University of New Mexico College of Nursing

Doctor of Philosophy

Admission Guide

Spring 2017 Application Cycle for BSN-PhD
August 25 – December 1, 2016

Summer 2017 Application Cycle for MSN-PhD
August 25 - February 1, 2017
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Program Overview

The UNM College of Nursing PhD Program prepares nurses to become researchers and scholars in academia, health systems, and health policy settings. The PhD Program provides students the opportunity to explore pressing health and nursing problems through coursework in theory, research methods, and statistics, along with select substantive area and elective coursework. Students may select a focus area for their dissertation within the College priorities of rural health, disease prevention, and health promotion, or an area based on student’s nursing background, interests, and goals.

PhD students may pursue an individualized plan of study or concentration in Health Policy (if accepted to the concentration). The student’s advisor and Committee of Studies will guide the student in selecting coursework that will help meet personal, professional, and scholarship needs.

The faculty of the University of New Mexico College of Nursing is committed to excellence and diversity in its student body. Our admission policy for the baccalaureate, master, and doctoral degree programs is congruent with the mission statement of the College of Nursing and the Health Sciences Center. We believe that diverse backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives among the student body help to insure a dynamic, productive, and positive learning experience. In seeking to achieve diversity, the admissions committees for each degree program may consider a wide range of factors in evaluating applicants for admission. Competency in the English language is required.

Contact Information

UNM
College of Nursing
(505) 272-4223
Jeri Belsher
jbelsher@salud.unm.edu
http://nursing.unm.edu

NursingCAS
(617) 612-2880
nursingcasinfo@nursingcas.org
www.NursingCAS.org
Minimum Eligibility Requirements

General requirements for the PhD degree are set forth in the UNM catalog. Specific requirements for the UNM CON’s PhD program are:

- A Master of Science in Nursing degree (MSN) from an accredited nursing program (National League for Nursing or Commission on Credentialing of Nursing Education through the American Association of Colleges of Nursing accreditation). Students with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and a master’s degree in another field will be considered on an individual basis.
- A grade-point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. Preference will be given to students with a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher.
- Submission of a writing sample that demonstrates evidence of scholarly ability and the potential for scholarly growth. Examples include, but are not limited to, a thesis, a published or unpublished scholarly paper, or written creative work.
- A one-page statement of the applicant’s experiences in the discipline of nursing, which highlights experiences with underserved or vulnerable populations.
- A graduate level statistics course completed within 3 years of the date of admission is desirable, although not required.
- A valid RN license in any U.S. state, territory, or foreign country.
- Submit the NursingCAS application from August 25-November 1, 2016. See the application guidelines for further information.
- Upload or send unofficial college transcripts from all institutions attended to NursingCAS for processing (see address on page 4).
- Submit a UNM Graduate Admission application by November 1, 2016. Visit www.unm.edu/apply to submit a graduate application to UNM Graduate Admissions.
- Send official college transcripts from all institutions attended to UNM Office of Admissions for verification and processing by November 1, 2016.

BSN Entry to the PhD Program

- Applications due December 1, 2016 for the spring 2017 start.
- To be considered for the BSN entry to the PhD program, the applicant must have earned the BSN degree prior to the start of classes for the PhD program and be licensed as a registered nurse within the first semester of admission to the PhD program. Students admitted to the PhD program will complete 9 credits of MSN core 34 (501, 503, 505), and an additional 9 credits of graduate coursework focused on substantive nursing content and teaching. These 18 credits of bridge coursework are distinct from the credits required for the PhD, making 69 total coursework credits under the BSN to PhD option. The dissertation requirement remains the same at 18 credits (per UNM requirements).
Failure to complete any of the above steps will result in ineligibility, and your application will not be processed.

Timeline for summer 2017 Admission

- August 25, 2016: The PhD/BSN to PhD NursingCAS application period opens.
- December 1, 2016 by 9:59 MST: The BSN to PhD spring 2017 NursingCAS application period closes, meaning that applications must be completed and paid for by the indicated day and time.
- February 1, 2017 by 9:59 MST: The PhD summer 2017 NursingCAS application period closed, meaning that applications must be completed and paid for by the indicated day and time.
- December 1, 2016 by 9:59 MST: Unofficial transcripts must be received by NursingCAS or uploaded if you are applying for the BSN to PhD. This is not a postmarked deadline.
- February 1, 2017 by 9:59 MST: Unofficial transcripts must be received by NursingCAS or uploaded if you are applying for the MSN to PhD. This is not a postmarked deadline.
- December 1, 2016: UNM Graduate Application must be submitted and paid for if you are applying for the BSN to PhD.
- February 1, 2017: UNM Graduate Application must be submitted and paid for if you are applying for the PhD.
- December 1, 2016: Official transcripts must be received by UNM Office of Admissions if you are applying for the BSN to PhD. This is not a postmarked deadline.
- February 1, 2017: Official transcripts must be received by UNM Office of Admissions if you are applying for the PhD. This is not a postmarked deadline.
- December 2016: BSN to PhD applicants will be notified of the UNM CON admission decision via the email they used on their application to the UNM CON FNP program. All admission decisions are final.
- March 2017: PhD applicants will be notified of the UNM CON admission decision via the email they used on their application to the UNM CON FNP program. All admission decisions are final.
- January 2017: Classes start for the BSN to PhD.
- June 2017: Classes start for the PhD.
How to Apply

The UNM CON utilizes NursingCAS for all PhD applications.

We require:

- The applicant to submit or upload all unofficial transcripts to NursingCAS for processing and all official transcripts to UNM Office of Admissions. The UNM CON no longer accepts transcripts for applications.

We do not require:

- The applicant to enter any academic history under the “Academic History” section within NursingCAS.
- The applicant to take the GRE or any other entrance exam.

WICHE

The UNM College of Nursing’s PhD program has recently joined the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) which offers students tuition-reciprocity arrangements similar to the Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE)

Transcript Requirements

NursingCAS: For the BSN to PhD or MSN to PhD application, you must submit or upload unofficial transcripts from all institutions attended to NursingCAS for application purposes.

UNM Office of Admissions: For the UNM Graduate application, you must submit official transcripts from all institutions attended to UNM Office of Admissions for application purposes.

All questions regarding transcripts must be directed to NursingCAS or the UNM Office of Admissions, as the UNM CON does not have access to them until they have been received and processed by NursingCAS or the UNM Office of Admissions.

NursingCAS Address for Transcripts

To send your unofficial transcripts directly to NursingCAS. Their address is:

NursingCAS Transcript Processing Center
P.O. Box 3201
Watertown, MA 02471
UNM Office of Admissions Address for Transcripts

You will be sending your official transcripts directly to UNM Office of Admissions. Their address is:

UNM Office of Admissions
PO Box 4895
Albuquerque, NM 87196-4895

Letter of Intent

Applicants are required to submit a letter of intent that addresses individual, professional, and health goals. The letter of intent should include whether the applicant desires to pursue the health policy concentration in addition to their individualized plan of study. The letter of intent should be no more than three pages in length and is to be uploaded in the “Program Materials” section of the NursingCAS application, under the "Documents" tab.

One Page Statement

Applicants must include a one-page statement describing their experiences in the discipline of nursing. This statement should include information about the applicant’s experiences with underserved or vulnerable populations. This document is uploaded in the “Program Materials” section of the NursingCAS application, under the "Documents" tab.

Letters of Recommendation

Applicants are required to submit three letters of recommendation with their PhD NursingCAS application. The letters of recommendation need to be from professional contacts and need to convey your maturity and experience in pursuing graduate education. The contact information for the individuals providing the letters of recommendation will be uploaded in the “Supporting Information” section of the NursingCAS application, including: first name, last name, email address and the due date of either 12/1/16 (BSN to PhD) or 2/1/17 (PhD).

Resume or CV

Applicants are required to submit either a current resume or CV with their PhD NursingCAS application. This will be uploaded under the “Program Materials” section of NursingCAS.
Scholarly Writing Sample

Submission of a writing sample that demonstrates evidence of scholarly ability and the potential for scholarly growth. Examples include, but are not limited to, a thesis, a published or unpublished scholarly paper, or written creative work. Your scholarly writing sample will be uploaded in the “Program Materials” section of the NursingCAS application, under the “Documents” tab.

Interview

Top scoring applicants will be invited to participate in an interview.

FAQs Regarding the NursingCAS Application

Do I have to enter my entire academic history?

No, you do not need to enter your academic history for the PhD application.

If I have already sent my official transcripts to UNM, do I still need to send them to NursingCAS?

No, you will only need to upload or submit all unofficial transcripts to NursingCAS. The UNM CON will not accept application transcripts under any circumstances. Transcripts sent to NursingCAS can be unofficial or official.

Do I have to submit my high school transcript?

No, we do not require high school transcripts. The only transcripts we require are official college transcripts sent directly to NursingCAS for processing. See above for the official transcript requirements.

FAQs Regarding the PhD Program

I do not have a graduate degree, but I do have a BSN (or I am an A.D.N. graduate with a BSN). Am I eligible to apply to the PhD program?

Yes, we now admit BSN-prepared students directly to the PhD program. BSN-PhD students begin their studies in the spring, with enrollment in Master’s level core courses. The application deadline for BSN-PhD students is December 1. If you have questions about the program, please contact Mary Jastrzemski at maryjazz@salud.unm.edu. If you have questions about your application, please contact Jeri Belsher at jbelsher@salud.unm.edu.

I have already taken a few nursing graduate courses toward my MSN (Master of Science in nursing). What happens in this case?

You are eligible to apply for admission to the PhD program as a BSN entry student. If admitted to the PhD program, we would review the MSN courses you have taken. If
you have taken Nurs 501 and Nurs 503 or their equivalent (as determined by the PhD program director), you would not begin your PhD coursework until summer, but could continue with other MSN coursework in spring. You may then choose to focus entirely on PhD studies or continue taking coursework to complete the MSN while taking PhD coursework.

**I have a master's degree in nursing (or will be completing the MSN in December or May). When would I begin the PhD program?**

Your PhD coursework would begin in our summer term.

**I have a master's degree in a non-nursing (related) field. Am I eligible to apply to the PhD program?**

Yes, you may apply as a master's prepared student.

**I am an entry level student graduating with my BSN in December. Do I need to have passed the NCLEX before applying?**

If the NCLEX has not yet been taken (which will be the case for December graduates), or if NCLEX results are pending at the time of application, applicant should indicate this in the personal statement. A copy of the RN license must then be submitted before the end of the first term of enrollment or prior to any clinical course (if applicable).

**Do I need to submit all transcripts with my application?**

NursingCAS: For the BSN to PhD or MSN to PhD application, you must submit or upload unofficial transcripts from all institutions attended to NursingCAS for application purposes.

UNM Office of Admissions: For the UNM Graduate application, you must submit official transcripts from all institutions attended to UNM Office of Admissions for application purposes.

All questions regarding transcripts must be directed to NursingCAS or the UNM Office of Admissions, as the UNM CON does not have access to them until they have been received and processed by NursingCAS or the UNM Office of Admissions.

**Is this program fully online?**

With the exception of a required one week of face to face class time during Residency Week, our courses are delivered fully online. The Residency Week is typically held M-F during the summer semester, and is required the first three years of enrollment in the program. Students are also required to attend the WIN research conference in April for the first two terms of enrollment, and after that time to attend a research conference yearly (approved by their Committee) until completion of the degree.
**How many credit hours is the total program?**

For the BSN entry option to the PhD program, a BSN prepared nurse will complete 18 credits that are MSN only courses, plus the 51 credits that are at the PhD level (total of 69 credits of coursework plus 18 credits of dissertation). This essentially shortens the BSN to PhD by 14 credits (about a year), which would be the case if the MSN is completed separately from the PhD. Those with the MSN degree at the time of admission complete 51 credits of coursework at the PhD level, plus the 18 credits of dissertation.

**My research interest is not listed on the PhD program materials. Will I be able to do my dissertation research in my own area of interest?**

Yes, your dissertation topic can and should be one for which you have a passion, but you may need to refine it under the guidance of your dissertation advisor. Although our core PhD courses focus on the areas listed in our program materials, your advisor will assist you in identifying courses that will support your area of interest.

**What is the cost?**

Information about the cost of both in-state and out-of-state tuition and fees can be found online at the Bursar's website: [http://nursing.unm.edu/current-students/tuition-and-financial-aid/index.htm](http://nursing.unm.edu/current-students/tuition-and-financial-aid/index.htm) please note that there is an additional Nursing Tuition Differential for nursing students and can be found just under the Tuition and Fee Schedule. In addition to these costs please estimate $400 per term in additional course fees, HSC Library Fee, and textbooks. If you have any question, please contact the College of Nursing's Financial Aid Officer, Ana Vigil, [amvigil@salud.unm.edu](mailto:amvigil@salud.unm.edu) or (505) 272-0854.

**Is student aid available?**

Please review the following UNM College of Nursing website for resources and more detail of financial assistance: [http://nursing.unm.edu/current-students/tuition-and-financial-aid/index.html](http://nursing.unm.edu/current-students/tuition-and-financial-aid/index.html). In summary, there are various resources: Federal Student Financial Aid such as student loans is the most common form of assistance, National Health Service Corp., State resources such as the New Mexico Health Service Corp., UNM Office of Graduate Studies Funding Resources. Please contact Ana Vigil, Financial Aid Officer if you have any questions at [amvigil@salud.unm.edu](mailto:amvigil@salud.unm.edu) or (505) 272-0854.