BSN to PhD Program Overview

BSN-PhD Overview
The BSN-PhD program is designed to prepare its graduates for leadership roles and research careers in academia, the health care industry, and government and private organizations focused on health care. The program purpose is to develop individuals who will be leaders in generating and applying the science needed to guide nursing practice, and who have the knowledge and skills to direct and guide application of other evidence-based health care findings to improve the health of people from diverse cultures. Students in the program will pursue individualized courses of study under the mentorship of research active faculty. A major program emphasis is the preparation of PhD educated minority nursing leaders and focused research on health issues for minority and underserved populations.

The BSN to PhD in Nursing program has six components:

- Plan of Study
- Candidacy Examination
- Dissertation Proposal and Defense
- Dissertation Research
- Dissertation Writing
- Dissertation Defense

Degree Requirements

- Completion of 94-97 credit hours, including 36-39 hours of credits toward the MSN degree (see plan of study), 3-9 hours of credit for Candidacy and a minimum of 18 hours of dissertation. The program can be completed in 4½ -5 years of full-time study or 6-7 years of part-time study
- Completion of core knowledge (12 credits), Research Methods (9 credits), Statistics (6 credits), Grantsmanship (6 credits), Cognate Electives by advisement(9 credits), Candidacy (3-9 credits), Dissertation (minimum of 18 credits)
- Demonstration of graduate knowledge in 3 stages in order to be awarded a PhD in Nursing degree:
  - Stage I Qualifying Examination (written)
  - Stage II Proposal Defense
  - Stage III Dissertation Defense.
- Students are expected to complete the dissertation 5 years from the date of advancement to candidacy, which includes successful completion of written and oral examinations, favorable recommendation of the students’ supervisory committee, and an approved dissertation proposal.
- Achievement of an overall cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above. A cumulative GPA of less than 3.0 will place the student on probation for one semester, and she/he may be subject to dismissal if the 3.0 GPA requirement is not met after the probationary period.
- Removal of all conditions, deficiencies, and incomplete grades. With the exception of the doctoral dissertation courses, students are expected to register for courses with letter grades. Credit hours for courses in which the grade is “B-” or below will not account toward satisfying graduate degree requirements.