

Frequently asked questions about:

Marquette University College of Nursing

PhD Program

1. [*What is the purpose of the PhD Program?*](#)
2. [*What are graduates of this PhD program prepared to do?*](#)
3. [*Can I complete the program as a part-time student?*](#)
4. [*How many credits are required?*](#)
5. [*How long does it take to complete the program?*](#)
6. [*What are the admission requirements and/or prerequisites?*](#)
7. [*Are there any courses required prior to starting the program?*](#)
8. [*When can I apply?*](#)
9. [*Can I apply online?*](#)
10. [*Are courses in the program available online?*](#)
11. [*What are the residency requirements?*](#)
12. [*What is the cost of the program?*](#)
13. [*Where can I find information on financial aid?*](#)

Q: What is the purpose of the PhD Program?

A: The purpose of the PhD program is to prepare nurse scientists as teacher-scholars to assume leadership in reducing health disparities for vulnerable populations. The dual focus is on preparing teachers of nursing and on advancing knowledge related to vulnerable populations. The curriculum includes 9 credits of course work in education, including a residency (practicum) in nursing education. Both experienced and novice teachers can benefit from the program because students develop individual objectives that challenge the individual to grow as a teacher during their residency experiences.

[Return to Top](#)

Q: What are graduates of this PhD program prepared to do?

A: The program is designed to prepare graduates to:

1. Design and conduct independent research that will impact the health of vulnerable populations.
2. Teach nursing students and advanced practitioners to improve the health status of vulnerable populations.
3. Develop, test and refine theories as a basis for nursing science.

4. Analyze patterns of health and illness among vulnerable populations.
5. Synthesize research findings to provide leadership in health care.

[Return to Top](#)

Q: Can I complete the program as a part-time student?

A: Yes. Students may take one or two courses per semester.

[Return to Top](#)

Q: How many credits are required?

A: The usual **post-MSN** PhD curriculum consists of 51 credits beyond the master's degree in nursing. Course categories and the required number of credits include: Nursing Science- 12 credits; Research and Statistics- 12 credits; Teaching- 9 credits; Cognates- 6 credits; and Dissertation- 12 credits. See sample program plans for full- and part-time study.

The **post-BSN** PhD curriculum consists of 18 post-BSN credits plus the usual PhD courses listed above for a total of 69 credits. These may also be taken full- or part-time.

[Return to Top](#)

Q: How long does it take to complete the program?

A: [Full-time](#) students can complete the post-MSN course work in two years and then focus on completing their dissertation. [Part-time](#) students typically complete the post-MSN course work in three years and then focus on their dissertation.

[Return to Top](#)

Q: What are the admission requirements and/or prerequisites?

A: The requirements are as follows:

For those with an MSN:

- Graduation from an accredited program with a Master of Science degree in nursing (normally with a graduate GPA of at least 3.30 on a 4.00 scale (4.00=A))

- A graduate level research course
- A completed [application form](#) and fee
- Official transcripts from all current and previous colleges
- Three letters of recommendation
- Acceptable scores on the General Record Examination (GRE) (e.g. combined score of at least 1,000 on the verbal and quantitative portion and a writing score of approximately 4.0). Sample of scholarly writing
- A curriculum vita and objectives for doctoral study, including research interests
- Personal interview
- Licensure as a professional nurse
- Copy of Wisconsin nursing license
- Completion of a health status form and background check

For international applications only: a TOEFL score of 550 (paper-based version), 213 (computer-based version), 79-80 (new Internet-based version including Speaking) or other acceptable proof of English proficiency

Qualified applicants may be denied admission to the PhD program due to space constraints.

For those with a BSN:

- Graduation from an accredited program with a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing (normally with a graduate GPA of at least 3.00 on a 4.00 scale (4.00=A))
- A completed [application form](#) and fee
- Official transcripts from all current and previous colleges
- Three letters of recommendation
- Acceptable scores on the General Record Examination (GRE) Sample of scholarly writing
- A curriculum vita or resume
- Personal interview

For international applications only: a TOEFL score or other acceptable proof of English proficiency.

Qualified applicants may be denied admission to the PhD program due to space constraints.

[Return to Top](#)

Q: Are there any courses required prior to starting the program?

A: Post-MSN applicants accepted into the PhD program must have completed a statistics course (course including descriptive and inferential statistics) within 5 years of the date of enrollment in the doctoral program.

[Return to Top](#)

Q: When can I apply?

A: It is recommended that students apply at least 5 months prior to their intended start date. For instance, one would apply by April for fall semester and by August for spring semester.

[Return to Top](#)

Q: Can I apply online?

A: Yes. You **must** apply [online](#) via the Graduate School website.

[Return to Top](#)

Q: Are courses in the program available online?

A: No. We believe that personal interaction between other students and faculty enhances the students' educational experience and facilitates immersion in the community of scholars. However, the courses are offered primarily on Tuesdays and sequenced to facilitate students enrolling full time and taking up to 9 credits in one day.

[Return to Top](#)

Q: What are the residency requirements?

A: The goal of post-MSN PhD residency is to provide opportunities for students to become immersed in the campus community of scholars. Students can fulfill residency while taking their usual/post-MSN PhD requirements by completing nine credits of course work, or its equivalent, per term for two terms or summer sessions within an 18 month period, or by completing six credits of course work in each of three consecutive sessions (e.g. fall, spring, and summer OR fall, spring, fall). For additional options for fulfilling residency requirements, refer to the [Graduate School Bulletin](#).

[Return to Top](#)

Q: What is the cost of the program?

A: Tuition is currently \$840 per credit. This increases each year.

[Return to Top](#)

Q: Where can I find information on financial aid?

- A:** Financial opportunities for PhD students include:
- Division of Nursing Federal Nurse Traineeship
 - Agnes Reinders Scholarship
 - Graduate Assistantships (research & teaching)
 - Marquette University Tuition Scholarships
 - Specific foundation awards

Some types of financial aid require full-time enrollment and are based on academic performance; other types of aid may stipulate specific criteria or obligations following graduation.

Please note that the University-funded financial aid application deadlines are:

- February 15 (for the academic year or fall semester)
- November 15 (for spring semester)
- April 15 (for the summer session)

For more information regarding [financial aid](#), please click [here](#) .

Additional Links:

- [Graduate School Bulletin](#)
- [College of Nursing Student Handbook](#)

[Post-MSN PhD Sample PART-time Program Plan](#)

[Post-MSN PhD Sample FULL-time Program Plan](#)

[Return to Top](#)