OVERVIEW
The PhD program is ranked among the top ten PhD programs in nursing in the United States by the National Research Council. The PhD program prepares scholars to discover and extend scientific knowledge that advances the science and practice of nursing and contributes to other disciplines. The curriculum includes a coherent series of courses, seminars, and discussions designed to develop in the student a mature understanding of content, methods, and values of the discipline of nursing and its relation to other fields. Early in the program, the student selects an area of research emphasis, which needs to match a faculty member's research emphasis. Students work closely with faculty researchers from nursing and other disciplines. The dissertation is the culminating requirement in the PhD program.

FOCAL AREAS OF RESEARCH
- **Behavioral management of chronic disorders**
  - including adherence, self-management, technology, and prevention activities
- **Patient management in critical care**
  - including communication, recovery, and end of life care
- **Consumer informatics**
  - including education, care management, usability, and health literacy
- **Genetics applications in nursing care**
  - focusing on molecular genetics and psychosocial implications
- **Technology** for nurses and patients to improve care

MILESTONES
1. Preliminary examination
2. Dissertation topic approval
3. Comprehensive examination and overview
4. Admission to candidacy for the PhD degree
5. Dissertation defense

OBJECTIVES
Graduates are prepared to:
- Generate new knowledge through research and testing of theory
- Examine the trends and factors that influence the generation of knowledge and its use in health care
- Contribute to solutions that advance health care in a culturally diverse society through communication of knowledge to the clinical, public, professional, and scientific communities of interest and public policy makers
- Reflect a nursing and interdisciplinary perspective in research and scholarly endeavors

PhD FUNDING
Teaching Fellow, Teaching Assistant, Graduate Student Researcher, and Graduate Student Assistant positions, which provide a stipend and tuition benefits, are available on a competitive basis. Doctoral students are encouraged to apply for individual Kirschstein National Research Service Awards (F31) or other competitive scholarships from national organizations. Scholarships and grants providing partial tuition support are available subject to funding. PhD students may qualify for loans or predoctoral minority supplements for further financial assistance. Students may also apply for predoctoral fellowships through one of the School's funded institutional training grants (T32).

(rev. 11-8-16)
CURRICULUM
BSN to PhD
- Onsite
- Full-time enrollment is expected (~ 4-6 years) / minimum of one term full-time study required
- Minimum 94 credits
- Curriculum Plan: Full-time (nursing.pitt.edu)
- Fall Term admission

MSN/master's to PhD
- Onsite
- Full-time (~ 3-4 years) / Part-time (~ 4-6 years) / minimum of one term full-time study required
- Minimum 64 credits
- Curriculum Plans: Full-time (nursing.pitt.edu) / Part-time (individualized with program coordinator)
- Fall Term admission

ADMISSION CRITERIA
BSN to PhD Applicants
- BSN (from ACEN [NLN], ACICS, or CCNE accredited program)
- May have modifications to the criteria listed below and will be evaluated individually by PhD Council

MSN/master's to PhD Applicants
- BSN (from ACEN [NLN], ACICS, or CCNE accredited program)
- Appropriate master's degree
  - If master's degree in field other than nursing, additional course work may be required
  - If master's degree in nursing, it must be from ACEN (NLN), ACICS, or CCNE accredited program
- Some advanced nursing preparation is required

All Applicants
- \( \geq 3.5 \) GPA in master's degree
- Valid registered nurse licensure preferred
- Competitive GRE scores (within five years)
- Prerequisite graduate-level statistics courses
- Essay addressing goals, focal area of research, and implications for global health
- A second writing sample

APPLICATION
- Online application: nursing.pitt.edu
- International applicants: nursing.pitt.edu & ois.pitt.edu
- Deadline: February 1 - admission decision expected by June 1

Non-Degree Seeking (Graduate) Option
- Prospective applicants may enroll in a maximum of 12 core, non-clinical graduate credits before beginning the program
- Submit an application to the Non-Degree Seeking (Graduate) option at nursing.pitt.edu
  - Application fee waived if previous applicant within one year
- After receipt of the application, an academic advisor will contact student regarding course selection/enrollment

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Marilyn Hravnak, RN, PhD, ACNP-BC, FCCM, FAAN
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