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 coursework 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 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.