Program Information

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 graduate and 50 doctoral programs in eight schools and colleges. The PhD program builds on previous nursing education and consists of courses in nursing knowledge, theory, research methods, statistics, and cognates; as well as a mentored research experience, a comprehensive examination, 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
- Knowledge and strategies for research and scholarship

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
- Provide leadership in nursing research and nursing education

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

Students work with faculty whose research is focused on three areas:

- Self/symptom management and chronic illness
- Health promotion, disease prevention, vulnerable populations, and health disparities
- Informatics, patient safety, healthcare quality and healthcare systems
Admission Criteria

Admission to the program is based on an overall appraisal of the applicant’s ability to undertake doctoral study and of his/her 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
- Two letters of recommendation
- Two examples of scholarly writing (e.g., publications, scholarly papers)
- Current CV or Resume
- A research focus congruent with that of a potential faculty research advisor
- Participation in admission interviews

Additional Criteria for International Applicants:

For international applicants whose GPA is not translatable in their official transcripts, the Graduate Program Director will evaluate and make a decision.

- 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 or IELTS

Pre-requisites (Must be taken within the last 3 years)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Course Credit</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N603</td>
<td>Theoretical Components of Nursing, or equivalent</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N697s</td>
<td>Introduction to Statistics for Health Research, or equivalent</td>
<td>3</td>
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Core Courses

All students complete the following curricula requirements: 57 Credits

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<tr>
<th>Course Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N700</td>
<td>History of Nursing Science &amp; Philosophy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N710</td>
<td>Quantitative Methods in Nursing Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N716</td>
<td>Intermediate Statistics for Health Research</td>
<td>(2 credits class, 1 credit lab)</td>
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<tr>
<td>N720</td>
<td>State of the Discipline of Nursing</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>N730</td>
<td>Qualitative Methods in Nursing Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N797M</td>
<td>Measurement in Health Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N810</td>
<td>Advanced Nursing Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N820</td>
<td>Emerging Nursing Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N870</td>
<td>Role of the Scholar &amp; Leader</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N897X</td>
<td>Topics in Health Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Methods elective</td>
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cognate electives</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissertation</td>
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<td>18</td>
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</table>

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Admission priority is given to applications completed and postmarked by December 15; applications are considered year round. Apply online at: umass.edu/gradschool

Comprehensive Examination

Students take the comprehensive examination after they have completed N700, N720, N730, and N820.
Dissertation

A dissertation is a product of independent research that makes an original contribution to nursing science and demonstrates the candidate’s intellectual competence. The dissertation research is conducted under the supervision of a dissertation committee, a group of at least three faculty members. Two of the members must be from the College of Nursing, the third graduate faculty member must be chosen from another department.

Post Baccalaureate students complete an additional 22 credits of coursework:
Total Program Credits 79

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N603</td>
<td>Theoretical Foundations of Nursing Science</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N615</td>
<td>Advanced Pathophysiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N619</td>
<td>Advanced Pharmacology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N614</td>
<td>Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>N698A</td>
<td>Practicum for Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N630</td>
<td>Research Methods in Nursing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N697SW</td>
<td>Scholarly writing (suggested)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N697S</td>
<td>Introduction to Statistics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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BS-PhD students may apply for a MS in Nursing Studies when they complete these courses and an additional 9 credits of coursework.

Additional Course Information

- Some courses are offered online through the Division of Continuing and Professional Education (CPE)
- Plans of study for students with a Master's degree in fields other than nursing will be individualized
- Post-DNP students: The program will be tailored to the individual student’s education and experience

Accreditation

The Nursing Program is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), a national nursing education accrediting body and approved by the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing.

Mandatory Background Checks & Drug Testing

Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) checks and drug testing are required by many clinical agencies and will be completed by the College of Nursing on all students as needed. Progression in the program and placements in clinical agencies may be contingent upon a satisfactory CORI investigation.
FINANCIAL AID

Financial aid is available in the form of graduate loans.

Information is available at: www.umass.edu/umfa

Additional aid opportunities:
• Grants
• Fellowships
• Traineeships
• Assistantships
• Minority student assistantships
• Employment opportunities

A limited number of College of Nursing Teaching Assistantships are available, with priority given to full-time (9-12 credits) graduate students.

COST INFORMATION

Costs are determined by the UMass Amherst Graduate School and may change from year to year.

Please refer to the fee schedule posted online by the Graduate School, or contact the Bursar’s Office directly at (413) 545-2368.

PhD Program Faculty

Stephen Cavanagh, PhD, RN, FRSPH, Flnst, LM, FACHE, FAAN
Dean & Professor: Improving Healthcare Delivery Systems

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

Lisa Chiodo, PhD
Assistant Professor: Child Development, Human Behavioral Teratology (focus on effects of alcohol, cocaine, and postnatal blood lead), Identification of maternal in-pregnancy alcohol consumption

Jeungok Choi, PhD, MPH, RN
Assistant Professor: Informatics, health disparities

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

Emma Dundon, PhD, RN, CPNP
Clinical Assistant Professor: Adolescent Depression, School Based Health Centers, School Nursing, Primary care interventions for pediatric mental/behavioral health

Elizabeth A. Henneman, PhD, RN, CCNS, FAAN
Associate Professor: Patient safety, nurse role in error recovery, teamwork/collaboration, critical care

Cynthia S. Jacelon, PhD, RN-BC, CRRN, FAAN
Associate Professor: Dignity, sense of control, and function in older adults with chronic illness

Karen Kalmakis, PhD, FNP
Associate Professor: Sexual Assault, substance misuse, healthcare access, public health nursing, women’s health

Rachel Klimmek, PhD RN OCN
Assistant Professor: Activity and function in aging cancer survivors.

M. Christine King, EdD, RN
Associate Professor: Interpersonal violence, school health, adolescent and children’s health

Linda Lewandowski, PhD, RN, FAAN
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs & Professor: Cumulative trauma and violence exposure, PTSD, Pediatrics, patient and family centered care

Joan Roche, PhD, RN
Clinical Associate Professor: Expert nursing practice, role socialization of professional nurses, gerontological nursing care with cardiovascular focus, patient safety, and human patient simulation

Deborah Rosenbloom, PhD, AGACNP-BC
Assistant Professor: Delirium in hospitalized older adults

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

Annette Wysocki, PhD, RN, FAAN
Associate Dean for Research and Professor: Wound Healing

Donna Zucker, PhD, RN, FAAN
Associate Professor: Hepatitis C, symptom management, substance abuse