Required courses and course descriptions are listed below.

**History and Philosophy of Nursing Science.** Examines the nature of metaphysics and epistemology and the influence of contemporary Eastern and Western philosophies on the developing epistemology of disciplinary nursing knowledge. 8200:810, Fall semester

**Foundations of Research Methods in Nursing.** Examines diverse paradigms and research methods as the foundation for scholarly inquiry in nursing knowledge development. Students begin building a foundation for focused intellectual inquiry in a substantive area of nursing. 8200:824, Fall semester (Pre-requisites: Doctoral standing; Pre-requisite or Co-requisite: 8200:810)

**Advanced Healthcare Statistics I.** In-depth examination of descriptive statistics, correlation, regression, multiple regression sets, scaling, nonlinear transformation, missing data, and interactive effects; including initial manipulation of data, integrating understanding of inference and probability. 8200:827, Fall semester

**Theory Construction and Development in Nursing.** Examines strategies for theory development including logical-empirical-deductive and inductive approaches. Emphasis will be on elements and strategies used in theory building. 8200:815, Spring semester (Pre-requisite: 8200:810)

**Quantitative Research Methods in Nursing.** An integrated approach to the study of quantitative nursing research. Exploration of the interdependent relationship of methodology, design/measurement issues, including analysis and interpretation of findings. 8200:825, Spring semester (Pre-requisite or Co-requisite: 8200:827)

**Qualitative Research Methods in Nursing.** Selected qualitative research methods used to study nursing phenomena. Philosophical bases; design, data collection and analysis; evaluation of rigor; and ethical issues for major qualitative methods will be analyzed with regard to nursing phenomena. 8200:830, Spring semester

**Advanced Healthcare Statistics II.** Synthesis and application of knowledge in advanced multivariate and statistical techniques commonly used in health care and nursing research. 8200:837, Spring semester (Prerequisite: 8200:827)

**PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION**

When students have successfully completed the seven first-year courses above, they are eligible to sit for the Preliminary Examination. The purpose of the Preliminary Examination is to evaluate students’ retention, application and integration of the foundational courses of the Doctoral Program and to use the results in subsequent advising.
**Post-Preliminary Examinations**

*Introduction to Nursing Knowledge Domains.* Introductory seminar analyzing selected theoretical and methodological approaches to knowledge development in nursing. Emphasis on critical analysis of knowledge in areas of special interest. 8200:820, Spring semester (Pre-requisite 8200:810 or Co-requisite: 8200:815)

*Nursing Science Seminar I.* Seminar on in-depth analysis, synthesis and evaluation of one substantive area within nursing and related disciplines focusing on the generation and dissemination of nursing knowledge. 8200:840 Fall semester (Prerequisite: 8200:820; should have all other core PhD courses completed)

**Advanced Methods for Nursing Research: Application of Quantitative Methods in Nursing Research.** Advanced seminar on selected areas related to research development, methods, and evaluation essential to the advancement of nursing knowledge. 8200:845, Fall semester (Pre-requisites: 8200:825 and both Advanced Statistics courses completed)

*OR*

**Advanced Methods for Nursing Research: Application of Qualitative Methods in Nursing Research.** Achieve an in-depth understanding of one qualitative research approach (chosen by student according to his/her research plans), including associated philosophical foundations, key concepts, typical methods, and evaluative criteria. 8200: 847, Fall semester *(Prerequisite: 8200:830)*

*Nursing Science Seminar II.* Seminar to advance students’ scholarship within one of the following areas: discovery, teaching, integration, or application through design and implementation of a faculty-facilitated project. 8200:850, Spring semester (Prerequisite: 8200:820 and 8200:840 and all other core PhD courses completed)

*Nursing and Healthcare Policy.* Critical examination of theories and processes of formulating state/national health-care policy. Focus on health issues, the political and legislative process, and contemporary policy dilemmas. 8200:835, Spring semester

**Cognate Course**

Students must take 6 credit hours of cognate courses in the program.

- All 6 hours may be in a discipline outside of nursing, but RELEVANT to the student’s research
- OR, 3 of the credit hours MUST be in a discipline outside of nursing, and 3 credit hours may be in nursing (a doctoral level nursing course.)

It is preferable that all cognate courses are at the doctoral level of study; however, the student may discuss master’s level courses with the advisor and respective PhD in Nursing Program Director.

**Possible Nursing Cognate:**

*Advanced Methods for Nursing Research: Grant Development and Funding.* Advanced seminar on critical analysis of proposal and grant development, funding, peer review, and advocacy process with emphasis on the development of a grant proposal. Fall semester, 8200:849 *(Prerequisite: 8200:825 and both Advanced Stats courses completed)*
CANDIDACY EXAMINATION

Qualifying for candidacy. All students in the Ph.D. in Nursing Program are required to successfully complete a qualifying candidacy examination. The candidacy exam allows faculty to systematically evaluate the student's ability to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate research and substantive knowledge in nursing. The successful completion of a qualifying examination permits the student to proceed to conduct dissertation research.

To be eligible for candidacy, students must have completed 42 hours of required course work (excluding dissertation), have maintained a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in the doctoral program, have successfully completed the candidacy examination, and have been approved by the appropriate administrative bodies of the program.

DISSERTATION

The dissertation is based upon original investigation and demonstration of mature scholarship and critical judgment in the theoretical and methodological approaches to development of nursing knowledge. The dissertation is expected to be the first step in the development of a program of research and scholarly activity. Students are eligible to begin the dissertation after successfully passing the candidacy examination and obtaining the approval of the dissertation committee. Although Year 3 is designated for the dissertation, it is possible that the student's research topic and time management may extend the work of the dissertation beyond the third year. A minimum of 30 dissertation credit hours are required.

Dissertation Proposal. The dissertation proposal is a document that normally includes an outline of the parameters of the projected dissertation topic with a rationale and statement of the problem to be researched, the methodology and design of the study, a preliminary review of the literature substantiating the need for the study, and the principle sources of information for the dissertation. The proposal must be in writing. Approval of the proposal permits the student to proceed with the dissertation.

Dissertation committee. The doctoral dissertation committee will guide and approve the acceptability of the dissertation. The Committee will consist of a minimum of five (5) members, four from the doctoral nursing faculty and at least one outside member. Although the doctoral faculty is viewed as one body, the committee will have representation from nursing faculty whose appointments are located at both Kent State University and at The University of Akron. At least one dissertation committee nursing faculty member will be from each campus. Other qualifications of members will be consistent with the student's area of research and with the requirements for doctoral committees as stated in the policies and general catalogs of both universities.

Oral defense. When the dissertation is completed a meeting will be scheduled for the student's defense of the dissertation. The candidate is expected to respond to substantive and methodological questions related to the dissertation.