

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Nursing

Introduction

Around the globe, there is a growing emphasis on evidence-based nursing care to improve the overall quality of the healthcare delivery system. Developed nations have achieved the highest standards of patient care by improving the quality of nursing care. The demands of high standards of nursing care have made it necessary for academia to pursue high standards of nursing research for evidence-based practice. To achieve this goal, there is an increasing demand of doctorate prepared research scholars' in the field of nursing especially in Pakistani context where the nursing profession is still in infancy phase to gain the status of the mainstream profession. As a consequence, the nursing practice reported so far is not satisfactory and the rate of health-related morbidity and mortality in hospitals and communities is very high. The status of nursing practice, education, and research in the country are also not at par with international standards.



However, recently, there is an increasing emphasis in Pakistan to improve nursing care in a tertiary care public sector hospital which means a growing recognition of the care provided by the nurses.

Despite such a poor situation of nursing in the country, no single Public Sector University is offering a PhD program in the field. In the recent past, many nursing colleges and institutes in Pakistan have explored avenues to recruit nurses having PhD degrees from other countries of the world. However, attracting foreign national PhDs to Pakistan who may take the lead to advance nursing education and practice in the country seems far from reality. In addition, the preparation of foreign prepared doctorate nurses who shall become leaders in healthcare research, education and practice is also a costly adventure. Aspirants who wish to pursue PhD Nursing education in foreign countries are not able to bear the high expenses

of the program neither the government has enough resources to afford their foreign training. There is a strong demand for doctorate-prepared nurses in Pakistan to meet the current demand of the healthcare industry and nursing educational institutes. The Institute of Nursing Sciences has the pride to be a leader in nursing education in the country in general and in KPK in particular. The institute is distinguished in having highly qualified foreign and locally prepared nursing faculty in the country. The institute has the honor to be the first institute to start a four-year BSc Nursing generic program and two years Post RN, BSc Nursing program in KPK. Similarly, the institute is the first to start MS in a nursing program in KPK. The institute is now aspiring to be the first public sector institute in the country to start a PhD program in Nursing.

Program Aim and Objectives

The overarching aim of the PhD Nursing program is to prepare graduates having the requisite skills and knowledge in the field of nursing to conduct quality research and suggest possible solutions to the complex patient care related local and global health issues.

The objectives of the PhD Nursing program are:

1. Prepare trained human resource in research skills and methodology in the field of Nursing
2. Develop in-depth knowledge in the area of nursing science
3. Conduct quality and credible research in the field of Nursing
4. Integrate knowledge from nursing and related disciplines that support health for individuals, families, and communities at the local, national and international levels
5. Develop leadership for academic, research and service sectors of Nursing.

Program Structure and Evaluation

The PhD program will require additional PhD level course work of at least 18 credit hours followed by a comprehensive examination at the end of course work as per HEC criteria. Upon success in the comprehensive exam, the candidate will follow his/her research work leading to submission and defense of the thesis and if successful the award of PhD degree (Figure 1).

Fees and other Dues

Each PhD candidate shall be required to pay tuition fee and such other charges as may be determined by the KMU from time to time.

Annual Review Process

Year 1

The first year of PhD. is comprised of advanced courses of PhD, spread across two semesters. Each semester will include courses of 9 credits. The final Comprehensive exam (maximum 2 attempts) will be conducted by the examination department of KMU. On successful completion of the course work, the student must present a research proposal in a Departmental Graduate committee meeting which will be organized by the concerned PhD Coordinator. In addition to the permanent members of the Graduate committee, one or more subject specialist should participate from within or outside KMU. This should be followed by submission of "PhD Student Review Form", literature review and defense of research proposal in the annual review meeting of the *Advanced Studies Review Board* (ASRB), specially arranged for the PhD students.

Year 2 and Year 3

The annual review process of Year 2 and 3 include submission of "PhD Student review form" and a presentation to the institutional Graduate committee on six monthly bases organized by the concerned PhD Coordinator. This is followed by the submission of "PhD Student review form", scientific report, and presentation in the annual ASRB meeting. The annual review process should be completed by students and supervisors by 31st January. Any student starting late will normally be permitted to delay submission of their annual report until 31st March.

Scientific Report

A scientific report preferably in the style of a journal article (6 to 10 pages maximum is recommended) summarizing progress made in the last year. It may, therefore, contain an abstract, introduction, materials and methods, results and discussion. In addition, there should be a 500-1000 words section at the end of the report detailing the following year's work. To be sent to a supervisor for assessment and comment (half a page maximum) and subsequently submitted to the PhD Coordinator and ASRB.

Presentation in the ASRB Meeting

All PhD students are required to deliver an oral presentation by the end of the year in the ASRB annual meeting, specially organized for them. This is followed by a discussion with the ASRB members, including a minimum of two subject experts. The ASRB will then take a decision regarding the registration of the student for the next session.

Thesis Pending Period

Final year interview - Students within a year of the absolute thesis submission deadline will be interviewed specifically on their progress in the ASRB annual review meeting.

Intention to Submit the Form

An Intention to Submit form will be submitted to the PhD coordinator prior to the intended thesis submission date. This form initiates the identification and appointment of a committee of examiners for each thesis.

Submission of the Thesis

The research work and award of the degree will be supervised by an HEC recognized PhD supervisor and co-supervisor from related areas of expertise. Upon admission to the PhD program, a supervisor will be allotted to the enrolled student who will guide the student in the selection of his area of research along with the development of research proposal and protocol. The supervisor and co-supervisor will also ensure that the student develops essential skills according to his area of research.

Publication of at least one research paper in HEC approved/recognized journal (preferably in W category) is essential before the submission of the dissertation.

The requirements for a PhD degree shall normally be completed within four years from the date of registration. The maximum time for the completion of PhD degree shall be six years from the date of registration in the PhD program. Only under exceptional circumstances, to be described in detail by the PhD candidate and supported by the supervisor, the PhD advisory committee may allow extension of up to one year beyond the maximum time limit of six years.

Evaluation of the doctoral thesis by 2 eminent foreign examiners from scientifically advanced countries, approved by HEC. The Plagiarism test must be conducted on the Dissertation before its submission to the two foreign experts. An open defense of the Dissertation is an essential part of the PhD Program after positive evaluation. Viva-voce examination by 2 national experts, approved by HEC. A copy of Ph.D. Dissertation (both hard and soft) must be submitted to HEC for record in Ph.D. Country Directory and for attestation of the PhD degree by the HEC in future.

Registration in the University

- I. A scholar for PhD degree program shall be registered in the teaching department/institution of the University.
- II. Registrar of the university shall maintain a register of PhD research scholars and assign a registration number to each scholar at the time of provisional admission.
- III. A "notification of registration" for each candidate approved /allowed for admission to PhD program shall be issued by the University.
- IV. Registration may be renewed on payment of the prescribed fee if a scholar is re-admitted within a year after having been struck off the rolls for any valid reason.
- V. A person registered for the PhD degree program shall be called PhD research scholar.
- VI. Each student so selected shall be required to register and pay the dues within 30 days from the date of issuance of the notification of registration, failing which the admission of the selected candidate shall be deemed as canceled. The tuition fee and other dues shall be determined by the university from time to time.

PhD Courses

Core Courses

NU 801: Philosophical Foundations of Nursing Science 3 (2+1) Credit Hrs.

NU 802: Qualitative Research design and methods 3 (2+1) Credit Hrs.

NU 803: Quantitative Research design and methods 3 (2+1) Credit Hrs.

NU 804: Applied Statistics in health Sciences 3 (2+1) Credit Hrs.

Elective Courses

NU 811: Advances in Nursing Education 3 (2+1) Credit Hrs.

NU 812: Policies, Management, and Evaluation of Nursing Care 3 (2+1) Credit Hrs.

NU 813: Advanced Technologies in Nursing and Health 3 (2+1) Credit Hrs.

NU 814: Women Health 3 (2+1) Credit Hrs.

Distribution of Seats

The number of seats in PhD Nursing program will be determined from time to time as per the available seats and Supervisors.

Tuition fee: The Fee structure of Ph.D nursing Program is as under:-

Fee per semester	Rs. 82500
KMU Registration Fee (One time)	Rs. 1,800
PNC Registration Fee (One time)	Rs. 1,000
PhD Thesis Evaluation Fee (One time)	Rs.1,20,000

Note: Regulatory Body Registration Fee is applicable as per rules/policy of the regulatory body.

Admission to PhD Nursing

Qualification

For admission into the PhD minimum CGPA 3.0 (out of 4.0 in the Semester System) or First Division (in the Annual System) in M.S degree in any **Nursing Sciences** discipline from PNC/HEC recognized university/institution.

Admission criteria and procedures:

1. Each candidate shall make an application for admission to PhD program in response to an advertisement by the university on the prescribed form along with documents specified in the form.
2. The allocation of marks for determining merit for admission to PhD program shall be as following:

Academic record: 40%

Admission test:	40%
Interview:	20%

The candidate must have passed the admission test (Nursing [70%], English verbal [15%], and analytical reasoning [15%]), developed locally by the University with minimum passing score of 70%.

3. Successful candidates in the above test will submit a two-pager synopsis on the topic that candidate may like to pursue for his/her doctoral thesis. Synopsis must reflect the background, rationale, research question & objectives, proposed methodology and expected outcomes of the research.

The Khyber Medical University Peshawar PhD Regulations 2011

The Khyber Medical University Peshawar PhD regulations 2011 will be followed to govern the matters relating to admissions, registrations and examinations for the PhD program.

PhD Holders/supervisors:

1. Dr. Dildar Muhammad, BSN, MHPE, PhD Nursing (University of Liverpool, UK), Assistant Professor/ PhD Program Lead
2. Dr Sabiha Khanum, RN, RM, BScN, MPH, PhD Nursing (University of Santa Catarina, Brazil), Assistant Professor
3. Dr Najma Naz, RN, RM, BScN, MPH, PhD Nursing (University of Santa Catarina, Brazil), Assistant Professor

Figure 1: Flow diagram of PhD program at INS MU

