



PhD Program in Nursing (PhD)

College of Nursing and Health Sciences

The Program

The PhD Program in Nursing at University of Massachusetts Boston (UMass Boston) provides study options in four tracks:

- BS-to-PhD Health Care Policy
- MS-to-PhD Health Care Policy
- BS-to-PhD Population Health
- MS-to-PhD Population Health

Program Goals

The program focuses on the intersection of nursing, health policy, and population health, and prepares its graduates for leadership as policy analysts, researchers and educators who can:

- Analyze the historical, sociological, economic, political and nursing perspectives of population health problems and existing proposed health policies.
- Evaluate and critique health policies that influence the access, quality, and cost of healthcare services.
- Conduct theory-guided qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods research that advances knowledge of and informs innovative solutions to population health problems and health policies.
- Influence the development of innovative solutions to population health problems and health policies at local, state, national and international levels.

Degree Requirements

- *minimum* of 60 credits beyond the baccalaureate degree,
- Coursework includes population

health/health policy, economics, research methods, statistics, philosophy of science, a population health/health policy internship and the dissertation,

- Successful completion of comprehensive examination in population health/health policy,
- Full-time students may complete the program in four years. Part-time students are required to take six credits per semester and complete the program in five or six years.

Student Support Mechanisms

Students enrolled in the program may be eligible to receive funding to support their doctoral studies through one of the three available mechanisms:

- Graduate Assistantships
- Fellowships
- Grants

Internships

Our health policy internships are designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills of working on the legislative side of the healthcare system. Many of our students pursue internships at the Massachusetts State House, working on selected legislation. Our population health internships are designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills relevant to nursing and population health. Settings include but are not limited to schools, community-based health centers and departments of public health.

Faculty Research Projects

Our faculty are nationally and internationally recognized scholars

and policy experts conducting research that guides and informs health policy. Their work focuses on:

- healthcare delivery systems;
- quality, cost, and access to care; policy development, implementation, and evaluation;
- health disparities, and
- prevention and management of chronic conditions—such as obesity, cardiovascular disease, and cancer— in diverse populations across the lifespan.

This research is supported not only by federal funding from such agencies as the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and the National Institutes of Health, but also by foundation and state funding sources such as the American Cancer Society, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

Tuition and Fees

Actual tuition and fees vary according to residency, number of credits taken, and whether students enroll through campus or through our University College. Approximate cost per semester for Massachusetts residents is \$8,150 (full-time study).

To Learn More, Write, Call, or Visit:

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