The PhD degree in Nursing prepares nurse scientists to develop methods to advance health, health care and the nursing profession. Graduates are expected to lead and promote innovative scholarly endeavors within and across disciplines, and to assume leadership roles in the profession.

The degree program is offered jointly between Kent State University and the University of Akron, which allows students the opportunity to take advantage of academic study, faculty and resources at both universities. Diploma and transcripts are issued from the university to which the student was admitted.

Fully Offered At:
- Kent Campus

Admission Requirements
- Active, unrestricted Ohio registered nurse license (international students need to show proof of legal ability to practice as a registered nurse in country of origin)
- Bachelor’s and master’s degrees in nursing, or a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree, from an accredited program
- Official transcript(s)
- Minimum overall 3.0 graduate GPA on a 4.0 scale
- GRE scores (must be less than five years old at the time of application)
- Résumé or vita
- Three letters of reference from health care professionals or academic faculty members who can speak to the applicant’s professional and academic abilities (two of the three references from doctoral-prepared individuals are preferred)
- Essay (two pages, single-spaced) addressing the following questions:
  - Why do you want to pursue a Ph.D. in nursing?
  - What are your professional goals?
  - How have you been involved in research, publications and professional presentations?
  - How have you been involved in professional organizations?
  - What are your research interests?
  - Why are you interested in these research areas?
  - How could research—and specifically your research—in these areas advance science?
- Sample of written work
- Interview
- International applicants must submit one of the following:
  - Minimum 79 internet TOEFL score
  - Minimum 55 PTE score
  - Minimum 6.5 IELTS score

English Language Proficiency Requirements for International Students: All international students must provide proof of English language proficiency (unless they meet specific exceptions) by earning a minimum 560 TOEFL score (83 on the Internet-based version), minimum 78 MELAB score, minimum 6.5 IELTS score or minimum 55 PTE Academic score. For more information on international admission, visit the Office of Global Education’s admission website. Effective spring 2018.

For more information about graduate admission, please visit the Graduate Studies website.

1 A bachelor’s degree in a closely related health field may be considered if the applicant has a master’s degree in nursing or a D.N.P. degree from an accredited program. A master’s degree in a closely related field may be considered if the applicant has a bachelor’s degree in nursing from an accredited program.

2 International applicants who do not meet the above test scores may be considered for conditional admission.

Program Learning Outcomes
Graduates from this program will be able to:
1. Generate new knowledge that contributes to the advancement of health, health care and nursing science.
2. Disseminate advances in scientific knowledge.
3. Use collaborative, interdisciplinary and innovative approaches to knowledge generation.
4. Assume leadership roles in health care and education as researchers, educators and advanced clinicians.
5. Serve as stewards of the body of knowledge for the discipline of nursing.

Program Requirements

Major Requirements

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NURS 70752  NURSING SCIENCE SEMINAR II  3
NURS 80199  DISSERTATION I  30
Cognate Areas  6
Minimum Total Credit Hours:  72

1 Selected with the approval of student’s advisor.
2 Each doctoral candidate, upon admission to candidacy, must register for NURS 80199 for a total of 30 credit hours. It is expected that a doctoral candidate will continuously register for Dissertation I, and thereafter NURS 80299, each semester, including summer, until all requirements for the degree have been met.
3 Cognate areas support the student’s research interest and are selected with the approval of the student’s academic advisor. Two courses are required, of which 3 credit hours must be from discipline outside of nursing, and 3 credit hours may be within or outside of nursing.

Graduation Requirement
Students must earn a minimum B grade in all courses, pass the candidacy examination and submit and successfully defend a dissertation to earn the Ph.D. degree. If a course must be repeated, the student cannot take other courses that require that course as a prerequisite until the course is successfully retaken. If the student retakes the course and does not earn a minimum B grade, the student may be dismissed from the Ph.D. degree program.

Candidacy Examination
At the conclusion of coursework, students sit for the candidacy examination. The examination provides the basis for evaluation of the student’s readiness for completing the dissertation. Students must successfully pass candidacy and a proposal defense before beginning dissertation work.