The Nursing PhD at Ohio State
Advancing nursing science

Jennie Rowell, MS, RN
PhD student
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It is estimated that of the nearly 2.7 million registered nurses licensed in the United States today, fewer than 10 percent have an advanced degree. Fewer than one percent of nurses have a doctoral degree. You have the opportunity to contribute to the profession of nursing as a scientist and scholar during an exciting time in the history of the profession, and a time of great need for your expertise.

Nurses provide care and services to improve the health of individuals and populations. The PhD program at The Ohio State University College of Nursing supports this goal by preparing nurse scientists who can advance the knowledge base for nursing practice through research and scholarly activities.

There are three focal areas of scholarly emphasis within the college. The first addresses high-risk health behaviors and their antecedents. Examples of behaviors currently under study include obesity, smoking, and sexual risk-taking. The second addresses health promotion in women and infants. Examples include birth outcomes and their antecedents. Examples of health promotion include weight loss, smoking cessation, and adherence to medications. The third addresses health risk assessment and management. Examples include birth outcomes and their antecedents. Examples of health risk assessment include weight loss, smoking cessation, and adherence to medications.

As a graduate of the PhD program at Ohio State, you will be able to:
- synthesize knowledge from nursing and other disciplines to develop and test theory that affects health;
- conduct research that builds nursing science and theory;
- develop and implement collaborative research projects with nurses and scholars from other disciplines; and
- promote the delivery of quality health care through leadership in practice and teaching.

PhD program options

We offer several doctoral options leading to the PhD degree. The traditional PhD is available for students who have completed a master’s degree in nursing. An accelerated option is available for students beginning their doctoral studies after completing a baccalaureate degree in nursing. (The College of Nursing also has recently added an advanced practice degree, the Doctor of Nursing Practice [DNP], for those whose interest is direct patient care, administration, or the education of the next generation of nurses in practice or advanced practice.)

Financial support

Graduate students in nursing are eligible for graduate assistantships in administration (GAA), research (GRA), and teaching (GTA) within the College of Nursing and throughout the university. These positions provide a stipend and full graduate tuition and fees in exchange for a 20-hour-per-week work commitment.

Eligible students may be awarded a university fellowship, which includes a stipend and graduate tuition and fees with no work commitment. Fellowship funding is limited to the first year of doctoral study, with a second year of fellowship paid once the candidacy examination has been passed and the dissertation period begins. Additional financial aid, including scholarships, is available on a competitive basis. A limited number of graduate assistantships are available. Student loans are typically deferred when enrolled in graduate school.

Application requirements

Graduate students are admitted and enrolled through The Ohio State University Graduate School with a concentration in nursing and nursing science. The applicant must meet admissions requirements for both the Graduate School and the College of Nursing. The deadline for applications is March 15 for autumn enrollment.

Applicants who wish to be considered for a university fellowship must apply and submit all application materials by January 15. (November 30 for International applicants.) Please visit nursing.osu.edu/phd for complete admission process and requirements.

Wealth of opportunities

The College of Nursing is one of seven health sciences colleges at Ohio State. Its location on the campus of a large comprehensive university affords a wealth of opportunities for interdisciplinary study and research collaboration.

The College of Nursing houses two laboratories equipped to measure gene and protein expression in tissue and fluid samples. The biomarker laboratory is staffed with a research technician to help faculty develop or learn particular assays to be performed in the laboratory. The college also has a statistical consultant to assist you in the development of your research.

The Nursing PhD @OSU: The right choice for the nurse scientist.
The Nursing PhD@OSU
If the time is right in your career to reach for the highest level of nursing science, then it’s time for the Nursing PhD@OSU. We’ll be happy to speak or meet with you, and send you detailed information and admission requirements.

E-mail us: NursingPhD@osu.edu.

Visit us online: www.nursing.osu.edu/phd.

For program information, contact Dr. Pamela Salsberry: salsberry.1@osu.edu.

For admissions information, call the graduate outreach office: (614) 688-8145.