

## APPLYING TO THE DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (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 2 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 are as follows: 1) an integrative literature review (year 1) and 2) 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-master'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 face-to-face in the classroom on the Portland campus.

OHSU School of nursing participates in Western Regional Graduate Program so **PhD students from WICHE states can pay resident tuition. For eligible states visit:**

<https://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/schools/school-of-nursing/admissions/tuition-fees/index.cfm>

### Admissions Factors:

Admission decisions are strongly based on the following criteria:

- Research interest and faculty match
- Cumulative GPA
- Letters of recommendation (preferred: supervisor, professor, or co-worker)
- Essay response and interview
- Sample of scholarly work

- TOEFL with a score of 83 or higher (for international applicants only), IELTS scores will not be accepted

## Admission Requirements & Eligibility

### 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](#) to identify a potential faculty match prior to submitting your application. You will be asked about this as part of your application and applicants are not admitted without a faculty match.

### 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.

### RN Status

Students on the Portland campus must have a nursing license in the State of Oregon prior to enrolling.

### 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.

### Sample of Scholarly work

Applicants must submit a sample of scholarly writing. This can be a published paper, thesis, or research paper used as a part of a course requirement. Note: If you do not have a sample of your scholarly work to submit, please let us know; we can arrange for you to write an article analysis in response to an article that we provide you.

## HOW TO APPLY TO THE PHD PROGRAM:

**Step 1:** Review and follow the specific applications instructions for your program located on the OHSU School of Nursing website found at [www.ohsu.edu/son](http://www.ohsu.edu/son) in the tab "Admissions & Prospective Students", then select "**Applying**". This Applying page offers a complete check list of instructions, helpful links, and additional forms to upload to your application. Please review the page thoroughly.

**Step 2:** The OHSU School of Nursing uses an independent organization that processes applications for OHSU called the Nursing Centralized Application Service for Nursing CAS. You must set up a Nursing CAS account and start your application for the program 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 in order to be considered for admissions.

**Step 3:** Upload and add all required items into your Nursing CAS account. All required application materials are as follows:

- ✓ **Official transcripts** (transcripts must be mailed directly from your college(s).  
*Mail transcripts to:* NursingCAS. P.O. Box 9201, Watertown, MA 02471 **\*OHSU will not accept applicant transcripts- in order for your application to be complete and considered for admissions they must be received by Nursing CAS.**
- ✓ **3 Letters of Recommendation** – submitted via Nursing CAS
- ✓ **Sample of scholarly work** - upload in document upload section.
- ✓ **Curriculum Vitae or Resume** – upload in document upload section.
- ✓ Coordinate your doctoral research with your faculty match

**Step 4:** Once the above steps have been completed in your NursingCAS application, you must submit your application via NursingCAS in order to have your application reviewed by OHSU. At this point, you must be in contact with the NursingCAS office to confirm that they have received all of your official transcripts.

**Nursing CAS Support:** 617-612-2880, Mon. – Thurs. 9am -7pm EST, Friday 9am – 5pm EST. Applications will not be reviewed or considered without all official transcripts on file through the NursingCAS system.

### **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: Laura Stadum, Title IX Coordinator, 503-494-0258, [titleix@ohsu.edu](mailto:titleix@ohsu.edu).