

# PhD in Nursing



EMORY  
LANEY  
GRADUATE  
SCHOOL



Emory's Ph.D. program in Nursing is committed to improving human health, the experience of health, and the provision of health care through the discovery of new knowledge and its translation into practice. The program is designed to prepare researchers who want to revolutionize health care and improve health outcomes for diverse populations.

Unlike many programs at other universities, our Ph.D. program in Nursing is a fulltime, intense learning experience designed to develop the next generation of researchers, a generation that will change the face of health care. The program is built on the research strengths of its faculty in areas of the management of chronic illnesses, the biological and psychosocial bases of behavior, global health, and health care systems, with special emphases on women's health and the health of vulnerable populations. The program is interdisciplinary, drawing on the strengths of Emory University and its partners in areas as varied as the humanities, natural and social sciences, public health, engineering, theology, law, and business.

The Ph.D. program is centered on the strength of the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing. The School of Nursing is committed to a trajectory that includes becoming an international leader in the advancement of nursing science, education, practice and policy. In 2012 we expect to be among the top five private schools of nursing in the world, attracting a top tier of faculty, students and postdoctoral fellows. The faculty, staff and students of the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing are dedicated to the values of scholarship, leadership and social responsibility in shaping our current and future work as members of a leading private school of nursing.

The School of Nursing is housed in a new state-of-the-art building which includes a teaching pavilion and clinical skills lab. The building is strategically located on the Clifton Corridor between the Rollins School of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The School includes three important centers:

- THE LILLIAN CARTER CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL NURSING (LCCIN), named after President Carter's mother, has as its mission the improvement of the health of vulnerable people worldwide through nursing education, research, practice, and policy. LCCIN focuses on enhancing the impact of nursing globally through targeted international academic exchanges, partnerships fostering scholarship, creation of a forum for exploration of issues relating to the global supply, demand, distribution, and quality of the nursing workforce worldwide, and through increasing access to relevant training and education.

# DISCOVER

the unexpected



- Wesley Woods Center provides important research collaborators and clinical gerontological facilities for Ph.D. students.
- The Carter Center offers global policy experiences for Ph.D. in Nursing students.
- Grady Memorial Hospital, located a few miles away, is a major urban, regional full-service hospital that provides students with access to the full range of hospital care experiences.

Located just 15 minutes from downtown Atlanta in a tree-lined suburban neighborhood of Druid Hills, Emory University is positioned along the Clifton Corridor, which also includes the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Cancer Society.

## Curriculum

There are two curricula options: BSN-Ph.D. (5 years) or MSN-Ph.D. (4 years). Both options consist of required courses in the sciences, research, and electives designed to give students grounding in their areas of research specialization for a minimum of 74 semester hours in the BSN-Ph.D. track and 50 semester hours in the MSN-Ph.D. track. In addition to research coursework, the program provides mentored research practica during the first three years, prior to preparing for dissertation research. BSN-Ph.D. students engage in a tailored first year program designed to prepare them for the ensuing two years of MSN-Ph.D. coursework that emphasize the development of interdisciplinary research capabilities. The two-year standard MSN-Ph.D. curriculum is described below:



- **THE CENTER FOR RESEARCH ON MATERNAL AND NEWBORN SURVIVAL.** The Center's primary goal is to contribute to the global effort to reduce the tragic high levels of maternal and newborn mortality in the developing regions of the world through a focused program of research.

Nursing students also enjoy access to the resources and opportunities offered by Emory University and many surrounding and affiliated institutions.

- Emory's School of Medicine, Rollins School of Public Health, and the Yerkes National Primate Center offer opportunities for collaborative resources for research.
- Emory University Hospital and Emory University Hospital Midtown are well respected clinical facilities for teaching and research.
- The Emory Clinic, the primary port of access to patient care in Emory Healthcare and the largest, is the most comprehensive group practice in Georgia.

**Year 1** Students take a range of courses designed to give them a foundation in research methods and theory. In the summer after the first year, students take a qualifying examination.

During the first two years of the program, all students participate in research residencies as part of the curriculum. During the residencies, students work directly with ongoing faculty research projects as an integral part of the team to accomplish both individual and project-related activities.

**Year 2** Students take a mix of required courses and elective courses in their area of interest, and begin work with an advisor to develop a research project that will lead to a dissertation. In the summer after their second year, students take a comprehensive examination to demonstrate that they are ready to pursue research in nursing. They also present their dissertation proposal to the Nursing faculty for approval.

**Years 3+** Students conduct research and complete their dissertations.

In addition, all Ph.D. in Nursing students participate in the Assistant Training and Teaching Opportunity Program (TATTO), offered through the Laney Graduate School. The program includes a series of workshops and courses providing instruction in pedagogy and related issues, as well as a mentored and progressively more independent sequence of teaching opportunities. The teaching experience is tailored to the experiences and goals of the student and aids in strengthening the educator role.

## Students

Our program is small. We typically have 15–18 doctoral students in residence, and three to six qualified applicants are admitted each fall. As a result we have small class sizes and low faculty-student ratios, allowing for highly individualized student advising and strong mentoring relationships between faculty and doctoral students.

Applicants must be eligible for licensure as RN in Georgia, must have studied undergraduate or graduate level epidemiology within the past five years, must have studied graduate level statistics within the past five years, and must be computer literate.

Our students pursue a wide range of research. Recent and current projects include:



- Energy Density of Food Intake and Overweight Adults
- African-American Women: Body Image, Weight & Depression Development and Psychometric
- Evaluation of Health Protective Sexual Communication Measures for Young Women Aged 21-35 Years Attending Selected MCH Clinics in Gaborone, Botswana for HIV Prevention
- Social Networks and Skilled Birth Attendance to Prevent Maternal Mortality
- Factors Impacting Staff Nurse Care Coordination for Hospitalized Patients

The target destination of program graduates is in academic schools and departments of nursing in research-intensive institutions.

## Faculty

The nursing faculty is committed to active research leading the way to improving health and health care. We have a core faculty of 15 members with diverse backgrounds—RNs, Ph.D.s, MDs, and more—and research interests. Our website has a listing of our faculty members, including their backgrounds and research interests. Please visit [www.nursing.emory.edu/nursing/phd/faculty.shtml](http://www.nursing.emory.edu/nursing/phd/faculty.shtml).

To learn more about the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing and the Graduate School Ph.D. program in nursing, explore our website, [www.nursing.emory.edu/nursing](http://www.nursing.emory.edu/nursing)—click on “Academic Programs” and then “PhD” for the doctoral program.

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Requests for Additional Information:

RECRUITMENT AND ADMISSIONS

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<http://www.graduateschool.emory.edu>  
<http://www.nursing.emory.edu/nursing/phd>