

# VCU School of Nursing

## Every Day, A New Discovery.

V i r g i n i a C o m m o n w e a l t h U n i v e r s i t y

### PHD PROGRAM

Ranked among the nation's best graduate nursing programs, the VCU School of Nursing offers an exciting and dynamic environment in which nursing scholars can pursue a doctoral program of study and engage in cutting-edge research in the area of biobehavioral clinical. VCU's doctoral program at VCU prepares scholars and researchers in nursing to engage in knowledge development and transmission in areas critical to the advancement of clinical nursing practice. Our nursing scholars are prepared for a lifetime of intellectual inquiry and cutting-edge research in academic or research positions. The degree awarded is the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD).

The school offers two entry options into the doctoral program. Applicants to the Traditional PhD option must have both a baccalaureate and a master's degree – one of which must be in nursing. The degree in nursing must be from an accredited school or international equivalent. Students who have a baccalaureate degree in nursing, which must come from an accredited school or international equivalent, will apply to the Post BS to PhD option in the program.

Generally, doctoral classes meet weekly on the MCV Campus of VCU. Students are immersed in experiences that foster their development as nursing leaders, educators and nurse scientists. Role development includes mentored and guided research and scholarly experiences as well as opportunities for interdisciplinary research. To facilitate full participation in these experiences, financial support is available for full-time study.

#### Sample Curriculum for the Traditional PhD Program

Philosophy and theory courses	6 credits	Focus of inquiry	12 credits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NURS 703 Philosophy of Human Sciences</li><li>• NURS 704 Theoretical Structures for Nursing Knowledge</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Choose courses designed to support the area of study. May also include advanced methods/statistics courses.</li></ul>	
Research methods and statistics (required)	19 credits	Research training	12 credits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NURS 770 Quantitative Research Design</li><li>• NURS 772 Qualitative Research Design</li><li>• NURS 773 Perspectives on Research Design</li><li>• NURS 774 Qualitative Data Analysis</li><li>• BIOS/STAT 543 Statistical Methods I</li><li>• BIOS/STAT 544 Statistical Methods II</li><li>• MICR 510 Scientific Integrity</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NURS 776, 777, 778 Research Program Development I, II, III</li><li>• NURS 796 Directed Research</li><li>• NURS 797 Research Practicum</li></ul>	
		Dissertation	12 credits
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NURS 898 Dissertation</li></ul>	

#### Applying to the program

Interested applicants are strongly encouraged to apply by February 1 for admission to the fall semester and to contact the Office of Enrollment and Student Services with questions. The VCU School of Nursing also holds weekly information sessions for prospective applicants. Applications for the PhD program are available on the [VCU Graduate School website](#). For more information, please call 800-828-9451 or 828-5171 (Richmond) or email [oess@vcu.edu](mailto:oess@vcu.edu).

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