PhD in Nursing

The PhD program requires completion of a minimum of 58 credits, which includes 57 credits of coursework and at least 1 credit of dissertation enrollment. The program is designed to be completed in three years (nine semesters). It uses a full time cohort model, and most classes are delivered in the face to face format. The program curriculum is interdisciplinary in nature and classes are taken across a variety of schools. Each student in the program works closely with their advisor to identify coursework that will support their education and development as a scholar in a focused area of research.

During the first five semesters of the program the student completes 51 credits of foundational doctoral coursework. During the sixth semester (includes summer sessions 1 and 2) the student enrolls in a dissertation proposal writing seminar course, and sits for the PhD comprehensive exam (summer session 1). Once the student passes the comprehensive exam they complete and schedule the dissertation proposal defense (summer session 2). After the dissertation proposal defense is passed, the PhD student secures IRB approval and enrolls in 1 credit of dissertation (NURS 800). PhD students are expected to design a PhD dissertation study that can be completed and defended in 12 months.

PhD Degree Entry Pathways

Students can enter the PhD program through one of these pathways.

- Bachelor’s to PhD – RN with a bachelor’s degree in nursing
- RN to PhD – RNs with an associate degree in nursing and a non-nursing bachelor’s degree
- Master’s to PhD – RNs with a master’s degree in nursing
or other health related field
- Graduate Entry Program in Nursing – Non-nurses with a non-nursing bachelor’s degree

Fast Facts

- Full-time, on-campus 3 to 5 student cohort program designed to be completed in 3 years
- Individualized advising and guidance from faculty advisor
- Interdisciplinary graduate coursework that fosters team science and research collaboration
- 57 didactic credits plus 1 additional credit per semester for dissertation work until completed

Program Outcomes / Competencies

Students completing the PhD degree in Nursing will demonstrate the ability to conduct original publishable research, ability to communicate to various audiences, conduct research in an ethical manner, integrate and apply key concepts, information, and methods into their work. The program will graduate nurse scholars capable of leading and functioning on scientific teams addressing complex health concerns.

Student Funding & Tuition

The funding offer may include full or partial support including:

- Graduate research assistantships are available and include tuition support plus salary for part-time (.50 FTE/20 hours a week) work on research projects with school faculty
- School scholarships
Partnership in the Nursing Education Exchange

University of Hawaii at Manoa is a member of NEXus (The Nursing Education Exchange). NEXus is a collaboration between participating doctoral programs in nursing that allows doctoral students enrolled at member colleges and universities to take courses that may not be offered at his/her home institution for a common tuition price. Students may fulfill requirements by enrolling in NEXus courses.

Contact

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Contact for applicants and enrolled students in the Master of Science and PhD programs.

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