

Doctoral Programs

The UT College of Nursing is leading the way in nursing education, research and practice to maximize health and transform healthcare. We nurture the health of our local and global communities through student-focused education and outreach, advance the field of nursing with groundbreaking research, and transform today's students into tomorrow's healthcare leaders.

As the state's flagship university, the UT College of Nursing provides a research-intensive environment, offering a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program and a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Nursing. The DNP program is designed to prepare nursing leaders to practice at the highest level of professional practice in a variety of settings, serving as leaders in improving the health care system and educating future nurses. The PhD program is designed to prepare nurse scientists who generate knowledge for evidence-based nursing practice.

UT College of Nursing faculty include internationally prominent scholars in areas such as gerontology, recovery from trauma, psychoneuroimmunology, child and family health, genetics, mental health, the nursing work environment, instructional technology, health policy, and health services research.

Resources of the college include the state-of-the-art Health Information Technology and Simulation Lab, a collaborative research partnership between the College of Nursing and Engineering.

The doctoral programs are delivered online, with 2 intensive on-campus sessions per semester. The on-campus sessions provide seminars, presentations, research group meetings, and professional development activities. PhD students work collaboratively with faculty on research to gain valuable skills prior to embarking on dissertation research. DNP students work with faculty and community health care practitioners to develop a capstone project. Students enrolled in the doctoral programs can elect to complete graduate certificates in education or health policy.

PHD PROGRAM

The PhD curriculum includes philosophy of science, theory, research, management of complex systems, and health policy. Cognate courses taken outside of the College of Nursing complement the program of study and are selected by students in collaboration with faculty advisors.

Graduates of the PhD program are prepared to serve in leadership positions in healthcare organizations, academic settings, and health policy.

The PhD program consists of 5 semesters of full-time study or 7 semesters of part-time study, plus dissertation. Coursework begins in August each year.



DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE PROGRAM

The DNP curriculum includes courses in health policy and planning, leadership in complex systems, epidemiology, meta-analysis, translation of research and a capstone project. Immersion in an area of professional practice is a hallmark of the DNP program.

Graduates of the DNP program are prepared to serve in leadership positions in clinical services and education and to develop practice innovations.

The DNP program is part-time with 7 semesters (approximately 6 hours each semester), a minimum of 1,000 hours of post-BSN supervised practica in a specialty area, and a capstone project. Coursework begins in August each year.

For more information, visit nursing.utk.edu.

For inquiries and questions, contact congrad@utk.edu.