The PhD program in Nursing at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee prepares nurses as scholars to conduct independent and collaborative research, to develop and test theory relevant to nursing, and to improve the quality of care by expanding the body of nursing knowledge. Scholars will be prepared to serve the urban community and improve the general accessibility and acceptability of health care.

Specialization is achieved through an approved program of study and includes program elements of coursework, dissertation, and direction of faculty advisors. This specialization is focused on a particular area of nursing practice and the social context within which it occurs.

**Admission Requirements**

**Application Deadlines**

Application deadlines vary by program, please review the application deadline chart ([http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/program-deadlines](http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/program-deadlines)) for specific programs. Other important dates and deadlines can be found by using the One Stop calendars ([https://uwm.edu/onestop/dates-and-deadlines](https://uwm.edu/onestop/dates-and-deadlines)).

**Credits and Courses**

Minimum degree requirements are 61 graduate credits beyond the bachelor’s degree, at least 31 of which must be earned in residence at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. The College of Nursing requires a minimum of 49 graduate credits beyond the master’s degree in nursing or master’s graduate core courses.

Specialization is achieved through an approved program of study and includes program elements of minor field coursework, supervised research experiences, dissertation, and the direction of faculty advisors. The student specializes in a particular area of nursing practice and the social context within which it occurs. The plan for this is developed in consultation with the major professor. Minimum requirements for all formal coursework other than dissertation research can be expected to take at least two academic years of study.

Students admitted without a master’s degree in nursing must complete 12 credits of master’s program graduate core courses before beginning doctoral level nursing courses. The graduate core courses that must be completed are:

- **NURS 725** Evidence Based Practice in Healthcare (3 credits)
- **NURS 727** Epidemiology (3 credits)
- **NURS 729** Organizational Systems (3 credits)
- **NURS 735** Theory for Advanced Practice (3 credits)

Post baccalaureate students admitted to the doctoral program will not be granted a master’s degree in nursing unless all requirements for the master’s degree in nursing are met.

**Program Requirements**

**Major Professor as Advisor**

The student is expected to affirm their Major Professor by the end of her/his second semester of full-time study or the equivalent in earned credits. The date for submission will be published for each semester by the PhD Program Director. The Major Professor will be the student’s research advisor, and will serve as chairperson of his/her Comprehensive Preliminary Examination Committee and the Dissertation Committee. The PhD student must select a Major Professor who is a member of the graduate faculty of the College of Nursing and who has agreed to serve.

**Minimum Grade Requirement**

For continuation in the program, in addition to general Graduate School requirements ([http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/academic-policies-procedures](http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/academic-policies-procedures)), students must achieve a minimum grade of B- in all required courses.

**Minor Field**

The student must complete a minor of 8 to 12 credits, 6 or more of these credits to be earned from courses in departments outside the College of Nursing. Such courses are selected for their relevance to the student’s area of specialization, and are to be taken in the substantive content of the selected minor field.

**Language Requirement**

Foreign language competency may be required at the option of the student’s major professor.

**Residence**

The student must meet minimum Graduate School residence requirements.

**Doctoral Preliminary Examination**

The student must pass a doctoral preliminary examination to qualify for formal admission to candidacy for degree. The doctoral examination comprises a written and an oral component, taken in that sequence, with each component requiring a passing grade for successful completion. The examination is an integrative experience that is designed to validate

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#### NURSING, PHD

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the student's mastery of the content of the doctoral program curriculum and readiness to conduct independent research within the student's area of specialization as identified in the formal plan of study.

**Dissertation**
The candidate must write a dissertation, which demonstrates ability to formulate a research topic and pursue independent and original investigation under the direction of the major professor.

**Dissertation Defense**
The candidate must, as the final step toward the degree, pass an oral examination in defense of the dissertation. A candidate who does not pass this examination may apply for reexamination within one year from the initial examination date. This reexamination may occur only one time. A candidate who does not pass this examination within program time limits may be required to undergo another comprehensive preliminary examination and readmitted to the program and/or candidacy.

**Time Limit**
The student must complete all requirements for the degree within seven years from the date of initial enrollment in the program. The student must complete all requirements for the degree within four years from the time of attainment of dissertator status.

For additional information on the PhD, see the Graduate School Doctoral Requirements (http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/doctoral-requirements) page.