OVERVIEW
The PhD program includes an apprenticeship model of research training that combines rigorous coursework and an apprenticeship with successful research mentors. Students acquire tangible skills in research methodology, grantsmanship, professional skills, the responsible conduct of research, and dissemination of research findings through publications and presentations.

Students examine the trends and factors that influence the generation of knowledge and its use in health care. Their research and scholarly endeavors reflect a nursing and interdisciplinary perspective that contributes 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. Students may develop a personalized educational experience by choosing additional coursework congruent with knowledge and skill development in their chosen areas of focal research concentration. The dissertation is the culminating requirement in the program.

FOCAL AREAS OF RESEARCH
- Technology use in patient management
- Patient adherence to treatment
- Cancer survivorship
- Genomics
- Behavioral interventions in chronic conditions
- Symptom management
- Primary prevention in chronic diseases
- Competitive research funding application submitted
- Dissemination of scholarly work
- Admission to candidacy for the PhD degree
- Dissertation defense

MILESTONES
- Preliminary examination
- Dissertation topic approval
- Successful performance of Apprenticeship Practicum
- Comprehensive examination and overview
- Curriculum Plan: Full-time (nursing.pitt.edu)
- Fall Term admission

CURRICULUM
BSN to PhD
- Onsite
- Full-time enrollment is expected (~ 3 years) / minimum of one term full-time study required
- Minimum 72 credits
- Curriculum Plan: Full-time (nursing.pitt.edu)
- Fall Term admission

MSN/master’s to PhD
- Onsite
- Full-time (~ 2-3 years) / Part-time (~ 3-4 years) / minimum of one term full-time study required
- Minimum 48 credits
- Curriculum Plans: Full-time (nursing.pitt.edu) / Part-time (individualized with program coordinator)
- Fall Term admission
- *Upon admission, the advisor will review the official master’s degree transcript and prepare a gap analysis to determine if additional research courses are needed.
PhD FUNDING
Teaching Fellow (TF), Teaching Assistant (TA), Graduate Student Researcher (GSR), and Graduate Student Assistant positions (GSA), which provide a stipend and tuition benefits, are available on a competitive basis. Doctoral students are encouraged to apply for Kirschstein National Research Service Awards (F31) or competitive scholarships from national organizations. Students may qualify for federal or non-federal loans or pre-doctoral supplements and are encouraged to apply for pre-doctoral fellowships through the School’s funded institutional training grants (T32).

ADMISSION CRITERIA

BSN to PhD
• 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
• BSN from ACEN, NLN, ACICS, or CCNE accredited program
• ≥ 3.5 GPA in 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
• Valid registered nurse licensure preferred
• Competitive GRE scores (within five years)
• 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
  May 1 - admission decision expected by June 30

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
Yvette P. Conley, PhD, FAAN
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Program Director
412-383-5148 or conley@pitt.edu

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