

Policy S-4.01
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
COLLEGE OF NURSING

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TITLE: **ADMISSION TO DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN NURSING
SCIENCE PROGRAM**

POLICY: The Academic Affairs Committee reviews admission criteria annually and advised the Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs (ADASA) on admission policy. Data on all applicants are compiled by the ADASA's office.

RATIONALE: The College of Nursing must screen applicants and control admission in order to select appropriate candidates and to ensure adequate resources (e.g., faculty and clinical placements) for the delivery of high quality nursing education. Applicants are selected based upon criteria that demonstrate the best potential for success on the program.

MINIMUM CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION:

General Criteria:

1. A master's degree in nursing from a nationally accredited program.
2. A master's program GPA of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale and a minimum score of 500 on each of the verbal and quantitative sections of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test.
- or
3. A master's program GPA of 3.2 on a 4.0 scale and a minimum score of 600 on each of the verbal and quantitative sections of the General Test of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).
4. Completion of the GRE Analytic or the Analytical Writing Measure.
5. Current licensure (or eligibility) as a Registered Nurse in the State of Florida.
6. Availability of a primary mentor who is a College of Nursing faculty member with expertise consistent with the students' research focus area.

BSN/PhD Applicant Criteria:

1. A baccalaureate degree in nursing from a nationally accredited program.
2. A baccalaureate degree GPA of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale in the most recent 60 credits taken toward the bachelor's degree.
3. A minimum score of 600 on each of the verbal and quantitative sections of the GRE General Test.
4. Numbers 4-6 the General Criteria section above.

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Non-MSN Applicant Criteria:

1. A baccalaureate degree in nursing from a nationally accredited program.
2. A master's degree in an area relevant to health care and/or health care delivery systems with a GPA of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale.
3. A minimum score of 500 on each of the verbal and quantitative sections of the GRE General Test.
4. Numbers 4-6 in the General Criteria section above.

Additional Requirements for All Applicants:

1. Three professional/academic references attesting to the applicant's potential for graduate study.
2. An essay (double-spaced, 1500 word maximum, using current APA guidelines) describing the following:
 - a. Your academic expectations of the program
 - b. How earning a PhD will affect your future career
 - c. The experiences that you feel have best prepared you for doctoral study (e.g., clinical, educational, or leadership experiences)
 - d. A clinical problem or area in which you are interested in developing your dissertation research, and how that interest aligns with a College of Nursing faculty member's research area
 - e. What the most difficult issues are that you anticipate while in the PhD program, and how you plan to handle them.
3. Resume/curriculum vitae. Please include Awards, Honors, and Academic Scholarships. Formatted
4. For students whose native language is not English, a score of at least 213 on the computer-based, or 550 on the paper-based, or 80 on the internet based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) is required. Formatted
5. Personal data record. Formatted

PROCEDURE:

Applications will be screened by the ADASA's office.

1. Deadline for completion of applicant file is June 1st for General and Non-MSN candidates, and March 1st for BSN/PhD candidates.
2. Applications will be reviewed by the ADASA and the Associate Dean for Research (ADR) to identify applicants for further consideration, based on admission criteria, available resources, and College of Nursing research focal areas.
3. The ADASA and ADR, in collaboration with Department Chairs, will identify faculty members who are appropriate to serve as research mentors for admitted students. It is anticipated that the faculty member who agrees to serve as the primary mentor will later serve as either chair or member of the student's supervisory committee.

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4. BSN/PhD students will be assigned an academic advisor by the appropriate department chair during the MSN component of the program, and will meet with the ADASA, ADR, and appropriate Department Chairs to identify a primary mentor upon entrance to the doctoral component of the program.
5. Following a positive recommendation from a prospective faculty mentor and Department Chair, the applicant is recommended to the Dean of the College of Nursing and the Graduate School for admission to doctoral studies in nursing, and all applicants are informed of the outcome.
6. Students denied admission, but who have a GPA between 2.8 and 3.5 or a score between 420 and 600 on either the verbal and quantitative sections of the (GRE) General Test may complete the Petition Form (Attachment # 1), which will be reviewed by a faculty committee (Attachment # 2).

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Approved by: Academic Affairs Committee: 04/05; 03/06
General Faculty: 05/05; 03/06
Dean: 06/05; 06/06

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Attachment # 1
Petition Form- PhD

Student Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

To petition for re-consideration of denial of admission, respond to the questions listed and submit this form along with your responses to the questions below to the College of Nursing Admissions Office.

1. What about you now, or your past clinical/educational/leadership experiences can assist you in overcoming the area that did not meet minimum admission criteria in your original application?
2. Please expand on describing how your previous clinical, research, educational, and/or leadership experiences will facilitate your ability to be successful in the PhD program.
3. Many students who enroll in the PhD program will have multiple responsibilities. Given the limited number of hours in a day, and the time commitment required to successfully progress through the program, describe at least three (3) strategies you will adopt to assist you in managing the responsibilities in your life so that you may concentrate on your studies.
4. Are you the first generation of your family to attend college?
5. Are you a member of a group under-represented in the nursing profession? If yes, please explain.

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Attachment # 2
 Petition Review Form- PhD

Student Name: _____

		Possible Points	Actual Points
1.	Related work experience: a) Yes b) No	1 0	
2.	Leadership experience in activities related to the nursing profession: a) Work-related b) Community	1 1	
3.	First generation in college	1	
4.	College or University a) Awards b) Honors c) Academic Scholarships	1 1 1	
5.	Member of a group under-represented in nursing	1	
6.	Expressed desire to work in a rural or underserved area	1	
7.a OR	If undergraduate upper division GPA does not meet minimum admission criteria, but does meet petition criteria of 2.8 or greater, award addition points for GRE score if either Verbal or Quantitative: a) ≥ 500 b) ≥ 550 c) ≥ 600	1 2 3	
7.b	If GRE scores do not meet minimum admission criteria, but do meet petition criteria of 420 or higher on each of the Verbal and Quantitative section, award additional points for undergraduate upper division GPA: a) ≥ 3.0 and < 3.3 b) ≥ 3.3 and < 3.7 c) ≥ 3.7 and ≤ 4.0	1 2 3	
8.	Written response to petition questions reflects: Organization and clarity of thought Appropriate grammar and spelling	1 1	
9.	Realistic strategies for managing academic and other responsibilities presented: First Second Third	1 1 1	
	TOTAL	17	

Faculty review decision: ___ Admit ___ Deny ___ Refer to Dean

Students are required to achieve 10 of 17 possible points to be considered for admission based on petition criteria.