PhD Program Overview

The PhD in Nursing 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 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 39 credit hours of coursework and a minimum of 3 credit hours of Candidacy Examination and 18 hours of Dissertation credits. The program can be completed in 4 years of full-time study.

- Completion of the following courses: A research sequence (1 course on knowledge development, 2 courses in research methods and design, 2 courses in statistics, and 2 three-credit courses on grantsmanship); research in health care for multicultural, diverse and vulnerable populations; academic, health care and political systems: function, structure, leadership and survival; accessing, managing, and packaging information; and 2 cognate courses in a specific knowledge area.

- 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. Students are expected to register for courses with letter grades. Credit hours for courses in which the grade is "B-" or below will not count toward satisfying graduate degree requirements.

- Student is expected to successfully complete and defend the Dissertation five (5) years from the date of advancement to Dissertation Candidacy (i.e., successful completion of written and oral examinations, favorable recommendation of the supervisory/guidance Committee, and an approved Dissertation Proposal.