

PHD IN NURSING

The PhD (Nursing) program at Dalhousie University prepares nurse scientists who will develop nursing practices that improve health outcomes generally or women's health outcomes specifically. Normally the program requires a six-term residency.

OBJECTIVES

The program prepares nurse scholars who will provide leadership in the advancement of nursing knowledge, nursing theory and practice, and health policy through scholarly research and the dissemination of research findings.

The orientation of the doctoral program is the short and long term impacts of nursing practices and health outcomes at the individual, family, community, and/or population levels, or women's health outcomes specifically. The required courses and doctoral seminar provide forums to analyse, discuss, and critique the concepts of health outcomes and health and social policies from the perspective of nursing practices. Health related policy is addressed through the thesis, doctoral seminar, and courses in the students' substantive areas.

THE PROGRAM

The program is organized around the student's focus of study which frames an intensive investigation of a particular question relevant to nursing. This starting point becomes the vehicle for the student to develop an advanced understanding of research method to gain knowledge which contributes to the theoretical development and practice of nursing.

Core courses, doctoral seminar, and the thesis are all designed to prepare students who:

- Understand the philosophical and theoretical foundations of nursing science.
- Critically analyse their own and others perspectives in relation to research and nursing practice.
- Demonstrate the requisite cognitive skills to develop health outcomes generally, or women's health outcomes specifically.
- Develop nursing practices that improve health outcomes generally, or women's health outcomes specifically.
- Influence health and social policy to improve health and health care systems.

The program consists of a minimum of four core courses and doctoral seminar. Following completion of course work, a comprehensive examination in the student's area of study normally takes place in the second year of the program. Thesis work will commence only after the comprehensive examination is passed.

Normally, doctoral programs at Dalhousie have a six-term residency and fee requirement. Students are expected to spend much of their residency period on the Dalhousie campus.

FUNDING

Possible sources of funding can be discussed with the Associate Director Graduate Programs and the potential supervisor.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Candidates for the program must hold a first-class Master's degree in nursing or a relevant discipline, or its equivalent, from a recognized university. The identification of a first class research or non-thesis Master's degree is based on grades in class work and evidence of a well-written, high quality thesis or evidence of research work as demonstrated by a major research paper. Other indicators include publications in refereed journals, presentations at scholarly conferences, etc.

In addition to the general regulations above, candidates for admission to the PhD in Nursing must be licensed to practice as a registered nurse (active practitioner) in a province in Canada or a foreign country.

Applicants must have a minimum GPA of 3.3 in their previous graduate degree.

INQUIRIES

Associate Director Graduate Programs
School of Nursing
Dalhousie University
Halifax, NS B3H 3J5

Tel: (902) 494-2397
Fax: (902) 494-3487
Email: gradnurs@dal.ca
<http://nursing.dal.ca/>