal Seminar
- NURS 870: Writing for Dissemination

**Research/Methods/Analysis Courses (16 credits):**
- Statistics from EDUCATION, PSYCHOLOGY, SOCIOLOGY
- NURS 812: Responsible Conduct of Research
- NURS 814: Advanced Quantitative Research in Nursing Science
- NURS 816: Advanced Qualitative Research in Nursing Science
- Research Methodology Course: Course offered by other departments and is relevant to student’s research focus, determined with academic advisor and with approval of course faculty.

**Cognate Electives (12-24 credits):**
Electives taken to build substantive knowledge in area of dissertation topic.
Electives are intended to enhance and broaden the student’s scholarly involvement, build an inter-professional team of advisors, and contribute to successful completion of the dissertation, determined with academic advisor and with approval of course faculty.

**Pre-Candidacy Study NURS 964: (3-12 credits P/F)**
Research and readings in preparation of dissertation topic and/or comprehensive examination for doctoral students before admission to candidacy but after completion of all required course work

**Dissertation (9 credits):**
- NURS 969: Doctoral Dissertation
- NURS 999: Dissertation Sustaining (if needed)

*Students entering post BSN will take 24 credits, post MSN students will take 12 credits.

For additional information contact Mrs. Joanne Marra, Graduate Program Assistant
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