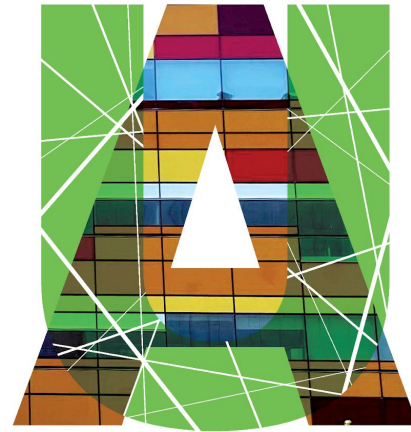# YOUR APPLICATION FOR PHD STUDIES
FACULTY OF NURSING

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Graduate Program Administrators

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

NURSING
1st in Canada
5th in the world

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

The University of Alberta respectfully acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, a traditional gathering place for diverse Indigenous peoples including the Cree, Blackfoot, Métis, Nakota Sioux, Iroquois, Dene, Ojibway/Saulteaux/Anishinaabe, Inuit, and many others whose histories, languages, and cultures continue to influence our vibrant community.
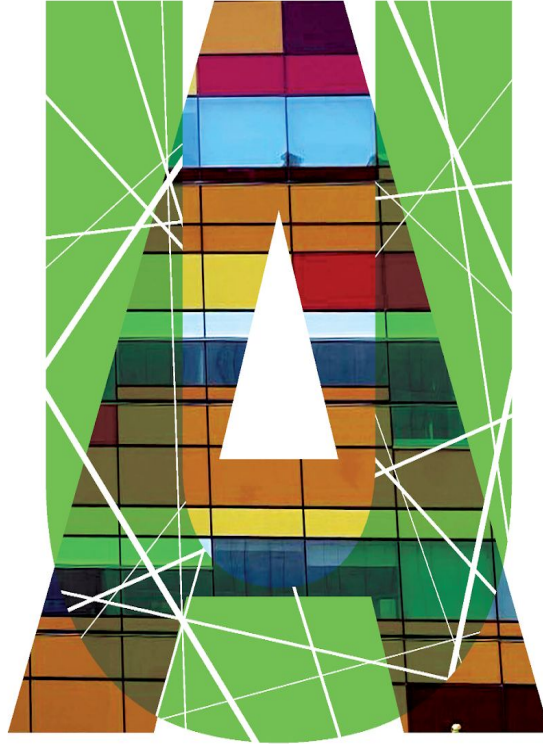

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

AGENDA

Why pursue doctoral studies in Nursing at the University of Alberta?

Are you ready to become a doctoral scholar?

What does the PhD program look like?

How will my application be assessed?

- **Establish relationships with top Canadian Nursing faculty**
  - Award winning researchers and teachers
  - High impact programs of research (e.g. aging, immunization, oncology, children's health, cardiology, social inequity, global health) addressing current health issues
- **Talented classmates become your professional network as distinguished alumni**
  - Classmates bring diverse perspectives and experience of nursing
  - Build lifelong professional network for mentoring, support, and opportunities
- **Flexible delivery on-campus and hybrid online**
  - Modest residency requirement (one academic term)

Reputation and
Top Nursing Talent

Become a
UofA Nursing Alumna!

Faculty of Nursing History and Track Record

- Nursing School at University of Alberta established in 1918

- Baccalaureate Nursing program opened in 1923

- MN program established in 1975

- PhD program established in 1991 (first PhD Nursing in Canada)

- Nursing is a key contributor to the success of the University of Alberta as a research-intensive university

- Re-energize your nursing career to prepare for health systems in a post-COVID world.

- Advance nursing knowledge and skills needed for health system leadership and transformation.

- Excellent research training for academic, career scientist, health system leadership, and health policy/planning roles.

- Contribute to health research impacting national and international health and health system issues.

- Generate and apply research findings to analyze and solve problems in health systems.

Why pursue doctoral studies in Nursing?

Are you ready to become a Doctoral Scholar?

Why are YOU interested in pursuing a doctoral degree?

What is your motivation for pursuing a doctorate in Nursing?

Career advancement

Desire to answer questions arising from nursing practice

Interest in nursing theory, statistics, research methods

Encouragement from employer

Achieve personal life goals

Desire for more confidence and influence when voicing opinions

How would your preferred career pathway be strengthened by research skills?

- Application of research findings to clinical practice

- Developing research proposals for the discovery of knowledge

- Conducting research to advance nursing science and develop nursing theory

- Conducting research to improve health systems and health outcomes

- Using evidence to inform policy and health systems planning

- Incorporating research and evidence into academic teaching roles

Is this the right time for me to pursue doctoral studies?

- Financial readiness – available means of support

- Emotional readiness – ready to tackle challenges, live with uncertainty, manage personal stress

- Time and energy to commit to demands of doctoral study

- Ability to negotiate periods of release from employment demands in order to immerse in coursework or research activities

- Previous research experience as an RA or research team member

- Beginning profile of scholarly activity (presentations, publications)

What does the PhD program look like?

- Students work closely with a graduate supervisor who has expertise in research topic / methods.

- Time to completion ~ 4 - 6 years.

- Normal course work is up to 3 courses per semester.

- Coursework is completed within first 2 years

- Students may have opportunities to work as teaching/research assistants to gain experience and funding support.
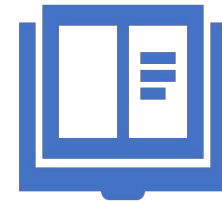
Program requirements:

Coursework – Students take a total of 30 credits of doctoral level courses (numbered 600 level)

The number and type of courses varies based on the student's academic background, experience & career goals (determined in consultation with the graduate supervisor).

All requirements must be completed within 6 years from the time a student first registers as a graduate student.

English is the language of study.

Required Courses – 18 credits

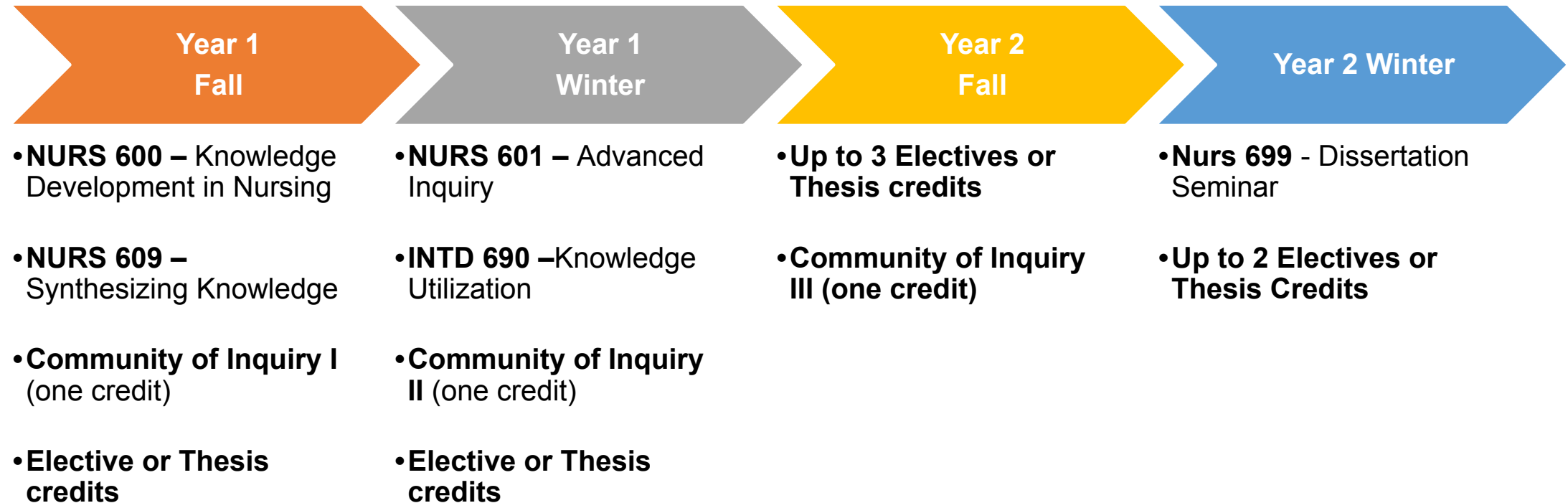- NURS 600 - Theory Development in Nursing
- NURS 601 - Advanced Inquiry
- NURS 609 – Synthesizing Knowledge
- INT D 690 – Topics in Knowledge Utilization
- NURS 696/697/698 Community of Inquiry I, II, III
- NURS 699 - Dissertation Seminar

Usual Course-taking Pattern

Year 1 Fall	Year 1 Winter	Year 2 Fall	Year 2 Winter
• **NURS 600 –** Knowledge Development in Nursing	• **NURS 601 –** Advanced Inquiry	• **Up to 3 Electives or Thesis credits**	• **Nurs 699** - Dissertation Seminar
• **NURS 609 –** Synthesizing Knowledge	• **INTD 690 –** Knowledge Utilization	• **Community of Inquiry III (one credit)**	• **Up to 2 Electives or Thesis Credits**
• **Community of Inquiry I** (one credit)	• **Community of Inquiry II** (one credit)		
• **Elective or Thesis credits**	• **Elective or Thesis credits**		

Timeline for dissertation completion

24 – 36 months

- Finalize research proposal
- Prepare for doctoral oral candidacy exam (must be completed by 36 months)

36 – 48 months

- Obtain ethics approval
- Implement research project (data collection and analysis)

48 – 60 months

- Complete data collection and analysis
- Complete written dissertation
- Final doctoral examination

A period of residency on-campus is not formally required, but students benefit from periods on-campus during the doctoral program

1. Socialization, networking, and mentorship within their student cohort and their supervisor's research program;

2. Experiential engagement in research training and employment (i.e. within the graduate supervisor's program of research, through graduate teaching & research assistantships);

3. In-person engagement in courses;

4. Immersion in focused periods of writing related to the student's dissertation project;

5. Intensive in-person mentored preparation for candidacy and final examination.

A plan that outlines expectations for periods of time on-campus are negotiated & documented as part of the application and admission process.

- Faculty members may require research trainees to be present and actively engaged in their programs of research in order to provide research experiences and/or student stipends or research assistantships.

- International students who wish to be considered for employment as a graduate teaching/research assistant or as recipients of graduate awards/scholarships must be registered in full-time studies, and have a valid study permit, Canadian Social Insurance Number, and Canadian bank account.

Option: Paper Based Thesis Format

- **Format includes a minimum of three publishable papers:**
  - Each paper addresses a unique objective or question
  - Collectively, the papers will form a coherent and integrated set of projects and outputs that have been outlined in the dissertation proposal.
  - Each paper must be independent of the others.
- **Consult with your supervisor if you are interested in a paper-based thesis format rather than a traditional dissertation.**
  - The topics, timelines, authorship and relevant journals to be targeted for submission must be clearly and jointly planned in advance.
- **Prior to the final oral examination, at least one of the papers should be under consideration for publication in a peer reviewed journal.** The other papers may be prepared for submission, 'submitted' or 'in review', also to peer reviewed journals.

Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

🏠 > Professional Development > Graduate Teaching and Learning Program

Graduate Teaching and Learning Program

GTLP Level 1: Foundations

GTLP Level 1 August 2021 Workshop Schedule

GTLP Level 2: Practicum

GTLP Level 3: Pedagogy & Course Design

GTLP Level 4: Scholarship of Teaching & Learning

GTLP Teaching Circle

Graduate Teaching and Learning Program

https://www.ualberta.ca/graduate-studies/professional-development/graduate-teaching-and-learning-program/index.html

Level 1: Foundations

What you need to know to be a great TA

Level 2: Practicum

Become a better teacher

Level 3: Pedagogy and Course Design

Become a principle instructor

Level 4: Scholarship of Teaching and Learning

Engage with teaching research and course development

Develop teaching skills to advance your preparation for future academic teaching roles.

Graduate student funding

- Doctoral students in Nursing are strongly encouraged to be prepared to self-fund their doctoral studies as there is no guaranteed funding for graduate students.

- Graduate student funding may be available from the Faculty of Nursing through a program of graduate teaching and research assistantships.

- The University of Alberta has a significant award and funding program for graduate students, with awards offered both by the Faculty and the University. Please consult the website of the [Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research](#) for additional information.

- Some graduate supervisors may be able to provide funding through the external grants that support their research projects.

- Graduate supervisors will assist students to apply for funding from internal and external sources that are appropriate to the student's program of studies and level of academic achievement.
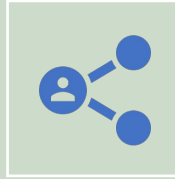
Preparing your Application

Minimum Admission Requirements

- A Master's degree in Nursing with an admission GPA of at least 3.5 on the 4-point scale.

- Students who do not hold the equivalent to this degree may be admitted and required to undertake additional course work in nursing theory, practice and/or research.

- A GPA of 3.5 in the last two years of study.

- Graduate qualitative and quantitative (with some statistics) research courses, or one graduate course in statistics and one in research methods (or equivalent), with a final grade of B or higher.

- Completion of an interview with the prospective supervisor and/or Graduate Admission Committee

- Written agreement with a supervisor.

- Where applicable, applicants must provide proof of English Language Proficiency (refer to English Language Requirement). Any one of the following is acceptable:
  - TOEFL score of 93 (internet-based) with a score of at least 24 on speaking and writing, and 21 on reading and listening, or equivalent;
  - an IELTS overall score of 7.0 with the following minimum scores: Listening-7.5, Reading-6.5, Writing-7.0, Speaking-7.0, Overall-7.0.

Your First Step: Identify your Graduate Supervisor

1. Identify potential supervisors from the Academic Listing (tenure track faculty only).

2. Contact faculty member(s) to discuss your proposed research focus.

3. Secure the faculty member's agreement to serve as graduate supervisor if your application for admission is successful.

As part of your application, you must identify a faculty member who has agreed to serve as your supervisor.

The graduate supervisor provides guidance & direction in development of the research topic & methods, and must have the expertise required to support your intended research project.

You must explain the "fit" between the supervisor's expertise and your beginning research question/method as part of your application submission.

Online applications and supporting documentation are **due by Jan. 15** for admission in the following September and can be accessed through the Faculty of Graduate Studies & Research website. To ensure the protection of personal information, applications cannot be viewed by the department until they are submitted. Please contact the Nursing Graduate Office if you have questions about your application.

Applicants are selected on the basis of academic and research potential including:

- GPA (typically 3.5 or higher);
- Background experience, research and scholarly activities, and career plans;
- Publications and presentations (particularly from the Master's Degree);
- Three letters of reference; and
- Current Curriculum Vitae
- Graduate qualitative and quantitative (with some statistics) research courses, or one graduate course in statistics and one in research methods (or equivalent), with a final grade of B or higher.

Apply Now

Finding a Supervisor

PhD Program Application Information

Contact Us

For additional information, please contact nugrad@ualberta.ca.

Developing an application for doctoral nursing studies at the University of Alberta

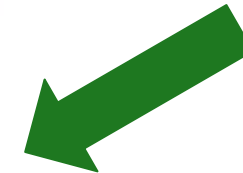When considering an application to doctoral studies, it is the responsibility of the applicant to

https://www.ualberta.ca/nursing/programs/graduate-programs-and-admissions/doctoral-program/admission-criteria-and-application-process.html

How will my application be assessed?

What is the Admissions Committee looking for?

Review of the Application:

Is the GPA on a previous degree competitive?

Do the applicant's reference letters convey strengths, competencies and abilities suggestive of strong scholarly potential?

Has the student made a compelling case that there is strong alignment between their intended dissertation project and the proposed supervisor's expertise and program of research?

Does the proposed research plan reflect a clear and concise conceptualization of a beginning research topic and possible methods?

Additional considerations:

- Is there a beginning or established track record of scholarly activity (i.e. publications, presentations) and/or awards that could position the applicant for successful awards and external funding?

- Does the applicant have previous research experience/training (i.e. research assistantship, research team member)?

- Has the applicant been involved in leadership, teaching, or community contributions that are aligned with their personal goals and aspirations?

- Has the applicant participated in initiatives demonstrating innovation and health impact?

How do I submit my application?

- **Application deadline: January 15**
  - All documents, including all reference letters must be received by this date
- Application to Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research
  - Create an account and submit all required documents as pdf online
  - https://www.ualberta.ca/graduate-studies/prospective-students/apply-for-admission/index.html
- Required background document for PhD Applicants
  - Entire application is reviewed by Faculty of Nursing Admissions Committee
  - https://www.ualberta.ca/nursing/programs/graduate-student-resources-and-services/forms-and-guidelines.html
- $135 non-refundable application fee

Admission Criteria and Application Process

Finding a Supervisor

Contact:
Faculty of Nursing Graduate Office
Nursing.graduate@ualberta.ca