

Writing instructions: Applicants must upload typed essays in response to five specific questions. Essays will be uploaded as one Microsoft Word or PDF file in [Application Step #2: the Nursing Supplemental Application](#). Responses provide valuable information about your interest in PhD studies and will be evaluated by the admissions committee as examples of your entry level graduate writing ability.

Each response will be evaluated in using the following criteria:

- The structure of the essay
 - Clearly defined scope and purpose
 - Body of the essay supports key ideas
 - Word choice is varied and appropriate, easily understood
 - Conclusion summarizes key idea
- Flow
 - Ideas are presented in a clear, logical order
 - Transitions guide reader from one idea to the next
 - Varied sentence structure and length used
- Depth
 - Answers the question with details
 - Shows familiarity with key concepts/terms and literature
 - Provides new information, clarity of perspective to the discussion of ideas
- Conventions
 - Follows grammatical and spelling conventions of standard English
 - Follows directions provided

Address the following question in an essay no longer than 1500 words [approximately 3 typed pages], using 1-inch margins, double-spaced and a 12 point font.

1. Discuss the research focus that you would like to pursue in the PhD program, its potential impact on nursing, and one researchable problem in that focus area.
 - a. Discuss why the research focus you have selected is important.
 - b. Generate examples of researchable questions you might study
 - c. What gaps in the evidence based practice literature would your research help address?
 - d. Discuss the potential relevance for nursing.

Include references cited. The reference list will not be counted in the 3 page limit for the essay.

Respond to each of following questions in short answers between 250-500 words for each question, using 1-inch margins, double-spaced and a 12 point font.

2. How have your experiences, professionally and clinically, prepared you for doctoral study?
3. Discuss your educational and professional goals, short- and long-term (5 - 10 years), and how the PhD program will help you to reach these goals.
4. Please identify a nursing faculty member who seems to be a good match with your research interest; discuss how this faculty's research expertise can facilitate the achievement of your research and professional goals.
5. What are some reasons you have specifically selected the PhD program in nursing at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center? In what ways do you believe this program is best suited to meet your educational and career goals?

OU College of Nursing PhD Program Faculty Research Interests

Faculty Name	Research Interests
Azzarello, Jo	Cognition during problem solving, diabetes self-management education/ decision-making, development of expertise, mental models, structural knowledge, cognitive tutors, situation awareness.
Benefeld, Lazelle	Distance care-giving of older adults living at home, distance care-giving needs of persons with Alzheimer's disease, case management of community-based elders, distance caregiving and technology innovation; Reynolds Center of Geriatric Nursing Excellence, OUHSC.
Buckwalter, Kathleen	Expert in geriatric mental health, providing community-based care for chronically mentally ill older persons, and cognitively impaired older adults, and their caregivers in both institutional and community settings. She is also an editor, mentor, and was the 2010 recipient of the Doris Schwartz Gerontological Nursing Research Award given at that year's Gerontological Society of American annual conference.
Carlson, Barbara	Neurovascular coupling, cardiovascular disease, vascular aging, sleep, and cognitive decline in older adults. Expert in computer-based data acquisition and physiological waveform conditioning, direct/computer based behavioral observation, instrument validation, and neurocognitive testing. Also has extensive experience in the collection and analysis of (1) biological fluids (blood and salivary cortisol, oxidative stress, and various inflammatory markers), (2) markers of arterial stiffness and endothelial function as well as (3) data derived from a number of ambulatory methodologies (i.e., wrist actigraphy, EKG, core temperature, blood vessel reactivity, and blood pressure monitoring). Prior studies have focused on (1) development of minimally intrusive instrumentation for monitoring sleep including web-based monitoring of biological signals, (2) use of cerebral oximetry to study alterations in regional cerebral blood flow, (3) analytic methods for characterizing trends in cerebral oxygenation, respiratory patterns and heart rate variability during sleep, and (4) the use of standard polysomnography, quantitative EEG and various magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) approaches for studying resting brain activity, cerebrovascular reactivity, cortical processing, and white matter integrity in older adults.
Craft, Melissa	Reflection, storytelling and expressive writing; breast cancer risk reduction and survivorship; experience of cancer in American Indians living in Oklahoma with focus on developing culturally appropriate interventions.
Cuaderes, Elena	Effects of weight-bearing physical activity on foot health of diabetics, American Indian health, new and emerging therapies for diabetic seismometer poly-neuropathy (DSPN), diabetes, foot ulcers and diabetes, pain of DSPN, nursing process. Relationship between balance measures and confidence in maintaining balance and prevention of falls with common everyday activities: older adult, gait symmetry, lower limb neuropathy, mobility, balance
Dwyer, Kathleen	Cancer prevention strategies in minority and underserved populations; cancer survivorship issues, with a particular focus on African American women; cancer supportive care in the clinical setting, community-based participatory research methods; community-based health promotion using faith-based collaborative partners; fall prevention in community dwelling elderly using health ministries as providers; Expertise in qualitative methods, quantitative methods and mixed methods.

Faculty Name	Research Interests
Eschiti, Valerie	Cancer across the continuum in American Indians of the Southern Plains, including rural and urban populations from adolescence to elders. . Includes focus on patient navigation, wellness and cancer education, commercial tobacco cessation, behavioral change, and HPV immunization.
Fisher, Mark	Communication (empathic communication), interactions, and relationships between parents, nurses, physicians, and other health care providers in the context of pediatric chronic illness.
Holtzclaw, Barbara	Thermo-regulatory response of vulnerable patients (older adults, dementia, perioperative patients, chronic diseases). Temperature-related sleep disturbances and thermal comfort; Translational Science applications to research: physiologically based interventions.
Leasure, Renee	Health literacy, symptom management, outcomes, evidence-based practice, ventilator-associated pneumonia of adults cared for at the VA.
Matzo, Marianne	Survivorship (health promotion and disease prevention) and supportive/palliative care issues for people living with cancer. Sexual health issues across the cancer continuum; pain and symptom management in late stage disease.
McCleary-Jones, Voncella	Health literacy, minority health, administration.
Pascucci, Mary Ann	Gerontology - health promotion needs of the oldest old, health literacy/ adherence.
Rogers, Carol	Health promotion in older adults, nexus of activity and activity intolerance, functional mobility, the efficacy of Sign Chi Do exercise in adaptation to aging, and well to frail older adults experiencing chronic illness.
Rose, Karen	Family caregiving; Alzheimer’s disease; sleep disorders; neuropsychiatric behaviors in dementia.
Smith, Patsy	Gero – psych: recognition of depressive symptoms, resilient behaviors, and coping skills among older African American cancer survivors; examination of interactions with ministers and church support systems.
Weatherby, Francene	Evaluation research - predicting success of first year BSN nursing students, predicting success on NCLEX, follow-up study of the careers of former accelerated BSN graduates, effectiveness of simulators, measures of continued competence for nurses
Wilson, Janet	Prevention of child, adult, and older adult victims of violence; use of community-based interdisciplinary teams and technology to gather data, study problems, design innovative, culturally sensitive, and evidence-based solutions