NURSING - PH.D.

College of Nursing
www.kent.edu/nursing

About This Program

The Ph.D. 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 interprofessional innovative scholarly endeavors and to assume leadership roles in the profession.

Contact Information

- **Teresa Adams** | tadams27@kent.edu | 330-672-8761
- Connect with an Admissions Counselor: U.S. Student | International Student

Program Delivery

- **Delivery:**
  - Mostly online
- **Location:**
  - Kent Campus

Examples of Possible Careers and Salaries*

Nursing instructors and teachers, postsecondary

- 17.6% much faster than the average
- 72,900 number of jobs
- $75,470 potential earnings

* Source of occupation titles and labor data comes from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Outlook Handbook. Data comprises projected percent change in employment over the next 10 years; nation-wide employment numbers; and the yearly median wage at which half of the workers in the occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less.

For more information about graduate admissions, visit the graduate admission website. For more information on international admissions, visit the international admission website.

Admission Requirements

- Active, unrestricted U.S. registered nurse license (international students need to show proof of legal ability to practice as a registered nurse in country of origin)
- Bachelor's or master's degree in nursing or related field, or a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree, from an accredited program[1]
- Minimum overall 3.000 graduate GPA on a 4.000-point scale
- Official transcript(s)
- Résumé or curriculum vitae
- Essay (two pages, single-spaced), see guidelines below
- 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)
- Interview
- English language proficiency - all international students must provide proof of English language proficiency (unless they meet specific exceptions to waive) by earning one of the following:[2]
  - Minimum 79 TOEFL iBT score
  - Minimum 6.5 IELTS score
  - Minimum 58 PTE score
  - Minimum 110 DET score

[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.

Guidelines for the Essay

- Applicants should begin their essay with "why" they are pursuing the Ph.D. degree in Nursing and "how" this degree will help them achieve their research and professional goals.
  - Introduce the population or phenomenon of interest that will be investigated.
- In the body of the essay, applicants should explain why they are interested in this population and/or phenomenon and how their work will impact or advance science in that area.
  - Consider including scientific gaps and significance in that area of research.
  - Elucidate the effect the research will have on the health outcomes of the proposed population or those affected by the phenomenon of interest.
  - Indicate how the work may reflect diversity, equity and inclusion in the area of research.
- In the closing paragraph, applicants should provide one to two key aspects of their research and propose ways to disseminate their scientific discovery.

Application Deadlines

- **Fall Semester**
  - Application deadline: November 15 (international student) and March 1 (domestic student)

All application materials (including applicable fee, transcripts, recommendation letters, etc.) submitted by these deadlines will receive the strongest consideration for admission.

Program Requirements

Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Major Requirements (min B grade in all courses)		
NURS 70710	HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF NURSING SCIENCE	2
NURS 70711	SCIENTIFIC WRITING	3
NURS 70712	RESEARCH DESIGN FUNDAMENTALS	3
NURS 70713	ADVANCED STATISTICS I	3

NURS 70714	LEADERSHIP FOR NURSING SCIENCE	3
NURS 70715	THEORY CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT IN NURSING	3
NURS 70740	ADVANCED STATISTICS II	3
NURS 70742	ADVANCED QUALITATIVE METHODS FOR HEALTH SCIENCES	4
NURS 70743	ADVANCED QUANTITATIVE METHODS FOR HEALTH SCIENCES	4
NURS 70744	DISSERTATION FOUNDATIONS	3
NURS 70753	DATA SCIENCE AND NURSING	3
NURS 70798	RESEARCH IN NURSING [1]	3-5
Post-Baccalaureate Requirements (all are required for post-baccalaureate students)		0-9
NURS 70716	INNOVATION AND INTERVENTION RESEARCH	
NURS 70718	ROLES AND EVALUATION	
NURS 70739	RESEARCH IN HEALTH DISPARITIES	
Nursing Science Electives, choose from the following: [2]		6-12
BSCI 70195	SPECIAL TOPICS IN BIOLOGY	
BSCI 80145	MEDICAL GENOMICS	
BST 83013	EXPERIMENTAL DESIGNS IN PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH	
BST 83014	APPLIED REGRESSION ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC HEALTH DATA	
CI 77001	FUNDAMENTALS OF CURRICULUM	
COMM 75040	QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS IN COMMUNICATION	
CULT 89595	SPECIAL TOPICS IN CULTURAL FOUNDATIONS	
EPI 83018	OBSERVATIONAL DESIGNS FOR CLINICAL RESEARCH	
EPSY 75524	LEARNING THEORIES	
HED 81550	APPLIED THEORY IN HEALTH EDUCATION RESEARCH AND PRACTICE	
HED 84050	HEALTH BEHAVIOR	
PSYC 80391	SEMINAR IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY	
RMS 75522	BASICS OF QUALITATIVE INTERVIEWING	
RMS 75533	INTRODUCTION TO NARRATIVE INQUIRY AND ANALYSIS	
RMS 78715	SURVEY DESIGN AND APPLIED RESEARCH IN EDUCATION	
RMS 78735	STRUCTURAL EQUATION MODELING	
RMS 78745	HIERARCHICAL LINEAR MODELING	
RMS 85520	MIXED METHODS RESEARCH	
RMS 85540	GROUNDED THEORY AND PHENOMENOLOGICAL RESEARCH	
RMS 85550	ETHNOGRAPHY AND CASE STUDY RESEARCH	
SBS 73018	THEORIES OF PREVENTION SCIENCE	
SBS 73019	EVALUATION RESEARCH METHODS IN PREVENTION SCIENCE	
SBS 80030	CODING FOR QUALITATIVE RESEARCH	
SBS 80040	TRANSCRIBING INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP INTERVIEWS FOR QUALITATIVE RESEARCH	
SBS 80100	EMERGING ISSUES IN PREVENTION SCIENCE	
SBS 83010	QUALITATIVE METHODS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH	
SBS 83011	QUALITATIVE DATA ANALYSIS	
SOC 72219	QUALITATIVE METHODS IN SOCIOLOGY	
SOC 72221	ADVANCED QUALITATIVE METHODS IN SOCIOLOGY	
Culminating Requirement		
NURS 80199	DISSERTATION I [3]	30
Minimum Total Credit Hours for Post-Baccalaureate Students		**90**
Minimum Total Credit Hours for Post-Master's Students		**73**

1 Post-baccalaureate students must complete 5 credit hours of NURS 70798 for the degree. Post-master's students must complete 3 credit hours of NURS 70798 for the degree.

2 Post-baccalaureate students must complete 12 credit hours of electives, and post-master's students must complete 6 credit hours of electives for the degree. Elective courses support the student's research interest and are selected with the approval of the student's academic advisor. The courses will supplement the student's program of study in a substantive area of research or specific method of research, including advanced statistical approaches, or assist the student with career goals following graduation.

3 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, until all requirements for the degree have been met.

Oral 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.

Progression Requirements

- Students who do not earn a minimum B grade in a course must repeat it and cannot take other courses that require that course as a prerequisite until the course is successfully retaken. Students who do not earn a minimum B grade on the second attempt may be dismissed from the Ph.D. degree.
- The courses will be delivered mostly synchronously online. The face-to-face requirement for this hybrid program is met through attending Doctoral Days.
- Each year, Ph.D. students are required to come to campus for Doctoral Days. The purpose of Doctoral Days is to provide scholarly socialization and scientific role development. The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) pathways to excellence in doctoral education include three curricular domains. These domains are addressed throughout the curriculum and in the Doctoral Days.
  - **Domain 1: Scientific Development** is the ability to articulate nursing science's history, philosophy, knowledge construction and the influence on the discipline and research.
  - **Domain 2: Health Equity** is knowledge and skill development to lead research and improve practice through ethical, culturally humble and human-centered research.
  - **Domain 3: Stewards of the Discipline** are professional ethics for conducting original research, proficiency in scientific communication and identifying implications for policy, practice, future research and the discipline.

Doctoral Days occur at the beginning of the fall semester in Years 1 and 2 (first three days of the semester). In Year 3, Doctoral Days occur at the end of the spring semester to coincide with May graduation, on the day before and the day of commencement.

Activities at Doctoral Days in Years 1 and 2 include:

- Orientation to each class taken that year
- Human subjects research content
- Opportunities to engage with faculty and fellow students in the College of Nursing and presentations on trends in nursing science
- Library resources, milestone expectations and time with student's advisor
- Special topics speakers

Graduation Requirements

Minimum Major GPA	Minimum Overall GPA
-	3.000

- Minimum B grade required in all courses to earn the Ph.D. degree.
- Passage of the candidacy examination
- Submission and successful defense of a dissertation

Students with a D.N.P. degree may receive permission to have coursework waived if supported by the appropriate and recent coursework; however, maximum 12 credit hours may transfer to the Ph.D.. The waiver of each specific course will be determined by the relevant academic department. These students may graduate with fewer than 73 credit hours but no fewer than 60 total credit hours.

Roadmaps

Post-Baccalaureate Track

This roadmap is a recommended semester-by-semester plan of study for this program. Students will work with their advisor to develop a sequence based on their academic goals and history. Courses designated as critical (!) must be completed in the semester listed to ensure a timely graduation.

First Year		
Fall Semester		**Credits**
NURS 70710	HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF NURSING SCIENCE	2
NURS 70711	SCIENTIFIC WRITING	3
NURS 70712	RESEARCH DESIGN FUNDAMENTALS	3
NURS 70713	ADVANCED STATISTICS I	3
	Credit Hours	**11**
Spring Semester		
NURS 70715	THEORY CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT IN NURSING	3
NURS 70740	ADVANCED STATISTICS II	3
NURS 70742	ADVANCED QUALITATIVE METHODS FOR HEALTH SCIENCES	4
NURS 70798	RESEARCH IN NURSING	2
	Credit Hours	**12**
Summer Term		
NURS 70714	LEADERSHIP FOR NURSING SCIENCE	3
NURS 70716	INNOVATION AND INTERVENTION RESEARCH	3
Nursing Science Elective		3
	Credit Hours	**9**
Second Year		
Fall Semester		
NURS 70743	ADVANCED QUANTITATIVE METHODS FOR HEALTH SCIENCES	4
NURS 70753	DATA SCIENCE AND NURSING	3
NURS 70798	RESEARCH IN NURSING	3
	Credit Hours	**10**
Spring Semester		
NURS 70718	ROLES AND EVALUATION	3
NURS 70739	RESEARCH IN HEALTH DISPARITIES	3
Nursing Science Elective		3
	Credit Hours	**9**
Third Year		
Fall Semester		
Nursing Science Electives		6
	Credit Hours	**6**
Spring Semester		
NURS 70744	DISSERTATION FOUNDATIONS	3
	Credit Hours	**3**
Summer Term		
Oral Candidacy		
	Credit Hours	**0**
Fourth Year		
Fall Semester		
NURS 80199	DISSERTATION I	15
	Credit Hours	**15**
Spring Semester		
NURS 80199	DISSERTATION I	15
	Credit Hours	**15**
	Minimum Total Credit Hours:	**90**

Post-Master's Track

This roadmap is a recommended semester-by-semester plan of study for this program. Students will work with their advisor to develop a sequence based on their academic goals and history. Courses designated as critical (!) must be completed in the semester listed to ensure a timely graduation.

First Year		
Fall Semester		**Credits**
NURS 70710	HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF NURSING SCIENCE	2
NURS 70711	SCIENTIFIC WRITING	3
NURS 70712	RESEARCH DESIGN FUNDAMENTALS	3
NURS 70713	ADVANCED STATISTICS I	3
	Credit Hours	**11**
Spring Semester		
NURS 70715	THEORY CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT IN NURSING	3
NURS 70740	ADVANCED STATISTICS II	3
NURS 70742	ADVANCED QUALITATIVE METHODS FOR HEALTH SCIENCES	4
	Credit Hours	**10**
Summer Term		
NURS 70714	LEADERSHIP FOR NURSING SCIENCE	3
NURS 70798	RESEARCH IN NURSING	1
Nursing Science Elective		3
	Credit Hours	**7**

Second Year		
Fall Semester		
NURS 70743	ADVANCED QUANTITATIVE METHODS FOR HEALTH SCIENCES	4
NURS 70753	DATA SCIENCE AND NURSING	3
NURS 70798	RESEARCH IN NURSING	2
	Credit Hours	**9**
Spring Semester		
NURS 70744	DISSERTATION FOUNDATIONS	3
Nursing Science Elective		3
	Credit Hours	**6**
Summer Term		
Candidacy Examination		
	Credit Hours	**0**
Third Year		
Fall Semester		
NURS 80199	DISSERTATION I	15
	Credit Hours	**15**
Spring Semester		
NURS 80199	DISSERTATION I	15
	Credit Hours	**15**
	Minimum Total Credit Hours:	**73**

Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of this program will be able to:

1. Generate new knowledge that contributes to the advancement of health, healthcare and nursing science.
2. Disseminate advances in scientific knowledge.
3. Use collaborative, interdisciplinary and innovative approaches to advance nursing science.
4. Assume leadership roles in healthcare and education as researchers, educators and advanced clinicians.
5. Serve as stewards of the diversity within the body of knowledge for the discipline of nursing.