Your Application for PhD Studies
Faculty of Nursing
University of Alberta

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Agenda:

Why pursue doctoral studies in Nursing?

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

What does the PhD program look like?

How do I submit my application?
Why pursue doctoral studies in Nursing?

• 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 preparation for academic, career scientist, 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 at the University of Alberta?

- High impact programs of research (e.g. Aging, frailty, social inequity, global health)
- Commitment to equity, diversity, inclusiveness and reconciliation
- Award winning researchers and teachers
- Flexible delivery – on-campus & hybrid online
- Talented classmates become your professional network as distinguished alumni
Faculty of Nursing Ranks #2 in Canada and #18 Globally

• Tied for #1 in reputation ranking with U of T
• Tied for #2 in research ranking with UBC
• The Faculty has long-standing track record & reputation for graduate programs
  • MN program established in 1975
  • PhD program established in 1991 (first PhD Nursing in Canada)
What does the PhD program look like?

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

• Average time to completion ~ 4 - 5 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 7-10 doctoral level courses (numbered 600 level)

The number and type of courses will vary according to the student’s academic background, experience and career goals, and are 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.
Five Required Courses

- NURS 600 - Theory Development in Nursing
- NURS 601 - Advanced Inquiry
- NURS 609 – Synthesizing Knowledge
- INT D 690 – Topics in Knowledge Utilization
- NURS 699 - Dissertation Seminar
Examinations

WCE – Written Comprehensive Examination
- Follows completion of coursework
- Questions to illustrate synthesis and integration of student learning
- Demonstrate readiness to proceed to candidacy

Candidacy Examination
- Oral examination based on research proposal
- Must be completed within 36 months of program commencement

Final Oral Dissertation Defense
- Follows preliminary acceptance of thesis by supervisory committee
Residency Requirement for PhD (Nursing)

- Minimum residency requirement: attendance on-campus for one Fall or Winter term, or two Spring or Summer terms.
- This requirement is intended to be adopted with flexibility based on the supervisor’s expectations and needs and each individual student’s overall program of study. Considerations include:
  - research training opportunities,
  - opportunities for scholarly socialization,
  - student career goals, and
  - availability of supervisor and student.
- Variations in the implementation of residency requirements should be explicitly negotiated, planned, and documented by the graduate supervisor and the student.
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 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.
Progression Timeline

- **Enter Program**
  - Supervisor and student work together to choose courses

- **Within 12 months**
  - Supervisory Committee chosen with Supervisor

- **Within 24 – 30 months**
  - Course work completed
  - Comprehensive Exam scheduled and completed. See "Comprehensive Exam Guidelines"

- **27 – 30 months**
  - Candidacy Examination Committee established; exam scheduled and passed. Please see "Candidacy Examination Guidelines"
Progression Timeline

30 – 48 months
• Complete thesis research

48 months+
• Supervisor and committee begin preparing for Final Oral Exam. See "PhD Final Oral Examination Guidelines"
• External Examiner is invited to participate and is approved by FGSR
• Preliminary Acceptance of Thesis is signed by Committee members and sent to External

Final Exam
• Final examination is scheduled with all necessary paperwork submitted to GSO and supervisor and student familiarize themselves with thesis submission guidelines and convocation process. See "Final Oral Examination Guidelines" for important links.
Develop teaching skills to advance your preparation for future academic teaching roles.
Graduate student funding

• 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 sources that are appropriate to the student’s program of studies and level of academic achievement.

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

• 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.
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.

• 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.
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-service/forms-and-guidelines.html
• $100 non-refundable application fee

https://www.ualberta.ca/nursing/programs/graduate-student-resources-and-services/finding-a-supervisor.html

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