The College of Nursing at East Tennessee State University (ETSU) is pleased to offer the Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing (PhD) degree program. This PhD program prepares nurse scientists to assume roles in academic and research settings. The curriculum includes:

• courses in nursing science, research methods and data analysis;
• individualized cognate courses which support the research interest of the student; and
• a major research project, culminating in a dissertation.

The College of Nursing hosts a strong cadre of faculty known for rural and interdisciplinary research on a variety of topics including:

• health disparities in special population groups;
• chronic illness;
• health services delivery;
• nursing education; and
• nursing administration.

We seek highly qualified applicants whose research interests and career goals match the strengths of our program. Students participate in a series of mentored experiences in addition to formal online coursework that provides:

• a foundation in nursing science and research residency experiences;
• knowledge and skills required to construct and maintain a successful program of research that will advance the evidence base for practice in nursing and health care;
• a foundation for an entry-level academic position.

Composed of 59 credits across continuous semesters of study, the curriculum combines the flexibility of online programming with on-site immersion experiences.
Admission Requirements:

Applicants seeking admission to the PhD degree program at East Tennessee State University must fulfill all the requirements for admission to both the School of Graduate Studies and the College of Nursing. The School of Graduate Studies requires the following materials:

1. A completed application form with payment of a nonrefundable application fee;
2. Two official transcripts of all previous undergraduate and graduate work;
3. A written essay.

In addition, the College of Nursing requires:

1. A master’s degree in nursing from a nationally accredited nursing program with a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4-point scale.
2. Submission of Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores;
3. Licensure in the United States as a registered nurse and eligibility for licensure in the state of Tennessee.
4. At least two years of full-time work experience in nursing as a registered nurse (or the equivalent).
5. Three letters of recommendation, one from the applicant’s current (or most recent) supervisor, one from a faculty member who worked directly with the applicant during previous graduate study, and one from an individual selected by the applicant.
6. Completion of an interview.
7. Completion of a writing sample on a selected topic at the time of interview.

Funding

Excellent financial assistance is available for students pursuing the program on a full- or part-time basis.

Sample Course Sequence

Fall – Semester I
Philosophy of Nursing Science
Theoretical Foundations of Nursing Practice

Spring – Semester II
Qualitative Methods in Nursing Research
Concept Development in Nursing Practice I
Cognate I

Summer – Semester III
Quantitative Methods in Nursing Research
Concept Development in Nursing Practice II

Fall – Semester IV
Health Policy Leadership
Measurement of Clinical Outcomes
Cognate II

Spring – Semester V
Advanced Data Analysis
Interdisciplinary Approaches to Bioethical Issues
Cognate III

Summer – Semester VI
Collaborative Approaches to Practice
Dissertation Seminar
Cognate IV
Qualifying Examination

Fall – Semester VII
Doctoral Dissertation
(hours vary per semester)

To Apply

If you are interested in applying for admission to the Fall Class, please contact the School of Graduate Studies at (423) 439-4221 or apply online at:
http://www.etsu.edu/gradstud/

If you would like additional program information, please call Dr. Kathleen Rayman, Director, Graduate Programs at (423) 439-5626 or email her at raymank@etsu.edu

Upcoming Deadlines:
February 1
July 1
December 1