

NURSING – PH.D.

The aim of the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree program in nursing is to prepare nurse scholars for leadership in education, health-care administration, and research. The Ph.D. degree in nursing is a research-oriented degree with emphasis on the development of nursing science in the areas of vulnerable populations, health/wellness/wholeness, and health systems research. The nurse-scientist who completes this program should be committed to the generation of knowledge critical to development of nursing science and practice. Graduates join other nursing leaders in furthering the development of nursing science and improving health-care delivery throughout the world. The program completion range is three to seven years (projected mean is five years) depending on whether students are full or part time.

Program learning outcomes

The learning outcomes of the Ph.D. degree program are designed to prepare nurse scientists and scholars with a Christian perspective for leadership in education, health-care administration, and research within a global community. Upon completion of the Ph.D. degree, the graduate should be able to:

1. Embrace a holistic perspective on life and demonstrate this by integrating the bio-psycho-social-spiritual dimensions in teaching, scholarship, and service.
2. Extend Christ-centered values to nursing scholarship and education.
3. Serve as a nurse scholar through the generation and dissemination of knowledge relevant to nursing science, health policy, and the nursing profession.
4. Clearly explain complex phenomena in spoken and written English to both professional and lay audiences.
5. Demonstrate advanced competency and leadership in the use of technology for the purpose of generating new knowledge in nursing.
6. Engage in collaborative discourse, scholarship, and leadership contributing to health care and society.
7. Expand the knowledge and science in the provision of nursing-related care to diverse groups.

The curriculum

The Ph.D. degree program is classified as an online, distance education-accessible program, incorporating virtual synchronous, asynchronous, and, on occasion when feasible, in-person methodologies of instruction. The curriculum has six domains: core courses (B.S. to Ph.D.), Ph.D. role courses, concentration/elective courses (to support the dissertation), methods courses (research methods and statistics), religion, and dissertation units. The department has identified approximately 20 courses within the School of Nursing that could be selected to satisfy requirements within the domains as well as a variety of courses in other Loma Linda University schools and the NEXus* consortium that may support the student's dissertation interest.

The doctoral degree provides an in-depth understanding of knowledge development within the discipline of nursing through philosophical, theoretical, and scientific methods of inquiry. Students are encouraged to select an individually focused area of advanced inquiry that will support their chosen area of expertise in nursing, and falls within the broad scope of vulnerable populations, health/wellness/wholeness, or health-systems research. The individual area of concentration should fit established

research programs of the School of Nursing faculty or other University faculty members as advised.

* NEXus is a partnership among select Western Institute of Nursing institutions to facilitate enrollment in doctoral courses not available on the student's home campus. Through NEXus, the institutions have identified courses that are available at a distance and open for enrollments from partner institutions.

Progression criteria

The following sequential elements are required for progression in the doctoral program:

1. Develop an area of concentration and receive approval of the proposed academic plan by the end of the first year of full-time study.
2. Complete all core, concentration, and methods courses.
3. Pass an oral comprehensive examination.
4. Successfully defend research a proposal.
5. Advance to candidacy.
6. Successfully defend a dissertation.

Refer to guidelines from the Faculty of Graduate Studies* and the Ph.D. degree student handbook for dissertation format requirements.

The normal time to complete the program is three to seven years—(five years projected mean) based on less than full-time enrollment.

*The Ph.D. Program Oversight: Faculty of Graduate Studies

Admissions

In addition to Loma Linda University (<http://llucatalog.llu.edu/about-university/admission-policies-information/#admissionrequirementstext>) admission requirements, the applicant to the Doctor of Philosophy degree program in nursing must also complete the following requirements:

1. Minimum of a baccalaureate degree in nursing from an accredited program. Applicants with a prior master's degree in nursing are eligible to receive up to 32 units of advanced standing.*
2. G.P.A. of 3.0, both cumulative and in nursing courses
3. Current RN license before application*
4. Three electronic recommendations from recent professors, current work supervisor, and spiritual advisor
5. Interview by faculty members in the School of Nursing
6. Health Science Reasoning Test (HSRT)
7. Must submit a sample of scholarly work (ie. academic paper or publication) written by the applicant.

Application deadlines

Applicants seeking graduate admission must have the application process completed by the dates indicated in the following:

- Autumn Quarter—April 1
- Winter Quarter—August 1
- Spring Quarter—November 1

Program requirements

B.S. to Ph.D.

Core		
NGRD 626	Advanced Methods for Synthesis Science	4
NGRD 651	Theoretical Foundations for Evidence-Based Practice	4
NGRD 652	Health-Care Systems Leadership	4
NGRD 653	Health Systems Policy Development and Advocacy	4
NGRD 657	Intermediate Statistics	4
NGRD 658	Nursing Research and Translational Science	4
PhD Role		
NGRD 679	Writing for Professional Publication	4
NGRD 680	Strategies for Advanced Theory Development in Nursing	4
NGRD 681	Philosophical Foundations of Nursing Science	4
NGRD 688	Nursing Science Seminar (1) ⁴	2
Concentration/Electives		
Focused courses foundational to dissertation and/or the PhD role.		20
Cognates		
RELR 5__	Graduate-level Relational	3
RELE 5__	Graduate-level Ethics	3
RELT 5__	Graduate-level Theological	3
Research and Statistics		
NGRD 664	Advanced Statistics	4
NGRD 683	Mentored Research (2) ²	4
NGRD 684	Quantitative Research Methods	4
NGRD 685	Qualitative Research Methods	4
NGRD 686	Applied Psychometrics for Health Care (Advanced Methods Course) ³	4
or NGRD 695	Advanced Qualitative Research	
NGRD 697	Dissertation Research (1-8) ⁴	20
Total Units		107

M.S. to Ph.D.

Core		
NGRD 657	Intermediate Statistics ¹	4
NGRD 658	Nursing Research and Translational Science	4
PhD Role		
NGRD 679	Writing for Professional Publication	4
NGRD 680	Strategies for Advanced Theory Development in Nursing	4
NGRD 681	Philosophical Foundations of Nursing Science	4
NGRD 688	Nursing Science Seminar (1) ⁴	2
Concentration/Electives		
Focused courses foundational to dissertation and/or the PhD role.		12
Cognates		
RELR 5__	Graduate-level Relational	3
RELE 5__	Graduate-level Ethics	3
RELT 5__	Graduate-level Theological	3
Research and Statistics		
NGRD 664	Advanced Statistics	4
NGRD 683	Mentored Research (2) ²	4
NGRD 684	Quantitative Research Methods	4

NGRD 685	Qualitative Research Methods	4
NGRD 686	Applied Psychometrics for Health Care (Advanced Methods Course) ³	4
or NGRD 695	Advanced Qualitative Research	
NGRD 697	Dissertation Research (1-8) ⁴	20
Total Units		83

¹ Advanced standing given if the course has been taken within the last five years or a master's-level theory course in statistics.

² Research Practicum.

³ NGRD 686 Applied Psychometrics for Health Care if study design is quantitative; NGRD 695 Advanced Qualitative Research if study design is qualitative.

⁴ Requires multiple registrations.

Service learning requirement

Nursing Ph.D. students may fulfill the service learning requirement by completing either RELR 540 Wholeness and Health or NGRD 654 Social Determinants of Health.

Normal time to complete the program

5.5 years – based on less than full-time enrollment