APPLYING TO THE DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PHD) PROGRAM

PhD PROGRAM- A Research-Focused Doctoral Degree

The OHSU School of Nursing offers an innovative mentored education program leading to the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree. The recently redesigned curriculum emphasizes seminar courses focused on individual learning to nurture students in their progression from novice to scholar.

Students usually complete PhD courses in 3 years. Although part-time study can be arranged, it is not recommended. In the first year, key courses in nursing knowledge and science are designed to be integrated, to develop scholarly thinking, and to develop each student's research focus. At the end of year 1, each student writes an integrative literature review in a focused research area. During the second year, each student acquires in-depth knowledge in either qualitative or quantitative methodology and engages in a year-long individualized mentored experience with a faculty research team. At the conclusion of year 2, students are ready to write a research proposal under the guidance of a mentor, usually the dissertation chair. Students then conduct an independent, but mentored, research study, write a dissertation, and earn the PhD degree. Two options are available for the dissertation: a traditional format or a manuscript-based integrated dissertation.

PhD coursework and mentored research opportunities are designed to provide a solid foundation in nursing science, methodology, and scholarship while focusing on the development of each student's individual abilities and research interests. Benchmarks for success in the program—an integrative literature review (year 1) and a research proposal (year 2)—are intended to help students learn the real-world skills they will need as future scientists, faculty members, and nursing leaders.

The PhD program offers a post-baccalaureate option for those with a bachelor’s degree in nursing as well as a post-mater’s option for those with a master’s degree in nursing. Students who enter the PhD program with a bachelor’s degree must take an additional 12 credits of elective courses related to their research, usually during the third year. The coursework is offered in both face-to-face in the classroom and in distance friendly synchronous formats to accommodate students living in Portland as well as those located outside of the area. Students who do not live in Portland can enroll in courses and participate in mentoring relationships with faculty using distance-friendly technology, with occasional presence on the Portland campus.

OHSU School of nursing participates in Western Regional Graduate Program so PhD students from WICHE states can pay resident tuition.
Application Deadline & Admission Decisions

This program begins in the fall. All students attend classes together, some in the classroom and some using distance-friendly technology. At least one visit per year to the Portland campus is required for distance students, though students often visit to meet with advisors, present at research week, and other activities.

- Applications open each fall with established application deadlines that can be found at: http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-nursing/admissions/applying/doctoral_deadlines.cfm. All materials must be submitted by the identified deadline.
- Note: Applications close at midnight on the designated deadline date Eastern Standard Time (EST).

Admission decisions are strongly based on the following criteria:

- Research interest and faculty match
- Cumulative GPA
- Letters of recommendation
- Essay response and interview
- Sample of scholarly work

Admission Requirements & Eligibility

Applicants must have the following materials in order to apply. Please see the international applicant web page for additional requirements if you are a resident of a country other than the United States.

- **Research Match:** Coordinating your doctoral research with your faculty advisor is a key part of your program. To make sure that your research aligns with our faculty advisors, please take a moment to review the PhD faculty website http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-nursing/programs/doctor-of-philosophy/meet-phd-faculty/index.cfm to identify and contact a potential faculty match prior to submitting your application. Contact a faculty member or members with whom you would like to study to discuss your research interests. You will be asked about this as part of your application.

- **Prior Degree:** It is expected that applicants to the PhD program have a baccalaureate degree in nursing or a master's degree in nursing from a program accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission or the Commission of Collegiate Nursing Education. On a case-by-case basis, the application committee will consider a master's degree in a
related field as meeting the requirement for admission. Please contact the PhD Program Director to discuss this option.

- **The Graduate Record Examination (GRE):** The GRE is not required to apply to the PhD program. However, some research funding and scholarship opportunities may still require the GRE. Please contact the admissions office for more details.

- **RN Status:** RN Licensure: Students on the Portland campus must have a nursing license in the State of Oregon prior to enrolling. Students attending from a distance must have a nursing license within their primary state of residence prior to enrolling. If distance students come to Portland to engage in nursing practice (including conducting research in Oregon), they must obtain a nursing license in the state of Oregon.

- **Grade Point Average:** Minimum cumulative graduate and undergraduate GPA of 3.0.

- **Letters of Recommendation:** Applicants must submit three letters of reference as a part of the application process. References should have the ability to speak to the applicant’s potential for scientific research and/or teaching. Thus, letters from persons with graduate degrees, especially doctoral degrees, are preferred. Electronic reference forms are located and sent out via the online Nursing CAS application system.

- **Entrance Essay Question**
  You will be asked to provide a written essay(s) as part of your application. Please see the link to the essay instructions for this program located on this page: http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-nursing/admissions/applying/index.cfm.

- **Example of Scholarly work:** Applicants must submit an example of scholarly writing. This can be a published paper, thesis, or research paper used as a part of a course requirement.
  
  o Note: If you do not have this type of work to submit, please contact the Office of Admissions at proginfo@ohsu.edu for further questions.
Applying to OHSU School of Nursing Via Nursing CAS (NCAS)

**STEP 1:** Set up a Nursing CAS account and start your application for the program/campus to which you are applying.
- All students applying to any of the OHSU Nursing programs must submit an application through Nursing CAS by the stipulated deadline date.
- The NCAS application fee is $65.00.
- NCAS runs on Eastern Standard Time and applications will close on the designated date at 12:00 PM EST.

**STEP 2:** Upload all required items into your Nursing CAS account and select the designated OHSU program to which you would like to apply.
- Note: TOEFL scores are sent directly to OHSU code: 4900
- All application materials (official transcripts, essay responses, vitae, & letters of reference) must be received by Nursing CAS by the designated application deadline in order to have your application considered. *See the full list and instructions below.*
- Nursing CAS will not forward incomplete files for review. Please make sure to check your Nursing CAS account to ensure that you have provided all required materials.

**STEP 3:** Done. Check back to your NCAS account often as we will e-mail you with status updates and additional information requests.
- You will be notified when admission decisions have been made.

**Materials that will be submitted as part of your Nursing CAS Application**
- You will be asked to submit an essay response as part of your application. Between September 15 and your application deadline, you will be able to find the essay question(s) for your program at the following link: http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-nursing/admissions/applying/index.cfm. Complete the essay question and upload your essay response to your Nursing CAS application. After uploading your personal statement, go to “Designations” on the home page of your Nursing CAS account, select “designated schools” then Oregon Health & Science University and ATTACH the personal statement to your designated program.
- You will be asked to submit 3 letters of reference as part of your application. You will be able to send the electronic reference form your Nursing CAS account.
- You will be asked to submit a resume or vitae as part of your application. Please PDF this item(s) and upload them to your Nursing CAS account.
- You will be asked to submit official transcripts from ALL institutions that you have ever attended as part of your application to NCAS. Follow the instructions provided in your Nursing CAS application to submit your official transcripts to Nursing CAS directly.
  1. Note: Order 2-3 copies of your transcripts to keep for your records for later use if needed upon matriculation.

Please send questions about program information to proginfo@ohsu.edu.

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Additional Resources

A sample program of study for each program can be found online:
http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-nursing/programs/programs-of-study-page.cfm

Application Deadlines: http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-nursing/admissions/applying/docto

Financing your education: Start planning to finance your nursing education now. Review the tuition and fees and potential limitations for receiving federal aid here:
http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-nursing/admissions/tuition-fees/index.cfm

Scholarship information: http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-nursing/admissions/tuition-fees/scholarships.cfm

This document is a guide; final decisions regarding the acceptance of prerequisite course work is made by the OHSU Registrar's Office. The OHSU School of Nursing reserves the right to make changes to the academic program structure.

Please send questions about program information to proginfo@ohsu.edu.

FAQS

How long does the PhD program take?
The estimated length of time to complete the PhD degree full time, including the research dissertation is between four and five years.

Can I take classes part time?
Yes. Students can elect to take classes on a part time basis with the understanding that completion time will be extended.

Do most students work during the PhD program?
Yes. Some students are able to work while studying in the PhD program, but the multiple demands may be difficult.

Are there courses required prior to admission?
No additional coursework is required.
Can I take courses without being admitted into the PhD nursing program?

No, this is not an option for the PhD program.

Is there a matriculation (enrollment) deposit?
Yes, once you have received a letter of acceptance to the program, you will be asked for a $200.00 enrollment deposit that must be submitted to the OHSU School of Nursing in order to hold your place in the cohort. The matriculation fee is applied towards payment of tuition for the first term of the program.

Is financial aid available?
The OHSU Office of Financial Aid assists students in locating scholarships and loans to cover educational expenses. A Web site with helpful financial aid information and links to scholarship and aid search engines is www.finaid.org. For specific information about scholarships and financial aid offered at OHSU, visit the School of Nursing’s financial aid Web page and click on “Financial Aid”. Or, call the OHSU Registrar and Financial Aid office at 503 494-7800 or 800 775-5460.

Equal Opportunity/Non-Discrimination Policy
Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 protects individuals from discrimination on the basis of sex in any educational program or activity operated by recipients of federal aid. OHSU complies with Title IX and 34 CFR Part 106 by prohibiting sex and gender discrimination in education programs, activities, employment, and admissions. Inquiries about Title IX compliance or sex/gender discrimination may be directed to the OHSU Title IX Coordinator: Michael Tom, Director of the Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity (AAEO) Dept., 503-494-5148, tomm@ohsu.edu. Mailing address: OHSU, Mail code MP240, 3181 SW Sam Jackson Park Road, Portland, OR 97239. Office: Marquam Plaza