Doctor of Philosophy in nursing

Program information

College	Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing		
Department or school	Enter department or school		
Degree abbreviation	Ph.D.	**CIP code**	51.3808
Program website	www.fau.edu/nursing/academics/phd-program		

Our commitment to you

This Academic Learning Compact describes the program's mission, what students who complete the program will know and be able to do and how faculty assess that learning. Florida Atlantic University publishes a compact for every degree program and standalone certificate so students, families, employers and the community can see what each program commits to providing its graduates.

Program mission

The Ph.D. in nursing prepares nurses as scholars who research practice problems and create new responses to practice issues. Grounded in caring, graduates expand nursing knowledge and theory and improve the health of people and communities.

Florida Atlantic University's mission

Florida Atlantic University is recognized as an opportunity university and R1 research institution dedicated to transforming lives through education, discovery, and innovation. We empower students to achieve economic mobility, advance knowledge that creates meaningful impact, and forge partnerships that drive prosperity and connection in the communities we serve.

How the program supports the university mission

The program supports the university's mission by advancing knowledge that creates meaningful impact. Nurse scientists conduct dissertation research in areas such as healthy aging and holistic health that helps build healthier communities.

About the program

Ph.D. students learn to lead research that improves nursing practice and health care, grounded in caring science. Dissertation research focuses on healthy aging, health equity, holistic health or transforming health care environments. Nurses can enter with a bachelor's, master's or D.N.P. degree. The program is a great fit for nurses who want careers as researchers and scholars.

Student learning outcomes

By graduation, students will be able to demonstrate outcomes in three core areas: content/discipline knowledge and skills (Outcome 1), communication skills (Outcome 2) and critical thinking skills (Outcome 3). Faculty assess all three core outcomes every year.

A. Content/Discipline Knowledge and Skills

What graduates will know and be able to do in their field

Areas this program addresses (check at least two)

- ☒ **Declarative knowledge:** key vocabulary, history, theories and concepts of the field
- ☒ **Research skills:** finding, gathering, analyzing and reporting information the way the field does
- ☐ **Technical skills:** hands-on tools and methods of the field, such as software, instruments, lesson plans or business reports

Declarative knowledge: Graduates will be able to generate original nursing research that synthesizes caring science knowledge from nursing philosophy, the arts, and other sciences.

Research skills: Graduates will be able to design research protocols and dissemination practices that uphold ethical accountability to participants, the discipline, and the public as a caring nurse scientist.

How students show it & Where it is Assessed

Declarative knowledge: NGR7979 - 100% of students will successfully defend their research proposal.

Research skills: NGR7946 - 100% of students will successfully pass the Research Practicum.

B. Communication Skills

How graduates will share ideas and work with others

Areas this program addresses (check at least two)

- ☒ **Written communication:** clear, well-organized writing suited to the audience and purpose
- ☒ **Oral communication:** well-organized presentations that connect with an audience
- ☐ **Other forms of communication:** visual, media, performance or exhibit work
- ☐ **Team/collaborative communication:** contributing to group projects and shared goals

Written communication: Graduates will be able to generate knowledge that contributes to the nursing discipline and caring science through well-designed research, leadership, and service.

Oral communication: Graduates will be able to create research solutions by applying communication and information technology to expand nursing knowledge.

How students show it & Where it is Assessed

Written communication: NGR7980 – 100% of students will successfully complete their Dissertation Defense.

Oral communication: NGR7853 - 100% of students will successfully present their Final Project.

C. Critical Thinking Skills

How graduates will analyze, create and solve problems

Areas this program addresses (check at least one)

☒ **Analytical skills:** weighing evidence, comparing ideas and judging arguments

☐ **Creative skills:** combining knowledge to create something new, such as a design, performance or proposal

☐ **Practical skills:** applying knowledge to real situations, such as a business proposal, lesson plan or grant

Analytical skills: Graduates will be able to lead systematic inquiry that contributes to nursing science, improves healthcare delivery, enhances caring-based nursing practice, and informs health policy.

How students show it & Where it is Assessed
Analytical skills: NGR7980 - 100% of students will successfully complete their Dissertation Defense.

Assessment approaches

Every year, faculty review samples of student work to see how well students are meeting all three outcomes, and they use what they learn to improve the program.

Students demonstrate their learning through a research proposal defense, a research practicum, a final project presentation, and a dissertation defense. Faculty use these assessments to evaluate students' nursing knowledge, ethical research practices, written and oral communication, and critical thinking. Faculty review results each year to determine whether students meet program expectations and identify areas for improvement in teaching and learning.

Assessment methods may change over time.