Nursing Science

The Department of Nursing Science is a collaboration between Goldfarb School of Nursing at Barnes-Jewish College and the Graduate School at Washington University. The Goldfarb School of Nursing emphasizes the reciprocation among research, clinical practice, and teaching based on the belief that clinical practice advises research, research advises clinical practice, and both research and clinical practice advise teaching. The school’s commitment to the preparation of the next generation of nurse-scientists is reflected in the strong research emphasis of the PhD program in the science of nursing.

The goal of the PhD program is to educate nurse-scientists whose career goals include conducting nursing research. Students bring a unique combination of nursing knowledge and clinical experiences to doctoral study, and these serve as the basis for the development of programs of study that are both compatible with the core doctoral curriculum and individualized to allow for the gaining of in-depth knowledge in a specialized area of study. The PhD in Nursing Science provides a solid foundation for graduates to pursue rigorous programs of nursing research that are clinically significant and contribute to the advancement of nursing science.

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Degree Requirements

PhD in Nursing Science

The PhD in Nursing Science requires 65 graduate units in course work and research. Students will complete four core areas of study plus a required minor/cognate and a dissertation. The four core areas are Nursing Science, Research Methods, Statistics, and Mentored Research Experience. Students can choose a minor in informatics or genomics, or they may create a customized track. Courses in the Nursing Science and Research Methods core areas will be taught by faculty at Goldfarb School of Nursing. Courses in the Statistics core and the minor courses will be taught by faculty at Washington University. The Mentored Research Experience will be taught by scientists at both Goldfarb School of Nursing and Washington University.

The program is designed to be completed in three years of full-time study. This generally involves five semesters of course work (53 units) followed by a preliminary examination, a qualifying examination, and three semesters of dissertation work (12 units). Students may be eligible for fourth- and fifth-year options if these are necessary for them to complete the proposed dissertation work.