Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

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Six of our graduates are now deans of nursing schools nationwide.

Nurses who question how existing health care practices can be improved are instrumental in moving the nursing profession forward, and they impact the global health care system through the development of new bodies of knowledge. For more than four decades, the University of Maryland School of Nursing's PhD program has prepared scholars and researchers to tackle the greatest challenges facing health care.

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN:

In this rigorous program, you'll learn to design, conduct, analyze, and disseminate research findings as a principal investigator or a collaborator. You'll apply theories, methods, and knowledge critically; apply appropriate, advanced, analytical approaches to research; and ultimately improve patient care.

WHY CHOOSE THIS PROGRAM?

- You want a research career focused on some of the most important health care challenges and topics, such as:
  – Aging Populations and Palliative and End-of-Life Care
  – Cardiovascular Health
  – Health Systems Outcomes
  – Implementation Science
  – Women's Health and Birth Outcomes
  – Occupational Health
  – Pain and Symptom Science.
- For your dissertation, you'll be matched with the faculty member who can best help you succeed in your chosen area of research.

- Learn on a campus with a teaching hospital and seven health care-focused professional schools. You'll have opportunities to take classes in other schools, collaborate with other disciplines, and do research at the University of Maryland Medical Center.
- This flexible program can be customized for you; you can complete it in three or four-plus years, depending on whether you attend full or part time, and there are multiple ways to enter:
  – Enter with your bachelor's degree (in nursing or a related health field).
  – Start after earning a master's degree (in nursing or a related health field) or DNP.
- No GRE is required if your GPA in your most recent degree is at least a 3.25.
- Half of your required coursework is delivered in a seminar format with some online modules. The remainder includes electives (which you can take at any University System of Maryland institution), research experiences, and dissertation work.

- You'll learn from a diverse faculty with broad practice and research expertise, including NIH- and national foundation-funded researchers, as well as statisticians, behavioral scientists, and clinical experts.

- Nearly all students receive financial support through research assistantships, predoctoral research grants, and University and private funding. We'll work with you to ensure you have the assistance you need.

- You'll graduate prepared to teach nurses; mentor the next generation of clinicians, academicians, and researchers; and lead various organizations and programs. You'll be ready to work in research and teaching institutions, governmental agencies, and health care organizations in positions that focus on research, policy, academics, and administration.

Credits Required: 60

"UMSON prepares its PhD graduates to be innovative and productive nurse scientists. I learned how to ask sound research questions, work in an interdisciplinary team, write a strong proposal, and source resources. I am excited about my future research trajectory. The UMSON program was flexible, and the faculty was extremely encouraging and always willing to help. Many people continued to work full time while in school, and the faculty helped people navigate life obstacles when they arose so that they could still be successful in the program."

—*Lauren Bentley Covington, PhD '18, MS '12, RN, Assistant Professor, University of Delaware School of Nursing*

Learn more and apply:
nursing.umaryland.edu/phd

What Path
Do You Choose?

Objectives	**PhD** prepares you to conduct important nursing research	**DNP** prepares you to translate research into practice
Coursework	• philosophy of science • research methods • statistics • measurement • electives to build domain and research expertise	• theory about practice • evidence-based practice • quality improvement • leadership • policy
Point of Entry	bachelor's, master's, or DNP	bachelor's or master's
Final Project/ Practice Hours Required	• dissertation • no practice hours	• DNP project • 500 practice hours post-MS • 1,000 practice hours post-BS
Post-Graduate Employment	• nurse researcher in a hospital, agency, or association • academic research faculty • health care policy-maker or researcher	• advanced practice nurse • leadership role in practice, hospital, agency, or association • academic clinical faculty • health care policy-maker
Financial Support	• research/teaching assistantships • Maryland state support to increase nursing faculty • UMSON scholarships • predoctoral research support from federal agencies	• research/teaching assistantships • Maryland state support to increase nursing faculty • UMSON scholarships