

PhD in Nursing Program

The University of Massachusetts Amherst PhD in Nursing Program offers a wealth of educational opportunities. The campus is a Carnegie-designated research extensive public university offering more than 70 different graduate programs in 10 schools and colleges. The PhD program builds on previous nursing education. The program consists of courses in nursing knowledge and theory development, nursing research, statistics, advanced nursing electives, cognates and a dissertation.

Graduates of the PhD program will have a strong foundation in inquiry and three major areas of expertise:

- knowledge of the discipline of nursing
- knowledge of a specific clinical or practice population and
- strategies of research and scholarship, such as grant writing and publication

Program Goals

The goal of the PhD Program is to prepare nurse researchers, scholars, and educators who will:

- Advance nursing knowledge and improve nursing practice
- Synthesize knowledge from nursing and other disciplines to address complex health problems
- Be leaders in nursing research and nursing education

To achieve this expertise, students are educated through coursework, seminars, tutorials, grant writing and independent research.

Students work with faculty whose research is mainly centered around three focal areas:

- self/symptom management and chronic illness
- health promotion, disease prevention, vulnerable populations and health disparities
- informatics, patient safety, health care quality and health care systems

PhD in Nursing Curriculum Requirements

All students complete the following curricula requirements: 57 Credits

N700 History of Nursing Science and Philosophy	(3 cr)
N710: Quantitative Methods in Nursing Research	(3 cr)
N720: State of the Discipline of Nursing	(3 cr)
N730: Qualitative Methods in Nursing Research	(3 cr)
N810: Advanced Nursing Research	(3 cr)
N820: Emerging Nursing Theory	(3 cr)
N870: Role of the Scholar and Leader	(3 cr)
Advanced Statistics	(3 cr)
Advanced Methods elective	(3 cr)
*Advanced Nursing electives	(6 cr)
Cognate electives	(6 cr)
Dissertation	(18 cr)

Comprehensive Examination

*Students may take these 6 credits as cognates rather than as nursing electives

Post Baccalaureate students complete the following additional 21 credits of coursework: total Credits 78

N603 Theoretical Foundations of Nursing Science	(3cr)
*Nursing Electives	(9cr)
Cognate Electives	(6cr)
Intermediate Statistics	(3cr)

*Students may take these 9 credits as cognates rather than as nursing electives

**Some courses are offered online through the Division of Continuing and Professional Education (CPE).*

Admission Criteria

Admission to the program is based on an overall appraisal of the applicant's ability to undertake doctoral study and of their potential contributions to the discipline of nursing as evidenced in the following:

- Official transcripts from colleges/universities attended
- A master's degree from a nationally accredited school of nursing and grade point average of 3.0 or better, **or** bachelor's degree in Nursing and GPA of 3.2 or better. For international applicants whose GPA is not translatable in their official transcripts, the Graduate Program Director will evaluate and make a decision.
- Graduate Record Examination taken in the past five years

- Two letters of recommendation
- Two examples of scholarly writing (e.g., publications, scholarly papers)
- A research focus congruent with that of a potential faculty research advisor
- Participation in an admission interview

Other criteria for International Applicants:

- Completion of International Student Application (from University of Massachusetts/Amherst Graduate School).
- GPA of 3.0 or equivalent
- Use of translation service for transcript as necessary
- TOEFL scores where applicable

Students are admitted to both the University of Massachusetts Amherst Graduate School and the School of Nursing. Admission priority is given to applications completed and postmarked by February 1; applications are considered year round. To apply online please visit www.umass.edu/gradschool

PhD Faculty

Genevieve Chandler, PhD, RN
Associate Professor: *Trauma informed care, Empowerment/Nursing work effectiveness*

Jeungok Choi, BSN, MSN, MPH, PhD
Assistant Professor: *Informatics, Health disparities*

Jean DeMartinis, PhD, APRN-BCC, FNP
Associate Professor: *Adult health assessment, prevention, cardiology, gerontology, critical care*

Eileen Hayes, PhD, RN, NP
Associate Professor: *Mentoring, NP education and practice outcomes*

Elizabeth A. Henneman, PhD, RN, FAAN, CCNS
Assistant Professor: *Patient safety, Nurse role in error recovery, Teamwork/collaboration, Critical care*

Cynthia S. Jacelon, PhD, RN CRRN-A
Assistant Professor: *Dignity, sense of control, function, and in older adults with chronic illness*

Karen Kalmakis, PhD, FNP
Assistant Professor: *Sexual Assault, substance misuse, health care access, Women's Health*

M. Christine King, EdD, RN
Associate Professor: *Interpersonal Violence, school health, adolescent and children's health*

Karen Plotkin, PhD, RN
Clinical Assistant Professor: *Adolescents and women with endometriosis, symptom management, home health care practice*

Joan Roche, PhD, RN
Clinical Assistant Professor: *Expert nursing practice, role socialization of professional nurses, gerontological*

nursing care with cardiovascular focus, patient safety and human patient simulation

Jean Swinney, PhD, RN
Associate Professor: *Health promotion and health maintenance, breast cancer and African-American Women, health disparities and social justice*

Donna Zucker, PhD, RN
Assistant Professor: *Hepatitis C, symptom management, substance abuse*

Financial Aid

Financial aid is available with priority given to full-time (9 cr) graduate students. This aid includes fellowships, traineeships, grants, loans, assistantships, including minority student assistantships, and employment opportunities.

For application and general information

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For curriculum information contact

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Visit our website for more information at
www.umass.edu/nursing