



The University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Nursing: Frequently Asked Questions

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General Information:

Does the School of Nursing Graduate Programs offer any on-line or distance learning courses or degrees?

No, all programs are offered in the classroom or in clinical settings.

What degree/s is needed in order to enter the PhD program?

- ❏ A bachelor's or a master's degree in nursing from a program accredited by the National League for Nursing or the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education or a comparable degree from a foreign academic institution.

Where are the School of Nursing and the Graduate Student Affairs Office located?

The School of Nursing is located at 1710 Red River, Austin, Texas 78701. The Graduate Student Affairs Office is on the main entrance floor (2nd level) in Rooms 2.414.

Can you mail me a packet of information?

Information packages are not provided as all of the information available to prospective students may be found on the [School of Nursing website](#).

Admission Requirements and the Application Procedures:

The Graduate and International Admissions Center (GIAC) process applications for graduate admissions. To apply for graduate admission to the School of Nursing the admissions application must be completed electronically at [Apply Texas](#) during the open application period of **September 1 through November 1**.

The following documents must be uploaded via the [Online Status Check](#) page by the

APPLICATION DEADLINE of November 1:

- ❏ **Application**-GIAC process applications for graduate admissions. Applications are to be completed and paid at [Apply Texas](#). For additional information on Graduate admissions, please visit the [University of Texas at Austin Graduate School](#) webpage.
- ❏ **Official Transcript(s)** from each **four-year academic institution** you have attended as well as **transcripts** from **Community Colleges** attended for prerequisite courses. Upload a copy of official transcripts dated one year or less; if admitted official, hard copy, transcripts are required.

- **Official** report of **GRE** scores; scores are valid 5 years prior to the program start date. GRE School Code: 6882 (a department code is not required).
- Current **Curriculum Vitae (CV)** indicating educational background, professional experience, volunteer experience and other relevant information (e.g. publications, scholarship and awards, professional organizations and community activities).
- **Statement of Purpose**, double spaced, one inch margins, 12-point and maximum length of two (2) pages, addressing the following:
 - Discuss your interest in doctoral education in nursing.
 - Identify and discuss your focused area of study and specify your research interests.
 - Describe any previous work (clinical or research) that relates to your research interest.
 - Identify your personal and professional goals and describe how you anticipate doctoral education in nursing furthering these goals
 - Discuss any special circumstances that you believe require further clarification.
- **Three references.** Provide the name, position and email address for three recommenders on the application for admissions. Recommenders are sent an email with instructions on completing the reference form.
- **International applicants** must provide official report of Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).

Please Note: **Former or current graduate student** of UT Austin last enrolled in a graduate program other than nursing, must pay and submit an application to [Another Graduate Major](#) and provide all applicable documents.

Is there a minimum GPA required for admission?

The Graduate School of the University of Texas at Austin requires an upper-division GPA of at least a 3.0. This requirement is calculated based on the grades earned in upper-division (junior and senior level) undergraduate and graduate courses.

If you do not have a 3.0 GPA, you may be admitted with conditions if all other components of your application are strong. Conditions may be placed by the Associate Dean of the Graduate School, or by the Graduate Admission and Progress Committee in the School of Nursing.

Is there a minimum GPA required for admission?

The Graduate School at the University of Texas at Austin requires a GPA of at least a 3.0. This requirement is calculated based on the grades earned in upper-division (junior and senior level) undergraduate and graduate courses.

Applicants with a GPA below 3.0 may be admitted with conditions. Conditions may be placed by the Associate Dean of the Graduate School, or by the Graduate Admission and Progression Committee in the School of Nursing.

Do I have to take the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) to be admitted?

Yes, the GRE is required and must have been taken within the last five years prior to the intended start date of the program. GRE is not waived.

What is the minimum score required on the GRE?

There is no minimum score required. To be competitive, the School of Nursing recommends a combined total score of 300 on the verbal and quantitative sections of the exam. The Analytical Writing section score is required and considered in the admission process.

My GRE score is not at the recommended total. May I still apply?

Yes. Applicants' admission materials are evaluated on a value-point system.

How and when do I arrange to take the GRE?

Information regarding the GRE, test dates, and test locations is available via the [ETS website](#). The School of Nursing recommends taking the GRE no later than October 1 of the application year.

How much weight is given to the statement of purpose?

The statement of purpose is considered very carefully. Applicants are encouraged to highlight relevant experiences and professional goals as part the statement of purpose. See the admission requirements above for details in writing the statement of purpose.

What is most important to the Graduate Admission and Progression Committee?

The committee considers each applicant holistically based on admissions materials. Admission materials are evaluated on a value-point system.

When are admission decisions sent out?

Applicants may expect to receive admission decisions by early March.

How many students do you admit into your program each year?

The number varies per year but approximately 10-15

Prospective Student Information:**What are the prerequisites for the PhD programs?**

- 📖 Statistics (3 credit hours) –Completed prior to enrollment
- 📖 Applicants to the PhD program who **do not** hold a MSN will complete 9 semester credit hours of master's level Nursing prior to completing PhD coursework.

When does the program start?

The fall semester ONLY; typically late August or early September.

How long will it take to complete the program? Can I attend the program as a part-time student?

The minimum time to complete the PhD program is 3 calendar years plus dissertation.

I've been out of school for more than 10 years. Is this too long to try such a rigorous graduate program?

No. Students in the program have completed previous degrees as long as 20 years ago and as recently as one semester ago.

Once Admitted:**When are Nursing courses offered?**

Courses are typically scheduled between the hours of 8:00 am and 7:00 pm on weekdays.

Must I be enrolled as a full-time graduate student?

No. Graduate students may be enrolled part-time (8 credit hours or less), however, all degree courses must be completed within six years.

Will I be able to work while enrolled in a graduate program?

Even though the workload is heavy, some full-time students do work part-time while enrolled in courses. However, students who work full-time generally cannot carry a full course load.

What grades are expected of graduate students?

The Office of Graduate Studies requires a minimum GPA of 3.0 (B average) for admission to, retention, and graduation from the University of Texas at Austin.

If I have started a graduate program at another institution, will I be able to transfer my credits if admitted to your program?

Possibly. A student seeking to use coursework from another institution must provide the School of Nursing Graduate Advisor with an official transcript, the official explanation of the course numbering system, grading system, and the course syllabus from the institution at which the course was completed. If the Graduate Advisor deems the course appropriate for your degree plan, she/he will submit a petition to the Office of Graduate Studies on your behalf. The Dean of the Graduate School must then approve the petition.

Transfer courses **must** meet the following criteria:

- ❏ The student must have earned a grade of B or better in the course.
- ❏ The course must be graduate level. If the course is open to both undergraduates and graduate students, the student must provide proof that extra work was required for graduate credit, that only graduate students were enrolled in the course, or that the course is required for a master's degree.
- ❏ The course may not be taken at another institution during the semester of intended graduation.
- ❏ The course may not have been used to fulfill requirements toward another degree.
- ❏ If approved, the course must be used within a six-year time limit.
- ❏ A maximum of six (6) semester credit hours from a different institution may be approved.

I live in another state now. I will be considered a Texas resident after I finish a year of graduate school?

Possibly. Please visit the UT Austin [Texas Residency](#) for additional information.

Financial Considerations:

How much are tuition and fees?

Tuition and fee information can be found online on the Office of Accounting [Tuition and Fee Rates](#) webpage.

Graduate tuition and fees are a flat rate based on the number of hours taken per semester. Most full-time students take an average of nine credit hours per semester.

Does the School of Nursing offer any financial aid for graduate students?

Yes, in limited amounts. The School of Nursing offers scholarships ranging from approximately \$200-\$2000 per semester. Competitive fellowships also are offered through the Office of Graduate Studies for continuing students. Full-time students holding an RN license and are in Nurse Practitioner program, are eligible to receive a monthly advanced traineeship stipend of about \$120-\$150 for up to 36 months. There also are a limited number of Teaching Assistant and Research Assistant positions available. Some tuition assistance is provided to students who are awarded fellowships and to students holding Assistant Teaching, Research Assistant and Assistant Instructor positions.

Applications for the School of Nursing scholarships are available at www.utexas.edu/nursing (applicants to the graduate programs are eligible to apply).

Applicants are encouraged to begin searching for financial aid at least 9 months prior to the semester in which you enroll. There are many private scholarships and grants whose application deadlines are in the fall semester.

All financial aid applicants must complete a FAFSA form. Please visit the [Office of Student Financial Services](#) website for more information.

Contact Information:

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