Loyola University Chicago
Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing

PhD in Nursing Science Program

Program Overview

Loyola University Chicago’s PhD in Nursing program prepares nurse scholars to improve human health through the development and expansion of nursing knowledge.

Graduates of the program are prepared to initiate a beginning program of research; incorporate social, cultural, political, economic, and ethical considerations into nursing scholarship and practice; and assume leadership roles in nursing research, education, practice and/or administration. As members of the international community of scholars, graduates further the Jesuit mission through the generation and dissemination of knowledge in the service of humanity. Consistent with this mission, the PhD program includes coursework in teaching methods and a teaching practicum in the program of study. The PhD in Nursing degree is conferred through the Graduate School of Loyola University Chicago.

The program of study is offered in a weekend format, with classes meeting on campus one weekend each month (Saturday-Sunday) during the course of the semester. Between each weekend class meeting, a 1 to 2 hour online, synchronous class meeting is held.

Sample Program Plan

The program of study consists of a minimum of 45 credits beyond the MSN degree, distributed across the areas of nursing science development, preparation for the researcher role, philosophical and ethical foundations, academic role preparation, and cognate coursework.

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<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Summer</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Philosophical Bases of Nursing Science (3)</td>
<td>Quantitative Methods and Design for Nursing Research (3)</td>
<td>Qualitative Methods for Nursing Research (3)</td>
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<td>Conceptual Inquiry(3)</td>
<td>Theoretical Foundations of Nursing Science (3)</td>
<td>Teaching Methods (3)</td>
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<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Measurement for Nursing Research (3)</td>
<td>Nursing and Health Policy (3)</td>
<td>Qualifying Examination</td>
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<td>Nursing as a Moral Practice(3)</td>
<td>Granstmanship (1)</td>
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<td>Teaching Practicum (3)</td>
<td>Research Internship (3)</td>
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<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Qualifying Examination</td>
<td>Dissertation Supervision</td>
<td>Dissertation Supervision</td>
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<td>Year 4 and beyond</td>
<td>Dissertation Supervision as needed</td>
<td>Dissertation Supervision as needed</td>
<td>Dissertation Supervision as needed</td>
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In addition to the courses listed in the program plan, students are required to complete a minimum of 6 credits of advanced statistics, including a multivariate statistics course, and 9 credits in cognates and electives. In addition to the post-MSN program plan listed above, a BSN to PhD program option is also available.
Admission decisions are made throughout the year. Early application is encouraged. All applications undergo a two-stage review process. During the first phase, the application and supporting materials are reviewed by the PhD in Nursing committee. During the second phase, the applicant is interviewed by a member of the Graduate Faculty.

A completed application consists of:
- A completed application form
- Official transcripts for all undergraduate and graduate study
- Scores on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE)
- Three letters of recommendation from individuals with an earned PhD
- A personal statement describing professional and academic goals, research interests, and any potential faculty mentors
- Professional vita or resume
- Copy of RN license
- Copy of an authored or co-authored paper

International applicants have additional submission requirements. All materials should be sent directly to: Graduate Enrollment Management, Loyola University Chicago, 820 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611.

Phone: (312) 915-8950; Email: GradApp@luc.edu; Website: http://www.luc.edu/gpem

Applicants are encouraged to contact the program director to discuss career goals and research interests prior to submitting application materials