Nursing Science

School of Nursing
Indianapolis

University Dean
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Graduate Faculty
(An asterisk [*] denotes membership in the University Graduate School faculty with the endorsement to direct doctoral dissertations.)

Distinguished Professors
Joan K. Austin*, Victoria D. Champion*

Chancellor's Professor
Diane M. Billings* (Emerita)

Emily Holmquist Professor
Joan E. Haase*

Professors

Associate Professors
Schlapman (KO), Lee H. Boehm Schwecke, Rebecca R. Sloan*, Cynthia D. Sofhauser (SB), Lillian S. Stokes, Linda Susan Wallace (KO), Janet L. Welch, Enid E. Zwirn

Assistant Professors
Janice M. Buelow, Karen Rae Clark (E), Debra Fawcett (KO), Janis E. Gerkensmeyer, Wendy Gettelfinger (B), Josette F. Jones, Mary Lu Anne Lilly, Valerie N. Markley (B), Joanne B. Martin, Angela M. McNelis, Wenn-Huey (Carol) Shieh, Cheryl Shore, Deborah Stiffler

Clinical Associate Professors
Mary M. Rogge, Connie Rowles

B after a faculty member’s name indicates that the person teaches at the Bloomington campus; C, at Columbus; E, at East; KO, at Kokomo; NW, at Northwest; SB, at South Bend; and SE, at Southeast.

Program Information

The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D. degree) is offered through the University Graduate School. In addition, the School of Nursing offers a Master of Nursing Science (M.S.N. degree). The Indiana University School of Nursing also offers dual degree programs with the School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA) Public Health Program and the Center on Philanthropy. See the School of Nursing Graduate Program Bulletin.

Special Departmental Requirements

(See also general University Graduate School requirements.)

Doctor of Philosophy Degree

Ph.D. in Nursing Science—Preparing Scholars in Nursing who are stewards of the Discipline
Professional nursing is a distinct scientific discipline that derives knowledge through research that informs evidence-based care giving. The Doctor of Philosophy program builds upon baccalaureate nursing education and emphasizes the use of creativity in the development and formulation of theories and concepts that contribute to nursing science, education, and practice. Through creative pedagogies and disciplined clinical inquiry, students are guided by research, analysis, and evaluation of scientific works. Students transform ideas into viable testable propositions. Nursing science knowledge work requires effective communication, and attention to the translation of scientific findings into relevant clinical applications. As students progress through the Ph.D. program, they are socialized to the value of nursing research and interdisciplinary inquiry.

As stewards of the discipline, today’s Ph.D. in nursing science scholar is entrusted with shaping and preserving the quality and vitality of professional nursing.

On-Campus and Distance-Accessible Ph.D. Options
Indiana University School of Nursing (IUSON) offers distance-accessible courses. The distance-accessible option offers master’s-prepared nurses access to our Ph.D. program through a variety of distance technologies. Faculty and students use Web-based courses, video conferencing, listserv dialogues, telephone conferencing, and other emerging technologies to communicate effectively via long distance. Online courses and faculty mentoring are coupled with required on-campus summer sessions. Admission criteria and curriculum are the same for both options.

Focus Areas of Study with Wide Applications
Students who pursue the Ph.D. in Nursing Science choose one of two sub-plans or focus areas. The two focus areas are Clinical Nursing Science and Health Systems. Doctoral students work closely with faculty mentors utilizing the resources available at the Indiana University School of Nursing and will participate in intensive research studies. Focus areas reflect faculty research strengths.
**Clinical Nursing Science**
Clinical Nursing Science concentrates on the interrelationships of health promotion, health behavior and quality of life in acute and chronic illness throughout the lifespan. This focus area includes the prevention and early detection of disabilities across the continuum of care and the enhancement of the health and well-being for individuals, families and communities.

Examples of scholarship and faculty research within the focus area of Clinical Nursing Science include:

- Family adaptation to chronic illness
- Improving quality of life in persons with chronic illness, including epilepsy and renal disease
- Behavioral oncology across the cancer continuum (including cancer prevention, detection, and symptom management)
- Improving quality of life in patients with cardiovascular disease, particularly heart failure
- Tailored intervention studies to improve quality of life
- Patient care safety
- Childhood adaptation to chronic illness

**Health Systems**
Health Systems operate to create structures and resources that enable individuals and communities to achieve optimal health. This focus area includes the science of nursing education, informatics, health policy, and administration.

Examples of scholarship and faculty research within the focus area of Health Systems include:

- Teaching and learning in web-based courses
- Clinical reasoning
- Health Systems Research
- Assessment of learning and program evaluation
- Health policy and public policy analysis
- Computer systems to enhance care delivery
- Nursing informatics
- Narrative pedagogies
- Patient care simulations
- Community-based care coordination

**Admission**
Successful applicants must meet the following criteria and submit applications by October 15 for the summer admission:

- Completion of a baccalaureate in nursing or Master of Science in Nursing from a program within a regionally accredited institution of higher education. (Indiana University School of Nursing faculty retain the right to determine acceptable accreditation status of nursing programs from which applicants have graduated.)
- A baccalaureate cumulative grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. For applicants holding a master's degree, a graduate GPA of 3.5 or higher is required. (The master's degree GPA will supersede the baccalaureate GPA.)
- Completion of a 3 credit graduate level statistics course with a grade of B (3.0) or higher within three years before the date of proposed enrollment.
- Ability to secure current registered nurse licensure in Indiana, including licensure in home state for distance-accessible students. Applicants whose program of study will not require contact with patients may be exempted from licensure requirements by IUSON's director of doctoral studies.
- Competitive scores (600 recommended) on the verbal and quantitative sections and a score of 3.5 or higher on the analytical writing section of the Graduate Record Examination (taken within the last five years).
• Competitive scores (550 or higher) on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) for students whose first language is not English. A test of written English is also required OR satisfactory performance on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) examination.
• A two- to three-page essay summarizing a research interest area and immediate and long-term professional goals.
• Example of original scholarship or research in nursing a demonstrated by a report, published or unpublished paper, or a thesis.
• A current resume or curriculum vitae, including descriptions of the position and clinical setting of current employment, list of current responsibilities, dates of employment, and information on former employment history. Note of involvement in professional and voluntary organizations, along with any awards, honors, publications written and published, presentations given, and continuing educational experiences should also be included.
• Three references, including one from a nurse faculty member who has knowledge of the applicant's academic ability from undergraduate or master's work.
• A letter of support from a nursing faculty member with graduate faculty status who has agreed to be a research mentor.
• An interview with a member(s) of the graduate faculty (arranged by school).

Opportunities for Financial Aid

Information about financial resources for doctoral nursing students concerning traineeships, fellowships, and research teaching assistantships, as well as scholarships providing monetary compensation for tuition, fees, and health insurance may be obtained from the Indiana University School of Nursing's Center for Academic Affairs, or by visiting our Web site at www.nursing.iupui.edu. Current and previous students have been successful in securing funding for their doctoral education from:

• Research Training Grants and Fellowships
• The American Organization of Nurse Executives
• The National Institute of Nursing Research
• The Mary Margaret Walter Program for Cancer Care Research
• The American Cancer Society
• The Oncology Nursing Foundation

Curriculum Concentrations

The B.S.N. to Ph.D. curriculum consists of six core areas totaling 90 credit hours. Up to 30 of these credit hours may be met by Master of Science course work.

1. Professional Development Core (8 cr.)
2. Nursing Theory Core (9 cr.)
3. Research and Methods Core (21 cr.)
4. Nursing Major Core in a Focus Area (24 cr.)
5. Minor (external or internal) (12 cr.)
6. Dissertation (including 3 cr. Dissertation Seminar) (16 cr.)

Total: 90 credits

Professional Development Core: (8 credits)
D701 Nursing Inquiry and Scholarship: Introduction to Doctoral Study (3 cr.)
D602 Introduction to Research Ethics (3 cr.)
T800 Preparing Future Faculty (2 cr.)
Nursing Theory Core: (9 credits)
N502 Nursing Theory I (3 cr.)
D607 Nursing: Theory II (3 cr.)
D608 Mid-Range Theory Development for Nursing (3 cr.)

Research and Methods Core: (25 credits)
R500 Nursing Research Methods I (3 cr.)
R603 Foundations of Research Design and Methods (3 cr.)
R604 Experimental and Quasi Experimental Designs and Methods (3 cr.)
G652 Introduction to Biostatistics (or equivalent) (3 cr.)
G563 Multivariate Statistics (or equivalent) (3 cr.)
R601 Instrumentation and Measurement (3 cr.)
R610 Qualitative Inquiry and Research methods (3 cr.)

The following are elective options:
R611 Advanced Qualitative Inquiry and Research Methods (3 cr.)
R605 Advanced Research Design (3 cr.)

Dissertation: (16 credits)
R899 Dissertation in Nursing (16 cr.)

Nursing Major Focus Area: (24 credits)
These credits are devised by mentor and student to match learning needs, research questions and professional goals. May include transfer courses from M.S.N., independent study courses, research practicum, etc.

Internal or External Minor: (12 credits)
Cognate or supporting course work from inside or outside nursing. May include a minor in an alternate focus area, other approved minors, or individualized plans in areas such as:

- Women's studies
- Educational psychology
- Sociology
- Health Policy
- Psychology
- Gerontology
- Anthropology
- Informatics
- Nursing Education Science
- Nursing Administration

Qualifying Exam
All students are required to take and pass a qualifying examination, usually after the student has completed all course work for the Ph.D. The student's Advisory Committee will determine the manner in which the examination is given. It will be composed of a written and an oral component. The qualifying examination must be passed within one year after completion of course work and at least eight months before the date the degree is awarded.

Oral Defense of the Dissertation (Final Examination)
Students provide an unbound copy of the completed dissertation to each member of the Research Committee in sufficient time to read it in its entirety. After reading it, the committee members should have direct communication with the committee chairperson regarding perceived readiness for the defense. Upon agreement to proceed with the defense and 30 days prior to the defense, the candidate submits to the University Graduate School a one-page announcement of the final examination. Any member of the graduate faculty may attend the final examination; upon approval of the committee and the candidate,
graduate students may attend as observers, not participants. At the end of the oral examination, the Research Committee must vote the outcome of the examination from the four options:

1. pass
2. conditional pass
3. deferred decision, and
4. failure.

Students should refer to the Student Handbook for more specific details about the dissertation defense.

**Total: 90 credits**

**Courses**

See the [School of Nursing Graduate Bulletin](#) for a complete list of offerings.