Ph.D. Map
FAQs
What do I need to know to apply?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
- Master's degree in Nursing or equivalent.
- Grade requirements: minimum B+ average over core courses.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
- Two academic letters of reference
- Registration (or eligibility to register) as a Registered Nurse with the College of Nurses of Ontario.
- Statement of academic, research and professional plans.
- Copy of Curriculum Vitae (Resume)
- Questions for Doctoral Nursing Program
- If English is not a native language, prospective students must meet the TOEFL requirements in writing, speaking, reading, and listening.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES
- Application deadline: February 1.
- Notification of acceptance: mid-March to early April.

Before you start your application, please review the Graduate studies application process.

How do I find a supervisor?
We encourage you to identify an area of research interest and contact a potential supervisor before applying.
Visit the Nursing Department website to read faculty profiles and learn more about faculty members' research areas. When you find a faculty member with similar research interests to yours, contact him/her and tell them about your interest in graduate work and related experience.

What about funding?
In keeping with the School of Graduate Studies policy, eligible full-time Ph.D. students qualify for research assistantships (RA), teaching assistantships (TA), teaching fellowships (TF), Queen’s Graduate Awards (QGA) and internal awards.
We encourage all students to apply for external funding from CHIR, OGS, SSHRC and other sources. Queen’s will automatically issue a $10,000 award to winners of federal government tri-council awards for PhD studies.
For more information on many external awards, see the School of Graduate Studies' information on awards and scholarships or see what awards are offered through the School of Nursing.

Where Can a Graduate Degree Take Me?
A PhD in Nursing can take your career in many directions. In Canada, less than 40% of all PhDs will work in post-secondary education – the majority will work in industry, government, or non-profits.
Graduates from the Nursing PhD program have found careers as:
- Professors
- Advanced Practice Nurses
- Healthcare Administrators
- Research Scientists
- Deans or Directors

Taking time to explore career options, build experience, and network will help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.

Why GRADUATE STUDIES in NURSING?
Consider a graduate degree in Nursing for all it has to offer: well-developed skills in critical thinking, writing, and research and, perhaps even more importantly, skills to facilitate change in today’s health care system. Graduate students and their work are an important part of an ongoing research process that provides the health care system with ways of understanding phenomena using multiple ways of knowing.
Today’s employment marketplace seeks people who can critically analyze information and evidence, synthesize in both scholarly and public reports, create new knowledge, and lead change and transformation. Study Nursing and you will acquire such skills.

Why QUEEN’S?
“The program at Queen’s encourages dissemination of student research and provides opportunities for national and international networking.”
- Amanda Vandyk, PhD, RN

The School of Nursing at Queen’s offers a challenging and innovative program to prepare graduates with the analytical and research skills required to expand knowledge of clinical, theoretical and health systems issues. Our students are taught primarily in small graduate seminars, in which they engage in a lively, critical examination of philosophy and research, and delve into their own research. Nurtured by close mentoring relationships with faculty supervisors, students engage early and continuously in research and successfully complete the program in 4 years. Situated in an academic environment that embodies scholarship, graduates are well-prepared for careers as leaders in research and scholarship, clinical practice and health care administration.
At Queen’s, graduate students from all disciplines learn and discover in a close-knit intellectual community: With the world’s best scholars, prize-winning professional development opportunities, excellent funding packages and life in the affordable, historic waterfront city of Kingston, Queen’s offers a wonderful environment for graduate studies.

Why KINGSTON?
Described by students as both “quaint” and “eclectic,” Kingston is big enough to provide the conveniences of modern life, and small enough for students, staff, and faculty to feel instantly comfortable and at home.
Queen’s is an integral part of the Kingston community, with the campus nestled in the core of the city, only a 10-minute walk to downtown, shopping, dining and waterfront. For more about Kingston’s history and culture, see Queen's University. Discover Kingston page.

Program STRUCTURE
PhD (4 years): course work, comprehensive exam, research thesis.

Nursing Ph.D. Map
Navigating Graduate Studies and Beyond

How do I USE THIS MAP?
Whether you are considering or have embarked on graduate studies at Queen’s, use this map to plan for success in five overlapping areas of your career and academic life. The map helps you explore possibilities, set goals and track your individual accomplishments. Everyone’s journey is different – the guide offers options for finding your way at Queen’s and setting the foundation for your future. To make your own customized map, use the online My Grad Map tool.

RESEARCH Areas
Practice environments
- Models of care
- Leadership
- Workplace culture, structure and health
- Communication strategies and systems

Populations with complex conditions
- Optimizing function and well-being
- Multimorbidity
- Mental health and/or addictions
- Outcomes monitoring

Health care quality
- Advancing safety
- Risk assessment and reduction
- Educational and technological innovations
- Health system service and delivery
- and more
ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

YEAR I
- Key priorities include your relationship with your supervisor and coursework.
- Look to Student Academic Success Services for a variety of supports.
- Attend and participate in graduate seminars such as Academic Series.
- Write your comprehensive exams.
- Form your thesis committee.
- Write and defend your thesis proposal.
- Embark on your substantive research.
- Find your way through the academic process with the help of Expanding Horizons.

YEAR II
- Continue to research and write your dissertation.
- Check out the SGS Dissertation Boot Camp or Dissertation on the Lake.
- Use conference presentations to create and refine thesis material.
- Consider publishing elements of your research. Learn from the Expanding Horizons Publishing workshop.
- Complete and defend your dissertation.
- Continue to pursue publication options for your research.

YEAR III
- Continue targeted networking with people working in your field.
- Write and defend your thesis proposal.
- Check out the free online modules at ROMEO. 
- Look in the SGS Blog for tips on getting involved.
- Form your thesis committee.
- Start building your teaching portfolio including materials.
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups like Material Matters.
- If pursuing research abroad or outside Kingston, consider positions in student services, the local healthcare organizations or groups.

YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING
- Complete and defend your dissertation.
- Continue to attend conferences and connect with scholars in your field and with community partners.
- Continue public outreach through social media and the Queen’s Media Centre.

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

YEAR I
- Think about audiences for your research.
- Complete ROMEO online module on research ethics if doing research with living people or sensitive topics.
- Apply to Tri-Council, OGS, and other funding.
- Attend conferences in your field.

YEAR II
- Present your work at graduate conferences, such as the Annual Scientific Meeting of Health Sciences Research Trainees, through professional associations, topic conferences, or graduate conferences.
- Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

YEAR I
- Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees. Talk to the Associate Director (Graduate Nursing Programs) for tips on getting involved.
- Consider positions in student services, the SGS Blog, or media outlets like the Queen’s Journal, CFRC, CITV and the SGS Blog Look in the AMS Club Directory.
- Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experiences.

YEAR II
- Hone skills for non-academic employment by continuing involvement on committees and in community.
- Start keeping an eportfolio of your skills, experiences, and competencies.
- For help with teaching and professional development, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning.
- Contact the Queen’s Media Centre for guidance on speaking to news outlets about your work.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking QUCF’s Intercultural Competency Certificate.

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

YEAR I
- Explore how you can connect with your community through experiential opportunities on- and off-campus.
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations, museums, cultural studies groups, or local healthcare organizations or groups.
- Participate in graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups like Material Matters.
- If pursuing research abroad or outside Kingston, investigate options such as Fulbright Scholarships.

YEAR II
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queen’sConnects or the Queen’s Alumni Association professional associations, and at conferences. Check out Career Services’ networking workshops.
- Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Nurses’ Association or Canadian Association for Nursing Research.
- Continue targeted networking with people working in careers of interest. Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest in Nursing.

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

YEAR I
- Finding career fit starts with knowing yourself. Take the Career Services Career Planning workshop or meet with a career counselor for help. Check out books like So What Are You Going to Do With That? for advice on various career options.
- Start reading publications like University Affairs and the Chronicle of Higher Education. Browse non-academic labour market websites.
- Stay on the lookout for special events like Graduate Student Career Week to explore your career pathways.

YEAR II
- Start building your teaching portfolio including student evaluations, and seeking mentorship.
- Explore different careers of interest by reading alumni profiles on the SGS website, and using Queen’sConnects on LinkedIn to connect to graduates who alumni, or find alumni in various careers through Pile an Aide. For more information check out Career Cruising.
- Investigate requirements for professional positions or other opportunities related to careers of interest.

YEAR III
- Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Research academic careers of interest. Craft your CV and job application materials.
- Start focusing on non-academic areas of interest. Research organizations of interest and start putting together your industry resume and begin your job search plan.
- Check out the free online modules at MyGradSkills to help you plan your career.

YEAR IV
- Build connections with faculty outside of your department. Pursue interviews for faculty positions and apply for post-doc fellowships and positions.
- Apply to jobs or make plans for other adventures. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, or interviews.
- If considering jobs abroad, research possible immigration regulations. If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an International Student Advisor.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

Knowledge and technical skills in area of specialization
- Communication: effective and clear in written, oral and multimedia forms, for diverse audiences
- Information management: prioritize, organize and synthesize large amounts of information
- Time management: meet deadlines and responsibilities despite competing demands
- Project management: develop ideas, gather information, analyze, critically appraise findings, draw and act on conclusions
- Creativity and innovation: address complex, multifaceted challenges
- Perseverance to work through challenges to achieve desired outcome
- Responsive and adaptive to changing circumstances or unanticipated outcomes
- Independence and experience as a collaborative worker
- Awareness and understanding of sound ethical practices, social responsibility: responsible research and cultural sensitivity
- Professionalism in all aspects of work, research, and interactions
- Leadership: initiative and vision leading people and discussions