

Policy S-4.01
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
COLLEGE OF NURSING

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TITLE: **ADMISSION TO DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN NURSING
SCIENCE PROGRAM**

POLICY: The Academic Affairs Committee reviews admission criteria annually and advises the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs (ADSA) on admission policy. Data on all applicants are compiled by the Office for Academic and Student Affairs (OASA).

RATIONALE: The College of Nursing must screen applicants and control admission in order to select appropriate candidates and to ensure adequate resources (e.g., faculty and clinical placements) for the delivery of high quality nursing education. Applicants are selected based upon criteria that demonstrate the best potential for success on the program.

CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION:

The following criteria will be utilized in the process of admission to the Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing Science Program:

General Criteria:

1. A BSN or master's degree in nursing from a CCNE/NLN AC accredited program.
2. A master's program GPA of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale and a score of 500 or higher on each of the verbal and quantitative sections in the prior version of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test. In the current version of the GRE a minimum score of 153 in the verbal section and 144 in the quantitative section.
OR
3. A master's program GPA of 3.2 on a 4.0 scale and a score of 600 or higher on each of the verbal and quantitative sections in the prior version of the Graduate Record Examination General Test. In the current version of the GRE a score a minimum score of 160 in the verbal section and 148 in the quantitative section
4. Completion of the GRE Analytic or the Analytical Writing Measure.
5. International students or students whose native language is not English are required to pass one of the following tests with a satisfactory score of:
 - Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL):
 - Computer-based: 213
 - Paper-based: 550
 - Web-based: 80
 - iBT Speaking Component: 26
 - International English Language Testing System (IELTS):
 - Overall score: 6.5
 - Speaking Component: 7
 - Michigan English Language Assessment Battery (MELAB):
 - Overall score: 79
 - Successful completion of the University of Florida English Language Institute Program.

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6. International students or students whose native language is not English with unsatisfactory scores on the TOEFL, and TOEFL iBT Speaking Component, IELTS, or MELAB; unsuccessful completion of the UF English Language Institute Program; or an unacceptable score on the verbal part of the GRE must achieve an acceptable score on an essay administered by the Academic Written English Program at UF.
7. Current licensure (or eligibility) as a Registered Nurse in the State of Florida.
8. Availability of a primary mentor who is a College of Nursing faculty member with expertise consistent with the students' research focus area.
9. Students must be either a U.S. citizen, legal U.S. resident or hold a valid visa.

BSN/PhD Applicant Criteria:

1. A baccalaureate degree in nursing from a nationally accredited program.
2. A baccalaureate degree GPA of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale in the most recent 60 credits taken toward the bachelor's degree.
3. A score of 600 or higher on each of the verbal and quantitative sections in the prior version of the GRE General Test. In the current version of the GRE a minimum score of 160 in the verbal section and 148 in the quantitative section.
4. Numbers 4-8 the General Criteria section above.

Non-MSN Applicant Criteria:

1. A baccalaureate degree in nursing from a nationally accredited program.
2. A master's degree in an area relevant to health care and/or health care delivery systems with a GPA of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale.
3. A score of 500 or higher on each of the verbal and quantitative sections in the prior version of the GRE General Test. In the current version of the GRE a minimum score of 153 in the verbal section and 144 in the quantitative section.
4. Numbers 4-8 in the General Criteria section above.

Additional Requirements for All Applicants:

1. Three professional/academic references attesting to the applicant's potential for graduate study.
2. An essay (double-spaced, 1500 word maximum, using current APA guidelines) describing the following:
 - a. Your academic expectations of the program
 - b. How earning a PhD will affect your future research career
 - c. The experiences that you feel have best prepared you for doctoral study (e.g., clinical, educational, or leadership experiences)
 - d. A clinical problem or area in which you are interested in developing your dissertation research, and how that interest aligns with a College of Nursing faculty member's research area
 - e. What the most difficult issues are that you anticipate while in the PhD program, and how you plan to handle them.
3. Resume/curriculum vitae. Please include Awards, Honors, and Academic Scholarships.
4. Personal data record.

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PROCEDURE:

Applications will be screened by the OASA.

1. Deadline for completion of applicant file is March 15. Applications will be accepted after March 15 deadline on a space-available basis.
2. Applications will be reviewed by the ADSA and the Associate Dean for Research (ADR) to identify applicants for further consideration, based on admission criteria, available resources, and College of Nursing research focal areas.
3. The ADSA and ADR, in collaboration with Department Chairs, will identify faculty members who are appropriate to serve as research mentors for admitted students. It is anticipated that the faculty member who agrees to serve as the primary mentor will later serve as either chair or member of the student's supervisory committee.
4. BSN/PhD students will be assigned an academic advisor by the appropriate department chair during the MSN component of the program, and will meet with the ADSA, ADR, and appropriate Department Chairs to identify a primary mentor upon entrance to the doctoral component of the program.
5. Following a positive recommendation from a prospective faculty mentor and Department Chair, the applicant is recommended to the Dean of the College of Nursing and the Graduate School for admission to doctoral studies in nursing, and all applicants are informed of the outcome.
6. Students denied admission who have a GPA or GRE below the established criteria for admission may complete the Petition Form (Attachment # 1), which will be reviewed by a faculty committee (Attachment # 2).

Review or Approval Authority	Responsible Party	Initial Approval / Review	Most Recent Approval / Review Of Changes	Editorial Changes	Policy A-01 Review
Approval	Academic Affairs Committee*	04/05	5/14		5/14
Review	Leadership Council	05/05	5/14		
Approval	General Faculty	05/05	5/14		
Approval	Dean	06/05	5/14		

Bold=committee responsible for A-01 review

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Attachment # 1
Petition Form- PhD

Student Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

To petition for re-consideration of denial of admission, respond to the questions listed and submit this form along with your responses to the questions below to the College of Nursing Admissions Office.

1. What about you now, or your past clinical/educational/leadership experiences can assist you in overcoming the area that did not meet admission criteria in your original application?
2. Please expand on describing how your previous clinical, research, educational, and/or leadership experiences will facilitate your ability to be successful in the PhD program.
3. Many students who enroll in the PhD program will have multiple responsibilities. Given the limited number of hours in a day, and the time commitment required to successfully progress through the program, describe at least three (3) strategies you will adopt to assist you in managing the responsibilities in your life so that you may concentrate on your studies.
4. Are you the first generation of your family to attend college?
5. Are you a member of a group under-represented in the nursing profession? If yes, please explain.