The Program

PhD in Nursing:
Population Health/Health Policy
- Two (2) Foci (Pop/Health Policy)
- Two (2) “Time” Pathways:
  FT and PT
- Two (2) Degree Pathways:
  BS- PhD; MS-PhD
- 6 Curricular Plans (no part-time study for BS-PhD Programs):
  FT, MS-PhD Pop
  FT, BS-PhD Pop
  PT, MS-PhD Pop
  FT, MS-PhD HP
  FT, BS-PhD HP
  PT, MS-PhD HP

Program Goals
The program focuses on the intersection of nursing, health policy, and population health, and prepares its graduates for leadership as 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
- 60 credits beyond the master’s degree including dissertation credits
- 81 credits beyond the baccalaureate degree including dissertation credits
- Coursework includes population health/health policy, economics, research methods, statistics, philosophy of science, a health policy internship
- 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 may complete the program in five or six years (8-year limit to complete PhD).

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
- Teaching Assistantships
- Fellowships
- Grants

Internships
For our health policy track ONLY: internships are designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills relevant to nursing research and policy. Settings include but are not limited to research intuitions, community-based health organizations and departments of public health.

Faculty Research
Our faculty are regionally, nationally, and internationally recognized scholars in population health and policy research. In collaboration with our Exercise and Health Science Department at the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, their work focuses on enhancing health equity and quality of care through population and policy research across the life span in the following areas:
- smoking cessation
- sexually transmitted infection prevention and care
- clinical decision making/patient and family engagement in care;
- local and global academic/practice partnerships
- GBLTQ health
- transitional care and elders/home care
- women’s and reproductive health;
- pain assessment management and fall prevention
- cardio-metabolic health
- global health
- adult and child oncology
- nurse leadership

A sample of external funding which matches areas of interests of our faculty includes:
- The National Institutes of Health
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Systems Administration (SAMHSA)
- American Cancer Society;
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- Massachusetts Department of Public Health
- Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
Admission Requirements

1) a clear statement of purpose and goals linked to a selected focus of study (Population Health/Policy)
2) two sealed references from professionals who can attest to ability
3) sealed transcripts of degrees earned from all colleges attended
4) a copy of a nursing practice license
5) a copy of a professional certification (if applicable)
6) a curriculum vitae/resume

In addition to the general admission requirements, applicants to the PhD Program in Nursing will meet these specific criteria for admission:

- Bachelor’s degree in Nursing from an accredited program (BS-to-PhD)
- Master’s degree in Nursing or related field from an accredited program (MS-to-PhD)
- Current Massachusetts Registered Nurse license or eligibility to transfer or obtain a Massachusetts nurse licensure

Taking a course prior matriculation/Course Waiver

Students are eligible to transfer up to 6 credits toward their doctoral degree. Options are available to receive credit for courses (waivers) with approval from the Program Director.

International Students

In addition to the general admissions requirements, international students must take both the TOEFL exam and IELTS exam as well as meet the minimum score requirements. For additional information on the international student application process please refer to the “Special Instructions” section in your application.

Interview

Candidates are strongly encouraged to schedule an interview with the Program Director as part of the application process.

Application Deadline

Applications must be received no later than March 31st for Fall admission. Applications received after this date considered on a space-available basis. You may find the application online: www.umb.edu/admissions/graduate.

Checking on Application Status

The Chair of the Graduate Admissions Committee will inform applicants of their admission to the program. Following admissions, students are advised to contact the program director to obtain advisement.

Webinar Information Sessions

Become inspired by the numerous opportunities to become a nurse researcher and scientist. If you are interested in attending an information session contact us via email.

Join Us for an Event

Throughout the year, we hold a number of events that relate closely to nursing research and scholarship which include the following:

- Distinguished Weekly Scholarly Dialogue Lectures
- Annual Research and Scholarship Day

If you are interested in attending any of these events, email us at phdnursing@umb.edu

To Learn More, Write, Call, or Visit:

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