

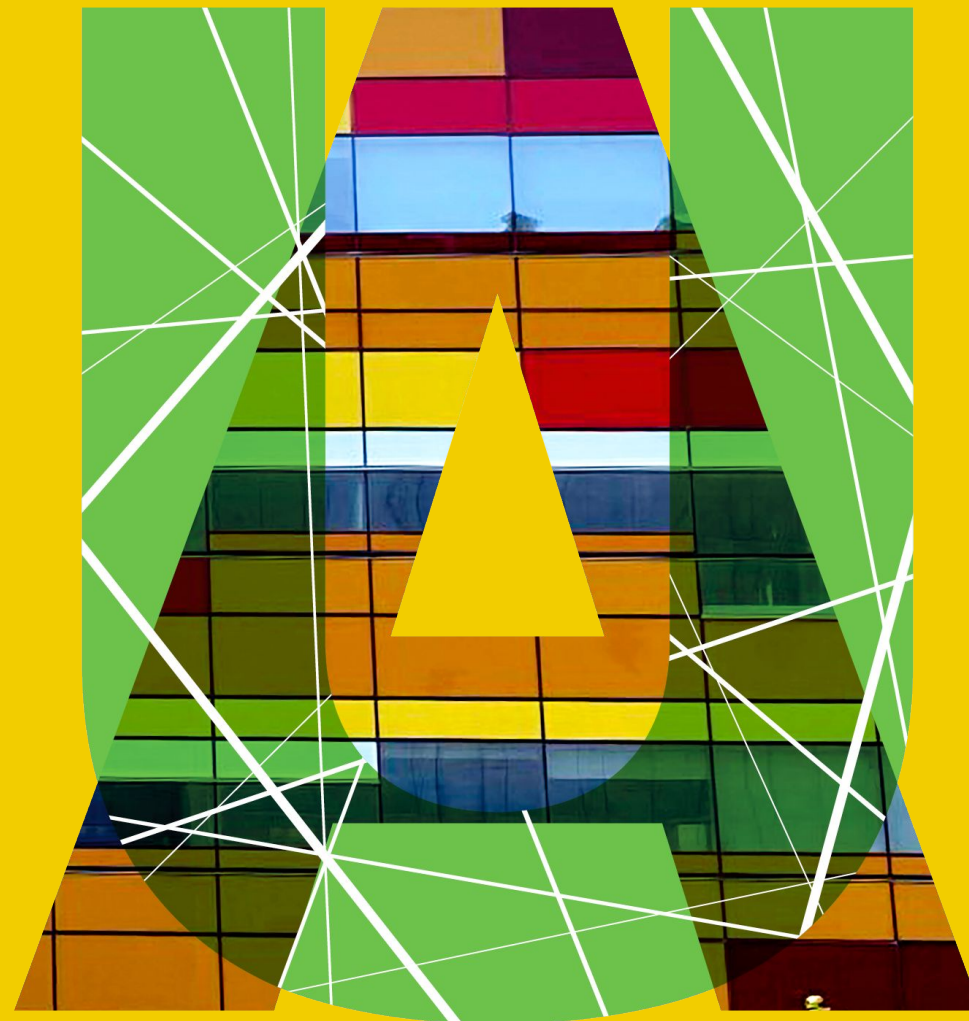
YOUR APPLICATION FOR PHD STUDIES FACULTY OF NURSING

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**UNIVERSITY
OF ALBERTA**





The University of Alberta respectfully acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, a traditional gathering place for diverse Indigenous peoples including the Cree, Blackfoot, Métis, Nakota Sioux, Iroquois, Dene, Ojibway/ Saulteaux/Anishinaabe, Inuit, and many others whose histories, languages, and cultures continue to influence our vibrant community.

AGENDA



Why pursue
doctoral
studies in
Nursing at the
University of
Alberta?

Are you ready
to become a
doctoral
scholar?

What does
the PhD
Program look
like?

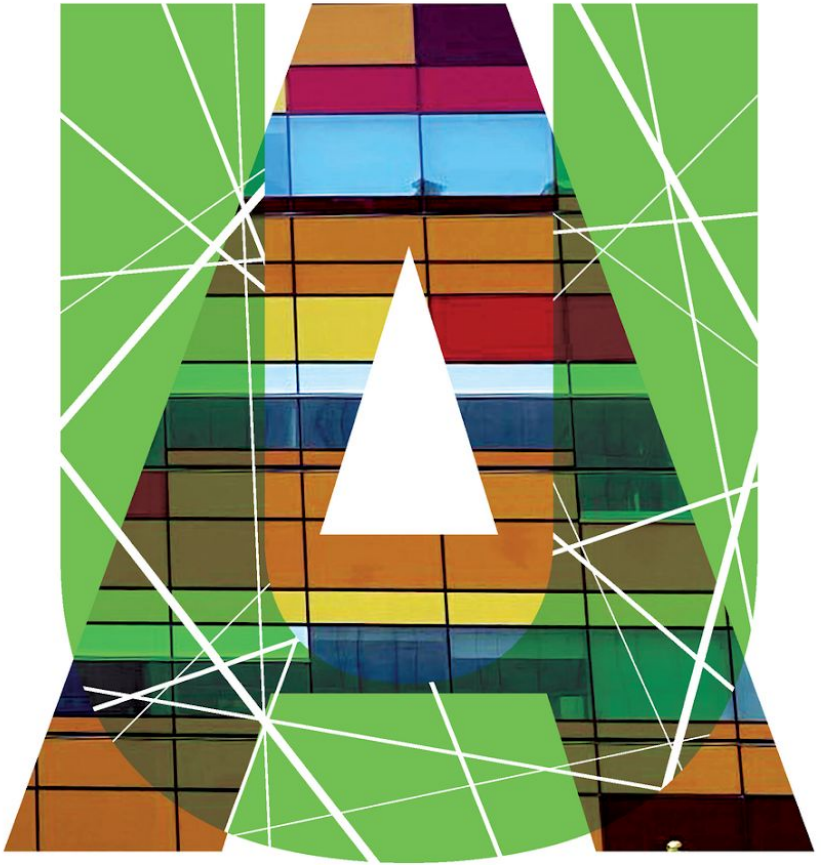
How will my
application
be assessed?



**UNIVERSITY
OF ALBERTA**

Why pursue graduate studies in Nursing at the University of Alberta?

<https://www.topuniversities.com/university-subject-rankings/nursing>



NURSING

1st

st

in Western
Canada

7th

th

*in the
world*



UNIVERSITY
OF ALBERTA

- **Establish relationships with top Canadian Nursing faculty**
 - Award winning researchers and teachers
 - High impact programs of research (e.g. aging, immunization, oncology, children's health, cardiology, social inequity, global health) addressing current health issues
- **Talented classmates become your professional network as distinguished alumni**
 - Classmates bring diverse perspectives and experience of nursing
 - Build lifelong professional network for mentoring, support, and opportunities
- **Flexible delivery on-campus and hybrid online**

Reputation and
Top Nursing Talent

Become a
UofA Nursing Alumna!

Faculty of Nursing History and Track Record

- Nursing School at University of Alberta established in 1918
- Baccalaureate Nursing program opened in 1923
- MN program established in 1975
- PhD program established in 1991 (first PhD Nursing in Canada)
- Nursing is a key contributor to the success of the University of Alberta as a research-intensive university

- Re-energize your nursing career to prepare for health systems in a post-COVID world.
- Advance nursing knowledge and skills needed for health system leadership and transformation.
- Excellent research training for academic, career scientist, health system leadership, and health policy/planning roles.
- Contribute to health research impacting national and international health and health system issues.
- Generate and apply research findings to analyze and solve problems in health systems.

Why pursue doctoral studies in Nursing?

A low-angle, upward-looking photograph of several graduates in black academic regalia. They are smiling broadly and looking upwards, suggesting a celebratory moment. The background consists of lush green trees under a bright sky. The text is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

Are you ready to become a
Doctoral Scholar?

Why are YOU interested in pursuing a doctoral degree?

What is your motivation for pursuing a doctorate in Nursing?



Career advancement



Desire to answer questions arising from nursing practice



Interest in nursing theory, statistics, research methods



Encouragement from employer



Achieve personal life goals



Desire for more confidence and influence when voicing opinions

How would your preferred career pathway be strengthened by research skills?



Application of research findings to clinical practice



Developing research proposals for the discovery of knowledge



Conducting research to advance nursing science and develop nursing theory



Conducting research to improve health systems and health outcomes



Using evidence to inform policy and health systems planning



Incorporating research and evidence into academic teaching roles

Is this the right time for me to pursue doctoral studies?

- Financial readiness – available means of support
- Emotional readiness – ready to tackle challenges, live with uncertainty, manage personal stress
- Time and energy to commit to demands of doctoral study
- Ability to negotiate periods of release from employment demands in order to immerse in coursework or research activities
- Previous research experience as an RA or research team member
- Beginning profile of scholarly activity (presentations, publications)



What does the PhD program look like?

- Students work closely with a graduate supervisor who has expertise in research topic / methods.
- Time to completion ~ 4 - 6 years.
- Normal course work is up to 3 courses per semester.
- Coursework is completed within first 2 years
- Students may have opportunities to work as teaching/research assistants to gain experience and funding support.

Program requirements:



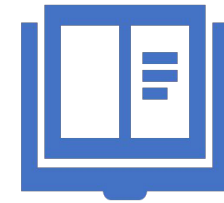
Coursework –
Students take a total
of 24-27 credits of
doctoral level courses
(numbered 600 level)



The number and type
of courses varies
based on the student's
academic background,
experience & career
goals (determined in
consultation with the
graduate supervisor).



All requirements must
be completed within 6
years from the time a
student first registers
as a graduate student.



English is the language
of study.

Required Courses – 18 credits

NURS 600 - Theory Development in Nursing

NURS 601 - Advanced Inquiry

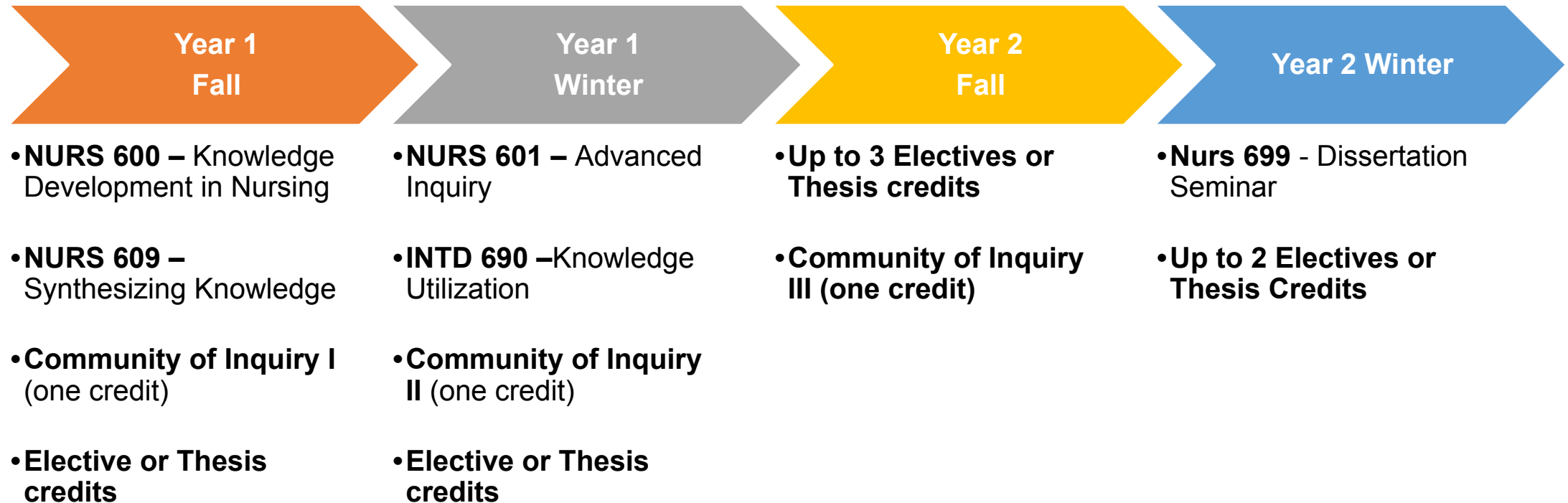
NURS 609 – Synthesizing Knowledge

INT D 690 – Topics in Knowledge Utilization

NURS 696/697/698 Community of Inquiry I,
II, III

NURS 699 - Dissertation Seminar

Usual Course-taking Pattern



Timeline for dissertation completion



24 – 36 months

- Finalize research proposal
- Prepare for doctoral oral candidacy exam (must be completed by 36 months)

36 – 48 months

- Obtain ethics approval
- Implement research project (data collection and analysis)

48 – 60 months


- Complete data collection and analysis
- Complete written dissertation
- Final doctoral examination

A period of residency on-campus is not formally required, but students benefit from periods on-campus during the doctoral program

1. Socialization, networking, and mentorship within their student cohort and their supervisor's research program;
2. Experiential engagement in research training and employment (i.e. within the graduate supervisor's program of research, through graduate teaching & research assistantships);
3. In-person engagement in courses;
4. Immersion in focused periods of writing related to the student's dissertation project;
5. Intensive in-person mentored preparation for candidacy and final examination.

A plan that outlines expectations for periods of time on-campus are negotiated & documented as part of the application and admission process.

- Faculty members may require research trainees to be present and actively engaged in their programs of research in order to provide research experiences and/or student stipends or research assistantships.
- International students who wish to be considered for employment as a graduate teaching/research assistant or as recipients of graduate awards/scholarships must be registered in full-time studies, and have a valid study permit, Canadian Social Insurance Number, and Canadian bank account.



Option: Paper Based Thesis Format

- **Format includes a minimum of three publishable papers:**
 - Each paper addresses a unique objective or question
 - Collectively, the papers will form a coherent and integrated set of projects and outputs that have been outlined in the dissertation proposal.
 - Each paper must be independent of the others.
 - **Consult with your supervisor if you are interested in a paper-based thesis format rather than a traditional dissertation.**
 - The topics, timelines, authorship and relevant journals to be targeted for submission must be clearly and jointly planned in advance.
 - **Prior to the final oral examination, at least one of the papers should be under consideration for publication in a peer reviewed journal.** The other papers may be prepared for submission, 'submitted' or 'in review', also to peer reviewed journals.
-

Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies

About Us Programs Prospective Students Current Students Postdoctoral Fellows + Visitors Fees + Funding Professional Development Policies

Home > Professional Development > Graduate Teaching + Learning Program

Graduate Teaching + Learning Program

Level 1: Foundations

Level 2: Practicum

Level 3: Pedagogy + Course Design

Level 4: Scholarship of Teaching + Learning

Teaching Circle

Graduate Teaching + Learning Program



YOUR TEACHING MATTERS

Develop teaching skills to advance your preparation for future academic teaching roles.

<https://www.ualberta.ca/graduate-studies/professional-development/graduate-teaching-and-learning-program/index.html>

Guaranteed Minimum Doctoral Funding

- Doctoral students at the University of Alberta are guaranteed minimum funding of \$25,000 per year for the first 4 years of their program.
- Minimum funding packages will be provided by the Faculty of Nursing and may consist of a combination of awards, offers of employment, funding from supervisors, or top up funding sources.
 - Examples of these include UofA recruitment scholarships, graduate teaching or research assistantship positions, teaching an undergraduate course or stipends/research assistantships from supervisor's research grants.
 - Students are expected to apply for their own funding through scholarships, awards, traineeships etc.
- Funding will be subject to certain eligibility requirements such as maintaining full-time registration and satisfactory academic standing.

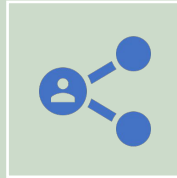
- +
 - • Preparing your Application

Minimum Admission Requirements

- A Master's degree in Nursing with an admission GPA of at least 3.5 on the 4-point scale calculated on the most recent 60 credits of coursework.
- Students who do not hold the equivalent to this degree may be admitted and required to undertake additional course work in nursing theory, practice and/or research.
- Graduate qualitative and quantitative (*with some statistics*) research courses, or one graduate course in statistics and one in research methods (or equivalent), with a final grade of B or higher.
- Completion of an interview with the prospective supervisor and/or Graduate Admission Committee.
- Written agreement with a supervisor.
- The Faculty of Nursing requires proof of English Language Proficiency (ELP) prior to admission when the primary, official language of the country is not English. Please see accepted ELP exams and scores on our [website](#).

Your First Step: Identify your Graduate Supervisor

1. Identify potential supervisors from the Academic Listing (tenure track faculty only).
2. Contact faculty member(s) to discuss your proposed research focus.
3. Secure the faculty member's agreement to serve as graduate supervisor if your application for admission is successful.



As part of your application, you must identify a faculty member who has agreed to serve as your supervisor.



The graduate supervisor provides guidance & direction in development of the research topic & methods, and must have the expertise required to support your intended research project.



You must explain the “fit” between the supervisor's expertise and your beginning research question/method as part of your application submission.

PhD Program

PhD Program Delivery

**Admission Criteria and
Application Process**



Online applications and supporting documentation are **due by Nov. 25** for admission in the following September and can be accessed through the [Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies](#) website. To ensure the protection of personal information, applications cannot be viewed by the department until they are submitted. Please contact the Nursing Graduate Office if you have questions about your application.

Applicants are selected on the basis of academic and research potential including:

- GPA (typically 3.5 or higher);
- Background experience, research and scholarly activities, and career plans;
- Publications and presentations (particularly from the Master's Degree);
- Three letters of reference (must be written in English); and
- Current Curriculum Vitae
- Graduate qualitative and quantitative (with some statistics) research courses, or one graduate course in statistics and one in research methods (or equivalent), with a final grade of B or higher.

Developing an application for doctoral nursing studies at the University of Alberta

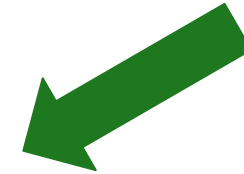
When considering an application to doctoral studies, it is the responsibility of the applicant to

Apply Now

Finding a Supervisor

Contact Us

For additional information, please contact us through the [student service portal](#) or email: nugrad@ualberta.ca



<https://www.ualberta.ca/nursing/programs/graduate-programs-and-admissions/doctoral-program/admission-criteria-and-application-process.html>



How will my application be assessed?

What is the Admissions Committee looking for?

Review of the Application:

Is the GPA on a previous degree competitive?

Do the applicant's reference letters convey strengths, competencies and abilities suggestive of strong scholarly potential?

Has the applicant made a compelling case that there is strong alignment between their intended dissertation project and the proposed supervisor's expertise and program of research?

Does the proposed research plan reflect a clear and concise conceptualization of a beginning research topic and possible methods?

See the [PhD application assessment criteria](#)

Additional considerations:

- Is there a beginning or established track record of scholarly activity (i.e. publications, presentations) and/or awards that could position the applicant for successful awards and external funding?
- Does the applicant have previous research experience/training (i.e. research assistantship, research team member)?
- Has the applicant been involved in leadership, teaching, or community contributions that are aligned with their personal goals and aspirations?
- Has the applicant participated in initiatives demonstrating innovation and health impact?

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Graduate Applications

- AI
 - at its most simple: Grammarly
 - more complex: ChatGPT
- AI can be used in Graduate applications for brainstorming or to inform structure
- AI cannot be used in Graduate applications to replace your “voice,” ideas or statements in your graduate application
 - To do so is a breach of the [UofA Code of Applicant Behaviour \(see 11.8.4.1\)](#)
- For more about Generative AI use this [link](#).

About Generative AI



How do I submit my application?

- **Application deadline: Nov 25 2024**
 - All documents, including all reference letters must be received by this date
- [Online Application](#) to Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS)
 - Create an account and submit all required documents as pdfs online
- A completed [PhD Applicant Background Information Document](#)
- Three letters of reference (must be written in English)
 - One reference letter must be from your proposed supervisor or co-supervisors
- Current Curriculum Vitae
- A sample of written scholarly work, preferably a work in which the applicant is the sole or primary author
- Official transcripts/mark sheets and degree certificates from all academic institutions
- \$135 non-refundable application fee

[Admission Criteria and Application Process](#)

[Finding a Supervisor](#)

Contact:

Faculty of Nursing Graduate Office

<https://www.ualberta.ca/en/services/student-service-centre/using-the-portal.html>

