5th in U.S. News & World Reports “America’s Best Graduate Schools”
6th in National Institutes of Health (NIH) research dollars awarded
Accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)

Since its beginning in 1954, the PhD program in nursing at the University of Pittsburgh has been characterized as pioneering. It continues to be a trend setter and offers the BSN to PhD and MSN to PhD tracks. The current program ensures that the reputation for timeliness and excellence will continue.

PURPOSE
The PhD program prepares scholars who will discover and extend scientific knowledge that advances the science and practice of nursing and contributes to other disciplines.

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

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

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR FULL-TIME STUDENTS
Full-time students receive financial support providing tuition support and a monthly stipend to offset living expenses. Options include:
- Teaching Fellow, Teaching Assistant, Graduate Student Researcher and Graduate Student Assistant positions
- T32 predoctoral fellowships available in Technology, Genomics or Cancer Survivorship Research
- Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need award
CURRICULUM FORMAT
BSN to PhD
Admit annually Fall Term only
Onsite / Full-time enrollment is expected (~ 4-6 years)
Students are required to engage in a minimum of one term of full-time doctoral study
Curriculum
✓ Minimum 94 credits
✓ Full-time curriculum: available at nursing.pitt.edu

MSN/master’s to PhD
Admit annually Fall Term only
Onsite / Full-time (~ 3-4 years) or Part-time (~ 4-6 years)
Students are required to engage in a minimum of one term of full-time doctoral study
Curriculum
✓ Minimum 64 credits
✓ Full-time curriculum: available at nursing.pitt.edu
✓ Part-time curriculum: planned individually with program coordinator

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

MSN to PhD Applicants:
• Appropriate master’s degree
• Some advanced nursing preparation is required
• Additional course work may be required when the degree is in a field other than nursing
• If master’s degree is in nursing, it must be from a CCNE, NLN, ACICS or ACEN accredited program

All Applicants:
• BSN (from CCNE, NLN, ACICS or ACEN accredited program)
• Cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher from 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: see nursing.pitt.edu and ois.pitt.edu
• Deadline: Complete applications received by Feb. 1 - admission decision expected by June 1

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Catherine M. Bender, PhD, RN, FAAN
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Program Director
412-624-3594 or cbe100@pitt.edu

University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing
3500 Victoria Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15261 • www.nursing.pitt.edu • 1-888-747-0794