

NURSING, PHD

The School of Nursing offers a program leading to the doctor of philosophy degree. The school also has a unique early entry PhD program to bridge or accelerate progression to the PhD level for undergraduate nursing students. Postdoctoral training opportunities are also available.

Nursing faculty members are well prepared for their roles as scholars, clinicians, and teachers. Many have postdoctoral experience in nursing and related disciplines. They have wide-ranging clinical expertise foundational to their experiences with doctoral students. Many faculty have been awarded prestigious federal and private research and training awards and are well known for their expertise in university, local, national, and international communities. Our faculty have a wide variety of research interests. Areas of particular strength and depth include the following:

- Aging
- Chronic illness & symptom management
- Care of children & families
- Health systems & care delivery

World-renowned facilities for clinical practice and research are available in and around Madison. These include University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics, American Family Children's Hospital, UW Carbone Cancer Center, and William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital; hospitals and clinics in urban and rural settings; nursing homes; and public health agencies. The university's location in Wisconsin's capital offers opportunities for involvement in state government and policymaking.

Signe Skott Cooper Hall, the School of Nursing's new facility, features state-of-the-art classrooms, simulation labs, meeting and research facilities, and social gathering spaces in an environment dedicated to the health and wellness of students, faculty, staff, and the communities and populations served. Adjacent to Cooper Hall, the Health Sciences Learning Center (HSLC) brings together students in nursing, medicine, and pharmacy, and includes the Ebling Library and University Book Store.

EARLY ENTRY PHD OPTION

The early-entry PhD option is designed for undergraduate students who are interested in research as a career and the PhD as a goal. With the assistance of a faculty advisory committee, early entry students plan an individualized program of study and research, drawing on existing undergraduate and graduate courses in nursing and related disciplines.

Two degrees are awarded to students who complete this option: bachelor of science in nursing (BS), granted by the School of Nursing, and doctor of philosophy (PhD), granted by the Graduate School.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREE

The purpose of the PhD program is to prepare researchers to develop, evaluate, and disseminate new knowledge in nursing and health science. The program is characterized by early and continuous training in research through a close mentoring relationship with faculty, a strong scientific base in nursing, and supporting courses in a related (i.e., minor) discipline. Graduates with a research doctorate are prepared to assume positions as faculty as well as research scientists and research directors in a variety of educational, clinical, and governmental settings.

The program is designed to be completed in four years of full-time study. Students may be accepted into the PhD program either post-baccalaureate or post-master's. Students are encouraged to enroll full-time. If part-time study is necessary, a minimum of six credits per semester is required. In collaboration with the faculty mentor(s), students plan a course of study that constitutes a unified program and fulfills the program requirements.