



PhD Program in Nursing

The PhD program prepares researchers to develop, evaluate and disseminate new knowledge in nursing and health science. Our training provides nurses with the foundation to become leaders in research that advances the scientific basis of nursing and contributes to the health of the public.

Students complete core courses in the areas of scholarly inquiry (minimum 18 credits), theory and practice of nursing or policy and leadership (minimum 9 credits), and nursing education (minimum 3 credits). The core is supplemented through coursework outside of nursing and guided research experiences. In keeping with our multi-disciplinary approach to nursing education and to take advantage of collaborations on campus, the PhD minor is required to add breadth. The minor requires a minimum of 9 credits in a single department/major field of study or 9 credits across more than one department on campus.

Although our courses are supported by instructional technology, our program is delivered in a face-to-face format to actively and personally engage students in the practice of scholarly inquiry and to allow students to take advantage campus offerings. Our program requires a minimum of 52 credits and is designed to be completed in four years.

Academic and Research Options, Affiliations and Initiatives

School of Nursing faculty and students are affiliated with research programs and centers at UW–Madison as well as the School of Medicine and Public Health, the School of Pharmacy, the College of Engineering and the Wisconsin School of Business in areas such as prevention science, women’s health, industrial engineering, operations, human development and family studies, and population health. We are committed to interdisciplinary, community and patient-focused research, which will prepare our graduates for research and leadership in nursing and health. Current PhD research addresses topics such as:

- Chronic and life-threatening conditions in children and young adults
- Community-clinical linkages and care transitions
- Nursing fatigue and human factors engineering to improve nursing practice
- Pain management in patients with dementia
- Physical activity, mobility and functional status related to health outcomes in hospitalized patients
- Social determinants of health and health equity in minority populations
- Sports injury and prevention in pediatrics
- Symptom clusters in cancer patients

One Profession, Many Possibilities

Our graduates have positions as university faculty, as research scientists and as research directors in a variety of educational, clinical and governmental settings. Alumni teach and conduct research at major universities including the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, the University of Washington, the University of Pittsburgh, Virginia Commonwealth University, The Ohio State University and more. We are proud to have many graduates continue their research, secure major national funding and contribute to teaching in faculty positions at UW–Madison.

Admission

We ask applicants to describe the factors that led them to pursue a PhD in Nursing and how it will advance their careers. We also want to learn about the candidates’ research interests—the areas in which they would like to conduct research and, if possible, to identify specific populations, problems or phenomena that they would like to study. While not required, we like to know if applicants had any previous research experience and how it prepared them for PhD study.

PhD Student Profile (typical for past 3 years)

Avg. number of students in the	25
Avg. number of international students	12
Countries represented: United States, Thailand, China, Korea, Taiwan, Ghana, Pakistan, Turkey	
Avg. number of applications	25
Avg. number of admitted students	8



Additional Admission Requirements

- Academic references
- Original papers or other scholarly work
- Bachelor's degree in nursing from an accredited program with an undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) on the last 60 credits of the most recent baccalaureate degree
- Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores for applicants who do not have a Master's degree from an accredited US institution
- Applicants whose native language is not English, or whose undergraduate instruction was not in English, must provide an English proficiency test score.

(Applicants are exempt if: English is the exclusive language of instruction at the undergraduate institution; or they have earned a degree from a regionally-accredited U.S. college or university not more than five years prior to the anticipated semester of enrollment; or they have completed at least two full-time semesters of graded course work, exclusive of ESL courses, in a U.S. college or university, or at an institution outside the United States where English is the exclusive language of instruction, not more than five years prior to the anticipated semester of enrollment.)

Applications open in early September and are reviewed in December for the following fall semester's admission. The priority deadline is December 1. Interviews are conducted and decisions are made by March.

Funding

The School of Nursing is committed to funding full-time PhD students. Several forms of financial aid are available. These include project or research and teaching assistantships, fellowships, traineeships and other sources. Graduate students that have a qualifying assistantship or fellowship are eligible to receive tuition remission or deferral. Funding decisions are made once a year in the spring semester for the following academic year.

Assistantships administered by the School of Nursing are funded by faculty research grants and by School of Nursing gift funds. Fellowships are also awarded for qualified under-represented or economically disadvantaged students and to PhD students who show excellence in their areas of research. Students in the PhD program are strongly encouraged to compete for and have been successful in obtaining federal National Research Service Awards (NRSA) individual predoctoral fellowships.

Scholarships are available to fund expenses related to research work while in the program.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about our program, admissions, funding, and more:

Graduate Admissions & Recruitment Coordinator	nursing.wisc.edu admissions@nursing.wisc.edu
Signe Skott Cooper Hall 701 Highland Avenue, Room 1100 Madison, WI 53705	608-263-5202

