



Overview

This professional doctorate is specifically aimed at experienced registered nurses who are seeking to extend their professional and research capacities. The Doctor of Nursing (DNurs) requires the student to make a significant and original contribution to knowledge through research, evidenced by the completion of three linked research projects presented in a research portfolio.

In the DNurs, students are expected to use a range of research methods to investigate their chosen topic in order to gain a broad understanding of research. In addition, the research must be practice-based. Thus, the DNurs is particularly suitable for clinicians who wish to investigate topics relating directly to their own sphere of practice.

The DNurs is a practice orientated academic program, which is designed to prepare graduates to act effectively as leaders in the nursing profession. In keeping with this, the program aims to produce graduates who are able to respond effectively to the many challenges and problems of modern health care.

Program Objectives

Students of the Doctor of Nursing program will:

- > make a significant and original contribution to nursing knowledge through their research
- > demonstrate competence in the design, conduct, analysis and reporting of practice-based nursing research
- > appreciate the range of research designs and methods that are particularly suitable for practice-based research
- > demonstrate a sophisticated understanding of how nursing knowledge and improvements in practice can be advanced through research (both in general and in relation to their own professional context)
- > demonstrate an ability to disseminate ideas through publication, seminar, workshop and conference presentations
- > understand the political, professional and policy contexts surrounding healthcare research, including new emphases on collaborative, inter-disciplinary, inter-agency and international research; the closer relationship between 'R' and 'D'; and the growing involvement of consumers in shaping research agendas and the ethical conduct of research
- > appreciate the full range of research-related roles of professional nurses: namely, appraising, using, implementing, facilitating, designing, undertaking, supervising, commissioning and disseminating research.

Program Duration

A candidate may proceed to the degree by full-time study or, by half-time study. The work for the degree shall be completed and the thesis submitted:

- > in the case of a full-time candidate, not less than two years and not more than four years from the date of commencement of candidature
- > in the case of a half-time candidate, not less than four years and not more than eight years from the date of commencement of candidature

Doctor of Nursing

Entry Requirements

Applicants must be Registered Nurses, with current registration, who have established themselves in their chosen field of professional practice (normally with at least 5 years of experience working as a RN), and who hold a Masters degree in Nursing (or a cognate discipline). A Masters degree which contains only coursework will not be accepted for entry into the DNurs program.

Applicants without a Masters degree, but who have an Honours degree in Nursing, with at least IIA standard, may be considered if they have substantial clinical experience, evidence of continuing professional development and academic ability (e.g. publications) and an adequate level of basic research knowledge.

As well as academic ability and professional experience, DNurs applicants should be highly motivated to become research-active practitioners and ultimately, clinical and professional leaders. The program is particularly suitable for RNs who are Charge Nurses, Unit Directors, Clinical Nurse Specialists, Advanced Practitioners or Nurse Consultants.

An applicant may only be enrolled as a candidate for the degree if the proposed field of study and research is acceptable to the School of Nursing.

Fees

The DNurs is classified as a higher degree by research and therefore Australian students are eligible for funding under the research training scheme. However, international students will be required to pay full fees.

Applications

Prospective students should contact the School and speak to the Post Graduate Coordinator prior to lodging an application form.

Application forms and admission information for the Doctor of Nursing program can be found on the University of Adelaide Graduate Centre website at www.adelaide.edu.au/graduatecentre/scholarships/postgrad/pgforms.html.

Application forms need to be completed online using the relevant link to either Domestic or International Applicants.

Contact



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