

NURSING (PHD)

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Become a Nurse Scientist and Earn Your PhD

CU Nursing provides one of the nation's top Ph.D. in Nursing programs, with innovative programming, exceptional faculty, and unique resources on the Anschutz Medical Campus. In two to three years, you can complete a Doctor of Philosophy Ph.D. in Nursing as a culmination of your education. This doctorate opens the doors of academia and research so that you can become a professor, researcher, scientist or healthcare analyst. In this program, nurse scholars will advance the art, science and practice of the discipline.

Most of your coursework is taught online. Once per semester, students are also required to come to our Denver metro area campus for a week-long residency in the fall, spring and summer. This is the heart of our doctorate program because it gives you a chance to get to know your colleagues and develop your research skills.

The Ph.D. program includes 42 credits of coursework and 18 credits of dissertation. Students must also select a focus:

- Biobehavioral Sciences
- Caring Science*
- Health Care Systems Research

The MS-PhD program prepares baccalaureate-prepared nurses to enter the doctor of philosophy program, which is designed to promote knowledge development for reflective, theory-based and research-guided nursing practice, after completion of a master's program focusing on a specialty nursing area.

For further information about the PhD Program in Nursing, please visit: [https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/academics/graduate-programs/masters-dnp-phd/doctor-of-philosophy-\(phd\)](https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/academics/graduate-programs/masters-dnp-phd/doctor-of-philosophy-(phd)) ([https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/academics/graduate-programs/masters-dnp-phd/doctor-of-philosophy-\(phd\)](https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/academics/graduate-programs/masters-dnp-phd/doctor-of-philosophy-(phd))).

**Caring Science is not admitting for the Fall 2024 Semester*

Nursing PhD Admission Requirements

For updated admissions requirements for the PhD Program in Nursing, please visit: <https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/academics/graduate-programs/masters-dnp-phd/phd-admissions> (<https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/academics/graduate-programs/masters-dnp-phd/phd-admissions/>).

Applications are submitted through Nursing's Centralized Application Service (NursingCAS (<https://nursingcas2021.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login>)).

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Nursing

Our blended program provides each student with three different tracks. You may choose the research track that matches your professional and research goals. As a newly admitted student, you will be paired with a faculty advisor from your chosen area who will help you acclimate to the PhD environment, accomplish each requirement of the degree, and develop the research question that will be the foundation of your dissertation. Once per semester (Fall, Spring, and Summer), you will come to the Anschutz Medical Campus in the Denver metro area for a week-long residency. This will provide you with rich opportunities to get to know your colleagues and faculty and benefit from the collective knowledge you all bring to in-person conversations.

Our tracks include:

Biobehavioral Sciences

When studying biobehavioral sciences, you seek to understand the connections between patients' physical health and things like lifestyle, behavior, environment, and genetics. Biobehavioral scientists seek to improve patient care by understanding these connections and effectively educating patients on the ways their actions and decisions can impact their health.

Health Care Systems Research

This track provides you with the foundation you need to research health care systems. For example, our students have researched health outcomes related to hospital staffing best practices and how to optimize management skills of head nurses. This track is particularly unique to CU Anschutz. We are the only university in the West providing this kind of focus, and one of only four programs like this in the entire nation.

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Curriculum

The PhD program includes 42 credits of coursework and 18 credits of dissertation. All students must take the core courses in addition to selecting a focus in health care systems or biobehavioral science.

PhD Core

Year 1

Fall		Hours
NURS 7101	Metatheory in Nursing I	3
NURS 7621	Advanced Qualitative Research Design, Methods & Analysis I	3
NURS 7001	Diversity of Scientific Perspectives	1
Hours		7

Spring		
NURS 7102	Metatheory in Nursing II	3
Hours		3
Total Hours		10

Year 2

Year 2		
Fall		
NURS 7631	Advanced Quantitative Research Design, Methods & Analysis I	3
Hours		3

Spring		
NURS 7622	Advanced Qualitative Research Design, Methods & Analysis II	3
NURS 7632	Advanced quantitative Reserach Design, Methods & Analysis II	3
Hours		6
Total Hours		9

Year 3

Year 3		
Fall		
NURS 7350	Research Practicum	3
Hours		3

Spring		
NURS 8990	Dissertation (Take 18 total credits after coursework completed.)	1-10
Hours		1-10

Summer		
NURS 7440	Measurement for Nursing Science	3
NURS 7856	Independent Study	1-4
Hours		4-7
Total Hours		8-20

Health Care Systems (HCS)

Year 2

Year 2		
Fall		
NURS 7720	Health Care Systems I: Evaluating Health Care Delivery System	3
Hours		3

Spring		
NURS 7730	Health Care Systems II: Changing Health Care Delivery Systems	3
Hours		3

Summer		
NURS 7803	Health Care Systems: State of the Science	3
Hours		3
Total Hours		9

Year 3

Year 3		
Fall		
Elective		3
NURS 7200	Writing Discipline for Scientific Publishing	3
Hours		6

Summer		
Elective		3
Hours		3
Total Hours		9

Biobehavioral Sciences (BBS)

Year 2

Year 2		
Fall		
NURS 7740	BBS I: Intrapersonal Determinants & Phenomena	3
Hours		3

Spring		
NURS 7750	BBS II: Interpersonal Phenomena & Determinants	3
Hours		3

Summer		
Elective		3
Hours		3
Total Hours		9

Year 3

Year 3		
Fall		
NURS 7760	Interventions & Outcomes in Biobehavioral Research	3
Hours		3

Summer		
Elective		3
Hours		3
Total Hours		6

Expected PhD Program Outcomes

1. Create new knowledge through the research process.
2. Demonstrates commitment to the profession through publications and conference presentations or engagement in professional organizations.
3. Examines multiple theories and methodologies for application to research problems.
4. Engages with fellow scientists and students in scholarly discourse.
5. Demonstrates ethical responsibility and action as a scientist.
6. Considers research findings relevant to public health and healthcare policy.