



# PhD Frequently Asked Questions

## **May I study either full time or part time?**

Yes, you may enroll in part-time or full-time study. We do encourage students to attend full-time when possible so they can complete the program and help meet the growing need for nurse faculty and researchers. Full-time study in the doctoral program consists of 6 credit hours (2 courses) each long semester (fall and spring semesters) and course sequences are aligned to this load. Loads less than 6 hours are part-time.

## **Is there a time limit for completion?**

MSN-to-PhD students must complete all coursework within 4 years of enrollment in the program regardless of whether they are enrolled full-time or part-time. Students enrolled in 2 courses each semester may complete course work in approximately 3 years. Students who choose to enroll in only 1 course during some semesters must arrange to take 2 courses per semester during 3 consecutive long semesters and complete coursework within 4 years. Time for completion of the dissertation is variable and ranges from 1 to 2 years. Students may take up to 4 years following completion of the comprehensive exam to complete the dissertation.

## **What entry points are available for the Nursing PhD program?**

MSN-to-PhD and BSN-to-PhD tracks are available to highly qualified candidates, and these evaluations are made on a case-by-case basis. The candidate must have earned a degree in Nursing to qualify for the program.

## **Is the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) required?**

The GRE is not required for MSN-to-PhD students.

The GRE is required for BSN-to-PhD students.

## **If my GRE scores are below the minimum requirement, can I still apply?**

(Applicable only to BSN-PhD applicants)

If your scores are below the minimum required, you may apply to the program. Admission criteria are reviewed as a package and all criteria are examined. If admitted, conditions of probationary admission will be identified at the time of admission must be satisfied in order to continue in the program.

### **Where can I take the GRE test?**

(Applicable only to BSN-PhD applicants)

Visit the web site: [www.gre.org](http://www.gre.org) or call 1-800-GRE-CALL or 1-800-473-2255

### **Is financial assistance available for doctoral studies?**

Options for financial assistance include scholarships, grants, fellowships and loans. Employment as a Graduate Teaching Assistant/Graduate Research Assistant is also available and automatically adjusts fees to in-state tuition rates.

Additional information is available from the [Financial Aid Office](#) and the PhD Program Office.

### **What are the prerequisites for the doctoral program?**

A graduate-level statistics course with a grade of B or higher is required before beginning the PhD in Nursing Program.

Please contact the PhD Program Office for more information.

### **Am I allowed to transfer or waive doctoral credits / classes?**

Per UTA policy, *transfer* credits are not permitted for doctoral degrees. There is, however, a system of *waiver* that is available that may allow a student under the recommendation of their research advisor to waive certain course requirements on a doctoral degree plan. Waivers do not reduce the number of hours required to complete a degree. [The formal, official waiver policy is described in the UTA Catalog, under section "Waiving Courses Required for Doctoral Degrees."](#) If you believe you have a case for waiver, please discuss it with your research advisor.

### **How are the courses delivered, on campus or online?**

Courses are offered in a hybrid format combining regular online coursework with in-person "Intensives." *Intensives* are 3-day on-campus face-to-face sessions, typically scheduled as Thursday through Saturday. There are three sessions of 3-day intensives per regular semester, for a total of 9 days at the UTA campus per semester. This format reduces travel time, but maintains personal contact among students and faculty.

### **May I apply to the doctoral program if my Masters degree is not in nursing?**

If you have a BSN and a master's degree in a field other than nursing, you may apply using the BSN-to-PhD entry option.

### **If I want to visit UTA and talk with an advisor, where should I stay?**

[Find hotels near the University.](#)

Please let us know when you plan to visit so we can arrange for you to see an advisor and possibly talk to faculty and current students.