NURSING, PH.D.

The emphasis on theory and practice of nursing prepares nurse scientists to: develop and/or test theory that drives nursing practice; design and conduct clinical efficacy and effectiveness trials of nursing interventions to improve health; and build a program of research around a clinical problem, phenomenon, or population of interest that will shape patient care across various settings. The emphasis on policy and leadership prepares nurse scientists with the conceptual strategies and methodological skills to assess and address the biobehavioral, social, and economic public policy factors that influence the definition of what constitutes health problems and the manner in which they are treated.

The School of Nursing offers a program leading to the doctor of philosophy degree. The school also has a unique early entry Ph.D. program to bridge or accelerate progression to the Ph.D. level for undergraduate nursing students. Postdoctoral training opportunities are also available.

The mission of the School of Nursing is to develop leaders for the profession and society—we make discoveries, enhance systems, and improve health through research, education and practice. Our strategic priorities are to advance science through research and scholarship, prepare nurse leaders for the health challenges of the 21st century, foster strategic partnerships to promote human health, achieve the school's commitment to diversity, and create the preferred future of the School of Nursing.

Nursing faculty members are well prepared for their roles as scholars, clinicians, and teachers. They have postdoctoral experience in nursing and related disciplines. Many have postdoctoral experience in nursing and related disciplines. They have wide-ranging clinical expertise foundational to their experiences with doctoral students. Many faculty have been awarded prestigious federal and private research and training awards and are well known for their expertise in university, local, national, and international communities. Our faculty have a wide variety of research interests. Areas of particular strength and depth include the following:

- Aging
- Chronic illness & symptom management
- Care of children & families
- Health systems & care delivery

World-renowned facilities for clinical practice and research are available in and around Madison. These include University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics, American Family Children’s Hospital, UW Carbone Cancer Center, and William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital; hospitals and clinics in urban and rural settings; nursing homes; and public health agencies. The university's location in Wisconsin's capital offers opportunities for involvement in state government and policy making.

Signe Skott Cooper Hall, the School of Nursing’s new facility, features state-of-the-art classrooms, simulation labs, meeting and research facilities, and social gathering spaces in an environment dedicated to the health and wellness of students, faculty, staff, and the communities and populations served. Adjacent to Cooper Hall, the Health Sciences Learning Center (HSLC) brings together students in nursing, medicine, and pharmacy, and includes the Ebling Library and University Book Store.

The school's mission is to develop leaders for the profession and society—we make discoveries, enhance systems, and improve health through research, education, and practice.

EARLY ENTRY PH.D. OPTION

The early-entry Ph.D. option is designed for undergraduate students who are interested in research as a career and the Ph.D. as a goal. With the assistance of a faculty advisory committee, early entry students plan an individualized program of study and research, drawing on existing undergraduate and graduate courses in nursing and related disciplines. Two degrees are awarded to students who complete this option: bachelor of science in nursing (B.S.), granted by the School of Nursing, and doctor of philosophy (Ph.D.), granted by the Graduate School.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREE

The purpose of the Ph.D. program is to prepare researchers to develop, evaluate, and disseminate new knowledge in nursing and health science. The program is characterized by early and continuous training in research through a close mentoring relationship with faculty, a strong scientific base in nursing, and supporting courses in a related (i.e., minor) discipline. Graduates with a research doctorate are prepared to assume positions as faculty as well as research scientists and research directors in a variety of educational, clinical, and governmental settings.

The program is designed to be completed in four years of full-time study and requires a minimum of 52 credits. Students may be accepted into the Ph.D. program either post-baccalaureate or post-master’s. Students are encouraged to enroll full-time. If part-time study is necessary, a minimum of 6 credits per semester is required.

In collaboration with the faculty mentor(s), students plan a course of study that constitutes a unified program and fulfills the program requirements. Students select an emphasis in one of the following tracks:

- Theory & practice of nursing
- Policy & leadership

The emphasis on theory and practice of nursing prepares nurse scientists to: develop and/or test theory that drives nursing practice; design and conduct clinical efficacy and effectiveness trials of nursing interventions to improve health; and build a program of research around a clinical problem, phenomenon, or population of interest that will shape patient care across various settings. The emphasis on policy and leadership prepares nurse scientists with the conceptual strategies and methodological skills to assess and address the biobehavioral, social, and economic public policy factors that influence the definition of what constitutes health problems and the manner in which they are treated.

ADMISSIONS

Please consult the table below for key information about this degree program's admissions requirements. The program may have more detailed admissions requirements, which can be found below the table or on the program's website. Graduate admissions is a two-step process between academic programs and the Graduate School. Applicants must meet the minimum requirements (https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/) of the Graduate School as well as the program(s).

Once you have researched the graduate program(s) you are interested in, apply online (https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/).
Admission requirements for the Ph.D. program are:

- Graduation from an accredited baccalaureate program in nursing
- 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) completed within the last 5 years may be required, consult program.
- Three to four academic references from individuals who can speak to your scholarly activities, research capabilities and potential for success in the doctoral program
- Two examples of scholarly work related to nursing or health (see School of Nursing website [https://nursing.wisc.edu/graduate-programs/phd/#to-apply] for examples)
- Essay (see School of Nursing website [https://nursing.wisc.edu/graduate-programs/phd/#to-apply] for specific criteria)
- Curriculum vitae or resume
- English proficiency scores: Applicants whose native language is not English, or whose undergraduate instruction was not in English, must provide an English proficiency test score and meet the Graduate School minimum requirements [https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/#english-proficiency].

Applications should be submitted for priority consideration by December 1 for admission in the fall semester. If applying for spring admission, see website [https://nursing.wisc.edu/graduate-programs/phd/#to-apply] for deadline.
Face-to-Face: Courses typically meet during weekdays on the UW-Madison Campus.
Hybrid: These programs combine face-to-face and online learning formats. Contact the program for more specific information.
Online: These programs are offered 100% online. Some programs may require an on-campus orientation or residency experience, but the courses will be facilitated in an online format.

CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

Requirements Detail
Minimum Credit Requirement 52 credits
Minimum Residence Credit Requirement 32 credits
Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement Half of degree coursework (26 credits out of 52 total credits) must be completed graduate-level coursework; courses with the Graduate Level Coursework attribute are identified and searchable in the university’s Course Guide (http://my.wisc.edu/CourseGuideRedirect/BrowseByTitle/).
Overall Graduate GPA Requirement 3.00 GPA required.
Other Grade Requirements A student may not receive more than one grade below a B (or a U grade) in any 12 month period.
Assessments and Examinations To be eligible for the comprehensive candidacy examination, candidates must have completed all formal coursework requirements.
Language Requirements No language requirements.
Doctoral Minor/ Breadth Requirements All doctoral students are required to complete a minor.

REQUIRED COURSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core</td>
<td>NURSING 802 Ethics and the Responsible Conduct of Research</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NURSING 803 Advanced Quantitative Design and Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NURSING 804 Advanced Qualitative Design and Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NURSING 815 Knowledge Development in Nursing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NURSING 816 Proseminar in Nursing Research 1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Methods/Statistics</td>
<td>Students complete 6 credits in consultation with their advisor from the options below:</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students choose one of two tracks:

Theory and Practice of Nursing (12 credits)

Students complete 3 credits from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NURSING 590 Contemporary Practices in Nursing (Topic: Chronic Illness Management)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURSING 702</td>
<td>Health Promotion and Disease Prevention in Diverse Communities</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC WORK 921</td>
<td>Child Welfare</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC WORK 644</td>
<td>Issues in Developmental Disabilities</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC WORK 874</td>
<td>Advanced Practice in Health, Aging, and Disability</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC/ C&amp;E SOC 971</td>
<td>Seminar-Topics in Demography and Ecology</td>
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<tr>
<td>POP HLTH 786</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>NURSING 722</td>
<td>Advanced Practice Nursing Theory: Adults and Older Adults</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURSING 741</td>
<td>Advanced Practice Nursing Theory: Family Process &amp; Child Development</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>NURSING 751</td>
<td>Advanced Practice Nursing Theory: Psychiatric Mental Health</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RP &amp; SE 560</td>
<td>Psychosocial Aspects of Chronic Illness and Disability</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HDFS 516    Stress and Resilience in Families Across the Lifespan
OTM 753    Healthcare Operations Management

Students complete 3 credits from the following, with
NURSING 818 being strongly encouraged:

NURSING 818    Patient-centered Research
ED PSYCH 946    Advanced Assessment and Intervention Techniques
ED PSYCH/ COUN PSY/ RP & SE 736    Seminar in Psychology of Individual Differences
SOC WORK 741    Interventions with Children, Youth, and Families

Students must take:
NURSING 819    Clinical Field Practicum - Research in Health Care Settings

Students completing the Theory and Practice of Nursing track must also take 3 credits from courses listed in the Policy and Leadership track.

Policy and Leadership (12 credits)

Students complete 3 credits from the following, with NURSING 703 being strongly encouraged:

NURSING 703    Health Care and Public Policy
POP HLTH 915    International Health Systems and Policy
POP HLTH 709    Translational and Outcomes Research in Health and Health Care
POP HLTH 876    Measuring Health Outcomes
POP HLTH 786
POP HLTH 785    Prevention Science
ED PSYCH/ HDFS/NURSING/ SOC WORK 880

Students must take:
NURSING 847    Health Policy Practicum

Students completing the Policy and Leadership track must also take 3 credits from courses listed in the Theory and Practice of Nursing track.

Nursing Education

NURSING 785    Foundations of Curriculum Development and Evaluation in Nursing Education
NURSING 786    Foundations of Teaching and Learning in Nursing
NURSING 787    Nursing Education Practicum
ELPA 701    Introduction to Higher and Post-Secondary Education
ELPA/ CURRIC 746    The Adult Learner: Implications for Curriculum and Instruction
CURRIC 735    Epistemic Practice and Science Teaching

Minor 9
Guided Research 10

Sample full-time course schedule

First Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Summer</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURSING 815</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>NURSING 803</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>NURSING 999</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURSING 816</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>NURSING 703</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>NURSING 802</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURSING 999</td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>NURSING 999</td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population/ phenomenon</td>
<td>3 Advanced Statistics</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy and Leadership</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor</td>
<td>3 P&amp;L Health Policy Course</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits 63-77

1. See Approved course options/substitutions
2. NURSING 703 is taken by most students following the Theory and Practice (T&P) track to satisfy their 3-credit policy requirement
3. NURSING 819 is taken by Theory & Practice (T&P) students; Nursing 847 is taken by Policy & Leadership (P&L) students
4. NURSING 818 will be offered during odd numbered fall terms
NURSING 818, ED PSYCH 946, ED PSYCH/COUN PSY/RP & SE 736 or SOC WORK 741 is taken by Theory & Practice (T&P) students; Policy & Leadership (P&L) students may take a minor course at this time.

POLICIES

GRADUATE SCHOOL POLICIES

The Graduate School’s Academic Policies and Procedures (https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/) provide essential information regarding general university policies. Program authority to set degree policies beyond the minimum required by the Graduate School lies with the degree program faculty. Policies set by the academic degree program can be found below.

MAJOR-SPECIFIC POLICIES

PRIOR COURSEWORK

Graduate Work from Other Institutions

With program approval, students are allowed to count no more than 18 credits of graduate coursework from other institutions. Graduate work should be less than five years old to be considered; additional justification and/or documentation are needed for work taken between five and ten years. Work ten or more years prior to admission to the program will not be considered.

UW–Madison Undergraduate

With program approval up to 7 credits numbered 300 or above will be allowed to count toward the Ph.D. degree. This applies to students in the Early Entry Ph.D. route in the School of Nursing.

UW–Madison University Special

With program approval, students are allowed to count no more than 9 credits of coursework numbered 300 or above taken as a UW–Madison University Special student. These credits are considered part of the total allowable credits available for a student to transfer. Coursework should be less than five years old to be considered; additional justification and/or documentation is needed for work taken between five and ten years. Work ten or more years prior to admission to the program will not be considered.

PROBATION

A semester GPA below 3.0 will result in the student being placed on academic probation. If a student has not returned to satisfactory progress by the determined deadline, a decision about whether the student will be permitted to continue will be made by the Graduate Admissions & Progression Committee (or appropriate subcommittee) with input from the student’s advisor.

ADVISOR / COMMITTEE

Ph.D. students complete an annual progression review which includes a written review from the advisor. This is submitted to the Ph.D. Subcommittee of the GPC. The Subcommittee reviews the student CVs and advisor comments to gain an overall sense of student progression in the program. Comments from the Subcommittee regarding progression are then sent to the advisor who shares the result of the review with the student.

Graduate School policy specifies the following with regard to dissertation committees:

Dissertation committees advise and evaluate satisfactory progress, administer preliminary and final oral examinations, evaluate a dissertation, and/or sign a degree warrant. A student arranges a committee with appropriate expertise to afford the breadth and depth needed in degree examinations. In all cases, a student’s advisor (major professor) chairs the committee. The executive committee (or its equivalent) is responsible for approving the composition of all dissertation committees.

Minimum Graduate School requirements for the dissertation committees are as follows:

1. The chair or co-chair of the committee must be Graduate Faculty* from the student’s program.

2. PhD dissertation committees must have a minimum of 4 members, 3 of whom must be UW–Madison graduate faculty, former UW–Madison graduate faculty up to one year after resignation or retirement. At least 1 of the 4 members must be from outside of the student’s major program or major field (often from the minor field).

3. The chair may designate 1 of the 4 members of the committee as a non-reader

a. Readers are committee members who commit themselves to closely reading and reviewing the entire dissertation. While graduate programs cannot have fewer than three readers, they may require all members to be readers. The rationale for specifically designating non-reader status is to facilitate faculty participation in dissertations without automatically expecting the level of commitment associated with deeply engaging a PhD thesis. Given faculty workloads, designating a non-reader in some cases may permit faculty participation where engagement would otherwise be impossible.

4. The required 4th member of a dissertation committee, as well as any additional members, all retain voting rights.

5. * Graduate Faculty are those who hold tenure track appointments. Non-tenure track faculty (e.g., CHS professors) may participate as 4th or extra committee members, but do not count toward the four “Graduate Faculty” members.

The student and major professor should work together to identify dissertation advisory committee members with appropriate breadth and depth of knowledge. In addition to the Minimum Graduate School requirements for the dissertation committees outlined above, the School of Nursing has additional expectations for committee membership:

1. At least 2 members will be from the School of Nursing faculty.

2. In general, all committee members will serve as readers. However, in line with UW-Madison Graduate School Policy and Procedures of Graduate Advisor Committees, the chair may designate 1 of the 4 members of the committee as a non-reader.

CREDITS PER TERM ALLOWED

15 credits
**TIME CONSTRAINTS**

A candidate for a doctoral degree who fails to take the final oral examination and deposit the dissertation within five years after passing the preliminary examination may by require to take another preliminary examination and to be admitted to candidacy a second time.

**GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS**

These resources may be helpful in addressing your concerns:

- Bias or Hate Reporting (https://doso.students.wisc.edu/bias-or-hate-reporting/)
- Graduate Assistantship Policies and Procedures (https://hr.wisc.edu/policies/gapp/#grievance-procedure)
- Hostile and Intimidating Behavior Policies and Procedures (https://hr.wisc.edu/hib/)
  - Office of the Provost for Faculty and Staff Affairs (https://facstaff.provost.wisc.edu/)
  - Dean of Students Office (https://doso.students.wisc.edu/) for all students to seek grievance assistance and support
  - Employee Assistance (http://www.eao.wisc.edu/) for personal counseling and workplace consultation around communication and conflict involving graduate assistants and other employees, post-doctoral students, faculty and staff
  - Employee Disability Resource Office (https://employeedisabilities.wisc.edu/) for qualified employees or applicants with disabilities to have equal employment opportunities
  - Graduate School (https://grad.wisc.edu/) for informal advice at any level of review and for official appeals of program/departmental or school/college grievance decisions
  - Office of Compliance (https://compliance.wisc.edu/) for class harassment and discrimination, including sexual harassment and sexual violence
  - Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (https://conduct.students.wisc.edu/) for conflicts involving students
  - Ombuds Office for Faculty and Staff (http://www.ombuds.wisc.edu/) for employed graduate students and post-docs, as well as faculty and staff
  - Title IX (https://compliance.wisc.edu/titleix/) for concerns about discrimination

Students should contact the department chair or program director with questions about grievances.

**OTHER**

The School of Nursing makes a strong commitment to funding students admitted into the Ph.D. program who are enrolled full-time. Sources of funding include extramural, campus, and internal School of Nursing funding. The majority of funding decisions are made in the Spring for the following academic year. Continuing and newly admitted students are encouraged to apply for funding.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Take advantage of the Graduate School's professional development resources (https://grad.wisc.edu/pd/) to build skills, thrive academically, and launch your career.

**PROGRAM RESOURCES**

Career advising, funding, and professional development opportunities are shared with all students by a member of the School of Nursing Academic Affairs staff. Information on these support services can be found on the Student Site (https://students.nursing.wisc.edu/career-advising/career/).

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

1. Master in-depth knowledge in a substantive area of nursing.
2. Articulate research problems, potentials, and limits with respect to nursing theory, knowledge, and practice.
3. Formulate new ideas, concepts, designs, and/or techniques based on critical evaluation of knowledge in nursing and other relevant disciplines.
4. Assume leadership in the creation of original research that makes a substantive contribution to health.
5. Demonstrate cultural knowledge and cross-cultural skills in nursing scholarship.
6. Demonstrate breadth in learning experiences through intra- and cross-disciplinary study, and integration of research, teaching, mentoring, and service to the profession.
7. Negotiate and work successfully with interprofessional teams.
8. Develop and disseminate nursing knowledge to meet the health needs of local, national, and global populations.
9. Communicate complex research findings and implications in a clear and understandable manner to lay and professional audiences.
10. Demonstrate knowledge of professional obligations, codes of ethics, and institutional policies and procedures that guide nursing scholarship.
11. Demonstrate the capacity to identify ethical issues, seek guidance from appropriate resources and adhere to ethical principles and professional norms in the resolution of moral dilemmas.

**PEOPLE**

**FACULTY**

School of Nursing Faculty Directory (https://nursing.wisc.edu/directory/faculty/)

**ADMINISTRATION**

**Linda D. Scott, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN**

Dean and Professor

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Interim Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Professor

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**Katie Bleier**

Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs (Academic Dean)

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608-263-5172

**Pamela McGranahan, DNP, PHNA-BC, PMHNP-BC**

DNP Program Director, Clinical Associate Professor

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Kristine Kwekkeboom, PhD, RN, FAAN  
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