The Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing Program is based on the belief that nursing is a science, that nurse scholars must receive preparation at this level to develop as scientists and that the preparation of nurse scientists is best accomplished in a milieu in which faculty and students participate in a partnership of inquiry.

The Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing Program is designed to prepare beginning level nurse scientists who think critically, conduct research and serve as investigators and collaborators on research teams. Graduates of this program develop leadership skills to influence health policy and promote social justice at local, national and global levels.

**Program Overview**

To achieve expertise as beginning level nurse scientists, students are educated and socialized for their roles both didactically through course work, seminars and tutorials and experientially through research assistantships, collaboration with faculty mentors and independent research. Students receive a strong foundation in scientific inquiry with a focus on a clinically relevant area for scholarship and research. The program requires a minimum of 48 units of course work. Required courses primarily focus on nursing science and research. Students select 9-12 units of emphasis courses to support the focus or design of their dissertation. The program requires a minimum of 48 units of course work. Required courses primarily focus on nursing science and research. Students select 9-12 units of emphasis courses to support the focus or design of their dissertation. The program offers a concentration in clinical nursing research, executive leadership, or knowledge transmission of the discipline of nursing. Six units per semester is considered full time enrollment, with additional offerings in the intersession and summer session. The PhD degree may be completed in 3-4 years.

**General Regulations**

1. **Residency Requirement**
   Students must fulfill this requirement by enrolling in:
   a. 12 units of on-campus doctoral coursework during a 12-month period, OR
   b. 6 units of on-campus doctoral coursework during each of two consecutive Summer sessions.

2. **Transfer of Credit**
   (See here [catalogs.sandiego.edu/graduate/academic-regs/transfer-graduate-credit] and for more information on Transfer of Graduate Credit) Students may transfer up to 12 units of post-master’s work with approval. Extension credit is not transferable

3. **Admission to Candidacy**
   Admission to candidacy (not equivalent to admission to the program) is achieved when the student has an approved dissertation proposal.

4. **Time Limit**
   Students are allowed a maximum of two years from completion of course work to admission.

**Additional Admission Requirements**

See the Admissions page ([catalogs.sandiego.edu/graduate/admissions](catalogs.sandiego.edu/graduate/admissions)) for basic admission requirements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entrance Semester</th>
<th>Fall</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Application Deadline</td>
<td>February 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Grade Point Average</td>
<td>3.5 (4.0 scale)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Required Licenses</td>
<td>Current Registered Nurse license</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Requirements</td>
<td>Two references completed by doctoral prepared faculty members</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Degree Requirements**

The program of study includes a minimum of 48 units of post-master’s coursework. This includes 12 units for the dissertation. A minimum grade of B- is required in degree courses with an overall GPA of 3.0.

Note: The PhD program currently is being refined. Modifications may be made in the future. Please refer to the Program Handbook and website.

**Core Component**

- Designed to develop analytical abilities and provide the knowledge base and skills requisite to the development of the nurse scholar.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHDN 601</td>
<td>Philosophy of Science in Nursing</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHDN 602</td>
<td>Theory Development in Nursing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHDN 649</td>
<td>Research Seminar in Health Policy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Research Component**

- Designed to enhance the knowledge and skills necessary to develop and implement a program of research.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHDN 607</td>
<td>Applied Statistics and Quantitative Research Methods</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHDN 608</td>
<td>Applications of Multivariate Statistics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHDN 670</td>
<td>Quantitative Designs in Research</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHDN 673</td>
<td>Introduction to Qualitative Research: Background, Processes, and Approaches</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHDN 677</td>
<td>Advanced Quantitative Designs in Research</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Areas of Emphasis**

Four graduate courses selected by the student and advisor related to the student's specific research topic

Dissertation students using qualitative methods enroll in PHDN 676

**Dissertation Component (12 units minimum)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHDN 650</td>
<td>Nursing Research Seminar</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHDN 651</td>
<td>Nursing Research Seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHDN 652</td>
<td>Nursing Research Seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHDN 653</td>
<td>Nursing Research Seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHDN 654</td>
<td>Nursing Research Seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHDN 655</td>
<td>Dissertation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Units**

48

1 Required for dissertation students using qualitative research methods

The presentation of the proposal and dissertation findings are required. After the completion of five units of PHDN 651 and four units of PHDN 650-653 and three units of PHDN 654, candidates must continue to register for PHDN 695 (1 unit) and PHDN 655 (1 unit) each semester to maintain candidacy until the dissertation
is completed. See the Doctoral Student Handbook for guidelines on producing the dissertation.

PHDN 601 | PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE IN NURSING
Units: 3  Repeatability: No
Explores epistemological and ontological foundations of science and how they influence the development of the science of nursing. Examines specific philosophical traditions such as empiricism, phenomenology, and emancipatory paradigms for their relevance to nursing. Incorporates the social and historical bases of these paradigms for nursing science.

PHDN 602 | THEORY DEVELOPMENT IN NURSING
Units: 3  Repeatability: No
Prerequisites: PHDN 601 (Can be taken Concurrently)
Focuses on theory building, the nature of theory formation, critical analysis and synthesis of theoretical frameworks.

PHDN 607 | APPLIED STATISTICS AND QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS
Units: 3
Examines a variety of quantitative research designs, data collection and statistical analysis procedures appropriate to each. Students interpret statistical computer output.

PHDN 608 | APPLICATIONS OF MULTIVARIATE STATISTICS
Units: 3  Repeatability: No
Prerequisites: PHDN 607
Statistical methods for multivariate problems in health care including regression diagnostics, probability testing, measurement theory and modeling, cluster analysis, discriminate analysis, and principal components. Computer applications included.

PHDN 609 | DATA MANAGEMENT
Units: 3  Repeatability: No
Prerequisites: PHDN 607 and PHDN 608
This course is designed to enhance the student’s competence in management of data in the conduct of research. It provides interactive experiences to create datasets or analyze existing data sets. Students input and analyze data, read outputs, and report data in table and narrative formats. Students gain experience in preparing data based presentations using tables, graphs, and charts.

PHDN 610 | MIXED METHODS RESEARCH
Units: 3  Repeatability: No
Prerequisites: PHDN 670 and PHDN 673 and PHDN 677
Overviews mixed methods research (MMR) approaches and explores the epistemological and paradigmatic implications of MMR. Examines the types of research problems addressed by mixing quantitative and qualitative methods of inquiry, the major types of MMR designs, data collection strategies, data analysis and integration of quantitative and qualitative data in reporting findings. Prepares students to critique, design and, conduct mixed methods research. Throughout the course attention will be given to the process of developing a MMR proposal and producing publishable mixed methods studies.

PHDN 612 | SEMINAR IN PATIENT ENGAGEMENT AND HEALTH TECHNOLOGY
Units: 3  Repeatability: Yes (Can be repeated for Credit)
This course provides an interdisciplinary examination of the principles and concepts of patient engagement and patient activation as they relate to health, health care, and research methodology. Students will also become more familiar with the concurrent and related growth of patient centered outcomes research and the proliferation of health – related technology, including the electronic health record, the patient portal, personalized health data trackers (e.g. Fitbits), and computer/telephone applications. In addition, students will have an opportunity to apply this knowledge to their own area of research by creating a participatory research project proposal addressing an element of patient engagement and patient-centered outcomes methodology applicable to their scholarly expertise or organizational need.

PHDN 640 | BIOETHICAL ISSUES IN NURSING
Units: 3  Repeatability: No
Focuses on the process of ethical inquiry and its relevance for contemporary nursing practice, education, and research. Ethical theories and frameworks are explored as the basis for professional decision-making and public policy determination and include justice, caring, consideration of the common good, and feminist points of view. Contemporary bioethical issues are examined using case analysis and narrative approaches.

PHDN 649 | RESEARCH SEMINAR IN HEALTH POLICY
Units: 3  Repeatability: No
Explores the evolution of nursing scholarship and its current and potential influence on health policy. Provides an overview of the history of the U.S. health care system including the controversies and challenges of health policy reform and health disparities. Implications for social justice are addressed in view of rising health care costs, increasing health care inequities and modest health care outcomes.

PHDN 650 | NURSING RESEARCH SEMINAR
Units: 1  Repeatability: No
Provides socialization to the PhD nurse scholar role, with an emphasis on scientific writing and textual reading at the PhD level.

PHDN 651 | NURSING RESEARCH SEMINAR
Units: 1  Repeatability: No
Prerequisites: PHDN 650
Provides guidance on the development of dissertation topic and utilizes writing exercises designed to explicate the research question and the significance of the study area.

PHDN 652 | NURSING RESEARCH SEMINAR
Units: 1  Repeatability: No
Prerequisites: PHDN 651
Provides support for the ongoing development of the dissertation, with an emphasis on the preparation of a critique-based literature review and methodological issues.

PHDN 653 | NURSING RESEARCH SEMINAR
Units: 1  Repeatability: No
Prerequisites: PHDN 652
Provides support for the development of an in depth, detailed plan for data collection for the dissertation.

PHDN 654 | NURSING RESEARCH SEMINAR
Units: 3  Repeatability: No
Prerequisites: PHDN 653
Provides support for the actual conduct of the dissertation with emphasis on commonly encountered challenges to data collection and management. Addresses the process and procedures for proposal presentation, IRB submission, final presentation and submission of the dissertation.
PHDN 570 | NURSING RESEARCH SEMINAR
Units: 3
Repeatability: No
Prerequisites: PHDN 501 and PHDN 507
Critical analysis of scientific inquiry using advanced nonexperimental (descriptive and correlational) and experimental (quasi- and true experimental) quantitative research designs. Emphasizes application of advanced statistical analyses related to specific research designs.

PHDN 601 | PSYCHOMETRIC THEORY AND MEASUREMENT
Units: 3
Repeatability: No
Prerequisites: PHDN 602 and PHDN 608 and PHDN 676
Provides an overview of concepts, theories, measurement theories, and instruments. Includes critical analysis of relationships between concepts, theories and measurements as well as critical examination of existing instruments based on principles of instrument construction and evaluation. Emphasis is also placed on evaluating instruments in terms of cultural bias, sensitivity and ethical issues.

PHDN 670 | QUANTITATIVE DESIGNS IN RESEARCH
Units: 3
Repeatability: No
Prerequisites: PHDN 670
Critical analysis of scientific inquiry using advanced nonexperimental (descriptive and correlational) and experimental (quasi- and true experimental) quantitative research designs. Emphasizes application of advanced statistical analyses related to specific research designs.

PHDN 672 | INTRODUCTION TO QUALITATIVE RESEARCH:
BACKGROUND, PROCESSES, AND APPROACHES
Units: 3
Repeatability: No
This course is designed as an introduction to qualitative methodologies. It will explore some of the distinguishing characteristics, techniques/methods of data collection and analysis, ethical considerations, and diversity of methodological approaches.

PHDN 673 | THE PRACTICE OF QUALITATIVE RESEARCH
Units: 3
Repeatability: No
Prerequisites: PHDN 673
Focuses on the craft of conducting qualitative research. Involves practicing methods of data collection and data analysis. Course content will include issues related to evaluating, communicating (oral and written), (re)presenting, and publishing qualitative research findings. Ethical dimensions of qualitative research in human research studies will be emphasized. Throughout the course the contribution of qualitative research to nursing, social, and health sciences and nursing practice will be considered. (Required for students using qualitative methods in dissertation research).

PHDN 674 | ADVANCED QUANTITATIVE DESIGNS IN RESEARCH
Units: 3
Repeatability: No
Prerequisites: PHDN 670
Critical analysis, synthesis, and application of advanced quantitative research designs. Areas of emphasis include: testing the relationship between multiple independent variables and a single dependent variable, between multiple independent and multiple dependent variables; grouping variables or individuals; and analysis of linear structural relations.

PHDN 683 | KNOWLEDGE DISSEMINATION
Units: 3
Repeatability: No
Analysis and evaluation of strategies that facilitate knowledge dissemination in academic settings in nursing. Emphasis is on synthesis of literature related to the unique learning needs of the nurse scholar.

PHDN 684 | SEMINAR IN GRANT WRITING
Units: 3
Repeatability: No
Addresses all aspects of grant writing, including funding sources, proposal writing and management of funded projects.

PHDN 685 | WRITING FOR PUBLICATION
Units: 3
Repeatability: No
Focuses on scholarly writing in professional nursing. Emphasizes manuscript development for submission for publication. Address multiple venues and publication formats as well as ethical and legal issues in publishing.

PHDN 687 | INNOVATIONS IN NURSING EDUCATION
Units: 3
Repeatability: No
Explores theoretical foundations and educational philosophies fundamental to nursing education. Innovative teaching strategies and technological approaches to professional education are presented. Experienced faculty/students discuss challenges encountered in teaching nursing students in diversified classrooms.

PHDN 688 | PALLIATIVE CARE: THEORY AND PRACTICE
Units: 3
Repeatability: No
An in-depth exploration of the roles of the Nurse Researcher and Advanced Practice Nurse in the palliative care setting. Theories of palliative care will be explored as a basis for praxis, the conduct of research, and public policy determination. Symptom management, patient-family communication and cultural perspectives of chronic illness are major course themes. Analysis and critique of contemporary research on palliative care is integrated throughout the course.

PHDN 689 | SEMINAR IN HEALTH PROMOTION
Units: 3
Repeatability: No
Examines theoretical and empirical explanation of health promotion on the well-being of individuals, families and communities. The course encourages students to complete reviews of evidence based research and effectiveness of health promotion programs, health counseling and communication including health education principles, evaluation methods and funding opportunities. Synthesis of the literature in relation to student research interest is required to support development of a dissertation/project relevant to a health promotion concern.

PHDN 690 | SEMINAR IN EXECUTIVE NURSE LEADERSHIP RESEARCH
Units: 3
Repeatability: No
Analyzes the state of the science concerning health care systems and organizational research. Theoretical frameworks, ethical considerations, research methods, instrumentation, findings and implications for further research will be explored.

PHDN 693 | RESIDENCY
Units: 3
Repeatability: No
Provides intensive experience in a selected area of career development.

PHDN 694 | SPECIAL TOPICS IN NURSING RESEARCH
Units: 3
Repeatability: No
In-depth study of a research method, targeted review of the literature or a dissertation related topic under the guidance of the dissertation chairperson. A publishable paper or poster presentation is an expected outcome.
**PHDN 695 | DISSERTATION**  
**Units: 1-5 Repeatability: Yes (Can be repeated for Credit)**  
Development and implementation of original research. After completion of four units of PHDN 650-653, three units of PHDN 654 and 5 units of PHDN 695, candidates must continue to register for 1 unit of PHDN 655 and 1 unit of PHDN 695 each semester to maintain candidacy until the completed dissertation is submitted.

**PHDN 697 | SEMINAR IN VULNERABLE POPULATIONS/HEALTH DISPARITIES RESEARCH**  
**Units: 3**  
Analyzes the state of the science concerning health-related issues and health disparities among vulnerable populations. Theoretical underpinnings, ethical considerations, research methods, instrumentation, findings and implications for further research will be explored.

**PHDN 699 | SEMINAR IN PATIENT ENGAGEMENT AND HEALTH TECHNOLOGY**  
**Units: 3 Repeatability: No**  
Explores current definitions of patient engagement and patient activation from multiple stakeholder viewpoints. Emphasizes comprehensive methodologic exploration of patient-centered outcomes. Students will become conversant with relevant literature regarding the concepts of habit formation, behavior change, decision-making, and human-centered design approaches. Students will analyze the role of technology including tracking devices, social media and other platforms as sociocultural factors shaping health behavior and patient engagement.