The School of Nursing is a teaching/learning organization with a national and international academic reputation, grounded in sound general education. It develops and supports a diverse faculty who are visionary and competent practitioners, scholars, and researchers, excellent in teaching in academic and practice settings, and responsive to the needs of students and the community. Specifically, the nursing programs prepare graduates to function as providers, coordinators, and managers of care and for leadership, advanced practice, and nurse scholar roles, as well as members of the nursing profession. Graduates of the School of Nursing are prepared to function as interdisciplinary health professionals and citizens who provide leadership, care, and service to the community. The School promotes health and well-being for all people through its programs and centers, scholarship, and research.

Graduate Degrees

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) prepares scholars who will pursue intellectual inquiry and creative scholarship through independent and collaborative research, advance nursing science, and provide leadership to the nursing profession. Students will develop a depth of knowledge in their scientific emphasis area through required course work and mentored research experience, selection of supporting electives, independent study, and dissertation research. Upon graduation from the PhD program the student will be prepared to conceptualize and conduct independent research to advance knowledge in nursing and healthcare, and initiate and participate in interprofessional research with nurses and scholars from other disciplines.

Both part-time and full-time options are available. Admitted students are eligible to be considered for several scholarships as well as research and teaching assistant positions. Students are taught by nationally and internationally recognized faculty. Ample opportunities are available for students to work with faculty on research projects and to apply scientific knowledge with faculty guidance.

PhD courses are offered via a variety of modalities including in-seat and online, with approximately 50% of classes face-to-face. In-seat classes are held biweekly, monthly on Fridays, or, in some cases, on Saturdays. In-seat class days provide opportunity for students to professionally interact with faculty and students, and participate in the Doctoral Student Organization.

Application Requirements

Admission to the program is competitive, and a variety of criteria are evaluated in the admissions process, including the strength of the undergraduate record and any post-baccalaureate coursework, GRE scores, match with faculty research, career goals, letters of recommendation, professional and/or volunteer experience, evidence of the ability to write and conduct research at the graduate level, and any additional evidence of potential success in the program. Information regarding CHHS application guidelines can be found at chhs.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate.
For application deadlines and detailed application requirements, please refer to the CHHS Graduate Admissions website at http://chhs.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate/deadlines.cfm. Meeting the minimum application criteria does not guarantee admission. Late applications will be considered on a space-available basis. The application for graduate study is available at admissions.gmu.edu.

Applications are considered for the fall semester only. Applicants must hold a master’s degree (equivalent to at least 30 semester credits) with a minimum of a 3.5 GPA from a regionally accredited institution or a master’s degree in a related health field with a BSN degree. Applicants must complete the GRE. In addition, applicants must hold a current RN license and have completed a graduate course in statistics within the last two years to be considered. An interview with one or more persons on the Doctoral Admissions Committee is also required as part of the admission process.

Special Requirements

All nursing students must maintain a current nursing license. Nursing students must meet certain mandatory requirements, including a certified criminal background check, proof of health insurance coverage, immunizations, and other university requirements. Specific information will be provided once the offer of admission to the nursing program has been accepted.

Contact Information

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The above information is based on the 2013–2014 University Catalog and is subject to change without notice or obligation. It is not to be regarded as a contract. Please refer to the catalog for full course descriptions, department information, and university policy governing graduate degree programs at catalog.gmu.edu.