**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

**PHD (NURSING) APPLICANT**

Please provide the following information pertaining to your academic and professional background and career goals. Please offer a response in each section **(note any maximum lengths)**. This information is reviewed by the Faculty of Nursing Admissions Committee as part of the admissions selection process. Your responses will assist in the appraisal of your professional interests and career plans, and your fit with our faculty and programs. We are looking for clear and compelling articulation of links between past experience, motivation for graduate studies, & career plans. This document will also be shared with your proposed graduate supervisor.

**In addition to the questions below, please upload a current resume/CV as a separate document.**

Please refer to the Faculty of Nursing website for information on [developing an application for doctoral nursing studies](https://www.ualberta.ca/nursing/programs/graduate-programs-and-admissions/doctoral-program/admission-criteria-and-application-process.html) at the University of Alberta.

**What are reviewers looking for in your application?**

Many elements of the following document are closely aligned with the assessment form that will be used by application reviewers. When your application to the PhD Nursing program is being assessed, the Admissions Committee is considering the following:

* Thoroughly explained fit between proposed dissertation topic and proposed supervisor’s research
* Well-organized application and background statement responses
	+ Offer focus and depth in response to questions
	+ Demonstrates excellent writing skills
* Previous research experiences that have supported your learning, and development of teamwork and leadership skills
* Beginning publication and presentation profile, other products of other scholarly activities, or impacts of scholarship
* Well-rounded applicant, with background experiences (community, clinical, specialized training, volunteer, or personal experiences) that support their identified career goals and potential as a nurse leader. Applicants should explicitly discuss how these experiences are linked to their area of research interest
* Detailed letters of reference that depict potential and promise of advanced scholarly contributions
	+ Supervisory letter reflects thorough assessment of fit and student potential, substantiated with specific examples

PhD applicants who are being considered for admission to the program may be invited to an interview.

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| Applicant Name:  |  |

**Nursing Registration:**

Are you currently licensed to practice as a Registered Nurse? No [ ]  Yes [ ]

Province/Country license is held:

Nursing Registration #:

Are you currently licensed to practice as a Nurse Practitioner? No [ ]  Yes [ ]

Province/Country license is held:

Nursing Registration #:

If not, have you been licensed to practice as a Nurse Practitioner? No [ ]  Yes [ ]

**Research/Statistics Courses:**

PhD applicants require either i) one combined graduate qualitative and quantitative (with some statistics) research course, or ii) one graduate course in statistics and one in research methods (or equivalent), with a final grade of B or higher. Please indicate which course(s) from your previous studies meet these requirements:

1. Course #:

Course Name:

Final grade:

Year completed:

1. Course #:

Course Name:

Final grade:

Year completed:

**For questions 1 - 7, please list responses in bullet point form. You can copy and paste these responses from your CV.**

**1. Previous Education:**

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**2. Professional Work Experience:**

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**3. Awards, Scholarships and/or Academic Honors Received:**

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**4. Research and/or Project Funds Received:**

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**5. Publications and/or Presentations:**

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**6. Community and Professional Memberships:**

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**7. Continuing Education (courses/workshops in past 5 years):**

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**For questions 8 - 11, and 13 - 21, please respond in paragraph form. ½ page maximum for each question. Anything more than ½ a page will not be read by the Admissions Review Committee. (Note the different page length for question #12).**

**8. Area of Proposed Research Interest (topic and methods):**

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**9. Proposed Faculty Supervisor**: Doctoral students are required to confirm the name of the faculty member who has agreed to serve as your thesis supervisor before an offer of admission will be made. The graduate supervisor provides guidance and direction in the selection of the thesis topic and research method, and thus must have the expertise required to support the student’s intended research project. Please consult the [Academic Listing of the Faculty of Nursing website](https://www.ualberta.ca/nursing/programs/graduate-student-resources-and-services/finding-a-supervisor.html) to identify potential supervisors. Contact faculty members to discuss your proposed research focus, and to secure their agreement to serve as graduate supervisor if your application for admission is successful.

Please provide a copy of this document to your proposed faculty supervisor for discussion regarding your intent to apply for doctoral studies.

**Name of Proposed Supervisor**:

**10. Describe the Communication** that you have had with your proposed supervisor in the preparation of your application:

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**11. Alignment with proposed supervisor’s expertise:** Describe how your intended research topic and/or research methods will align with your proposed supervisor’s research program and/or areas of expertise.

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**12. Research Plans:** Describe the area of research you are interested in pursuing in your doctoral studies, including any specific topics, research questions or projects that you intend to develop and implement during your doctoral program (1 page maximum**.** Anything more than 1 page will not be read by the Admissions Review Committee).

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**13. Research Potential:** Describe the significance and potential impact of your intended research activity to advance nursing and health science, and promote health, equity, and quality of life.

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**14. Research and Scholarly Activities:** Please identify and describe your previous experience with research and/or scholarly activities (i.e. Research Assistant, research practica, participation in projects as a research team member). Provide a list of the products of these activities (i.e. reports) with which you have been involved and for which you are recognized as author/co-author/contributor.

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**15. Master’s Program:** Please describe how your previous master’s studies will contribute to your intended PhD program of study. Specifically, identify and briefly describe the master’s level nursing theory, philosophy and research courses completed. Identify whether you completed a thesis or course-based program, and the title of your thesis or capstone project.

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**16. Career Plans:** Describe your 5 and 10 year career plans, and explain how you anticipate that doctoral studies will contribute to these plans.

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**17. Program Expectations:** What activities, skills, expertise and experiences do you expect to gain in this program?

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**18. Community and Professional Involvement:** Please describe your community and professional involvement over the past five years. How does this contribution demonstrate your professional leadership and commitment?

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**19. Language(s) Other Than English That You Speak:**

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**20. Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI):** The Faculty of Nursing and University of Alberta are committed to creating learning communities characterized by respect, equity, diversity, and inclusiveness. Describe your approach to understanding perspectives of other people from diverse backgrounds, activities taken for personal growth in this area, and how you have led or participated in EDI initiatives in your professional roles.

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**21. Additional Comments:** Are there any other considerations or other information (including aspects related to EDI) that you would like to offer the Admissions Committee in their assessment of your unique background?

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**Agreement for Planned Residency &**

**Agreement to Provide Supervision of Doctoral Program of Studies**

Applicants to the PhD (Nursing) program must have a supervisor in place before they can be accepted into the program. Prior to completion of the application process, each applicant must have previously corresponded with a Nursing faculty member who has agreed to a supervisory arrangement, and who has signed this document below. Acceptance by a supervisor does not guarantee admission to the program. Applications are reviewed by the Faculty of Nursing Graduate Admissions Committee. The final decision is administered by the Faculty of Graduate Studies & Research (FGSR).

The Faculty of Nursing does not have a program requirement for doctoral students to spend a minimum period of residence on campus. Individualized plans for period(s) of on-campus study are based on supervisory expectations and student needs and goals. These plans may be influenced by opportunities for scholarly socialization, networking, and mentorship; as well as research training, funding opportunities, graduate teaching and research assistantships, and student career plans. An agreement for on-campus study must be explicitly negotiated and documented by the graduate supervisor and the student as part of the application and admission process (see proposal process outlined below).

The Faculty of Nursing is a research-intensive community, which strives to nurture a culture of research excellence. While the PhD program in Nursing incorporates online and hybrid components of study and graduate supervision, periods of time on campus for direct experiential engagement may optimize achievement of doctoral program learning outcomes.

Students may benefit from periods on-campus during the doctoral program through experiences such as:

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

In addition, 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 for graduate awards/scholarships must be registered in full-time studies, and have a valid study permit, Canadian Social Insurance Number, and Canadian bank account.

**PROCESS:**

The supervisor and the prospective student will meet prior to the supervisor agreeing to supervise the prospective student. During this meeting, the expectations for any recommended periods of residency will be discussed, and the formal proposal for residency will be completed. The form must be submitted to the Graduate Services Office at the time of application by the prospective graduate student.

**Proposal for Periods of Residency**

Please describe below the intended objectives for period(s) of on-campus engagement, and how the residency objectives will be met during the student's graduate program. The prospective graduate student must submit this form to the Graduate Services Office at the time of application (i.e. prior to the January 15 application deadline).

**Objectives and Rationale:**

**Total length of residency periods:**

**Expected dates of residency:**

[ ]  I have read and understand the residency requirement.

[ ]  I have discussed the residency plan with my potential supervisor.

[ ]  I agree to the above residency plan.

[ ]  I understand that the proposed residency plan is open to change in the future, dependent on my meeting the goals of the residency objectives/progress in the program.

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Student Name Signature Date

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\*Supervisor Name Signature Date

**\*For the supervisor, by signing this form you have tentatively agreed to supervise this student for the duration of their PhD program.**