

## **Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing Program (MSN-PhD)**

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### **Admission Guidelines**

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in nursing graduate is prepared as a clinical researcher. These research skills will be based on the integration of knowledge from biological, behavioral and clinical sciences. Clinical research skills will contribute to the scientific basis of care provided to individuals across the lifespan and in any setting where care is provided. Graduates will also have leadership skills necessary to serve as senior academicians and influence health care systems and policy.

### **Online, but Hands On**

The PhD program has been developed so that students maintain continuous online progress throughout the year and focus on discourse, debate and integration of ideas through annual campus visits. Students benefit from innovative teaching and mentoring strategies, multiple methods of curriculum delivery matched to course objectives and a faculty who is committed to preparing graduates for a career in clinical research and academia. Students will need Internet access for courses.

Students begin their matriculation in the fall quarter and come to the Rush campus for their first Learning Intensive Visit (LIV). Campus visits are scheduled each summer term thereafter.

### **Program of Study**

The MSN-PhD program of study requires a minimum of 90 quarter hours of post-baccalaureate study plus the completion of an advanced clinical research practicum (candidacy) and dissertation. Students with a master's degree in nursing may transfer up to 24 master's level hours. The curriculum is designed to enhance the quest for knowledge essential for a scholarly research career. It combines core courses in research, theory and role development with cognate and supporting courses in the area of the student's research. Research practicum arrangements are individually tailored to the student's area of interest. Under the guidance of the faculty advisor, research practica may be completed within the Rush network or at other approved sites. Students must have completed a minimum of four (4) quarter/three (3) semester hours of graduate statistics prior to the beginning of the fall quarter (NUR 510 or equivalent).

### **Program Requirements and Commitment to an Area of Inquiry**

Before students enter the program, it is also important that they identify the research area or clinical population in which they are interested. This will assure that a close match between the student and advisor can be made and that their program of study will be more focused and proceed in a timely manner.

The applicant must demonstrate commitment to one of the broad areas of inquiry in which the College of Nursing can provide senior mentorship and outstanding research practica experiences. Currently, these areas focus on health promotion/risk reduction interventions across the lifespan, and include such topics as health benefits of breastfeeding premature infants, early childhood mental health promotion, aging and family issues, and cardiovascular health. Particular types of interventions include complementary and alternative medicine approaches, physical activity and technological advances, including telehealth. Outcomes of interest focus on improved mental and physical health, and a reduction of health care costs. Attention is also given to the conduct of research in a multidisciplinary context and with underserved populations. As these research areas change or expand, prospective students should inquire about the availability of faculty research foci when making application.

### **Commitment to Full Time Study**

It is recommended that the applicant commit to pursuing full-time study to enable timely completion of the program, as well as continuity in the development of his/her research. Completion of the program within three years will be possible for many students. A part-time program of study requires an additional year of study.

### **Commitment to Pursue Pre-Doctoral Research Support**

Although personal assets and financial aid can provide partial support for full time study, pre-doctoral training fellowships, as well as research and educational assistantships, are important to almost every student. The program requires the student to work with an advisor to prepare a pre-doctoral fellowship application that can provide support for tuition and living costs during the second year of study. Students who do not require this type of assistance will also be expected to develop an application (albeit unsubmitted to a funding agency) because of the impact this experience has on the graduate's research interests, writing skills and critical thinking.

### **Commitment to Develop Scholarly Publication Skills**

Faculty are committed to working closely with students to develop and submit manuscripts for publication throughout the program. It is highly desirable for students to have a minimum of one published manuscript upon graduation. Students will also use the European or Manuscript Dissertation Format to further advance their publication experience.

[To view the PhD Training Program Overview, click here now.](#)

Annual campus visits are in the first fall term of matriculation and each summer term thereafter.

[To view the MSN to PhD \(Clinical Specialty-Full Time\) Program of Study, click here now.](#)

[To view the MSN to PhD \(Clinical Specialty-Part Time\) Program of Study, click here now.](#)

[To view the MSN to PhD \(Generalist-Full Time\) Program of Study, click here now.](#)

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Cognate courses may be taken at Rush or other appropriate institutions. This is planned with your academic advisor.

\*Prerequisite to NUR 586: 4 quarter hours or 3 semester hours of graduate level statistics.

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[Click here to access the PhD program of study for students enrolled prior to the Fall of 2008.](#)