

### ***Applications:***

Nurses from the Uniformed Services have priority for admission. Nurses employed in federal agencies nominated and supported by their agency are also eligible for admission to the PhD program on a space available basis.

### ***Admission Criteria:***

- Master's degree in nursing or related field at an accredited school with a minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
- Current license of eligibility for licensure in any of the 50 states and territories.
- Official evidence of scores on the Graduate Record Exam (within 5 years).
- Clear and succinct statement of the applicant's reason for PhD study and match to faculty programs of research. Submit an essay, term paper, thesis, published article or professional report to demonstrate ability to communicate logic and concepts.
- Three letters of reference from professors or other professionals, who can adequately evaluate the applicant's potential for success.
- An interview with PhD faculty members to assess the applicant, link research interests with USU faculty expertise, intent and level of motivation for successful completion of PhD study.

The GSN application information can be found the USU GSN website <http://www.usuhs.mil>.

**PhD Program Director**  
**Penny Pierce PhD, RN, FAAN**  
**COL, USAFR (NC) (Ret.)**



**Phone: (301) 319-0662**  
**E mail: [Penny.pierce@usuhs.mil](mailto:Penny.pierce@usuhs.mil)**



*For PhD Administrative Support, contact:*

Program Support Specialist  
4301 Jones Bridge Road  
Bldg E  
Bethesda, MD 20814-4799

Phone: 301-295-9698  
Fax: 301-295-1707

<http://www.usuhs.mil>

## **Graduate School of Nursing**

### **PhD Program in Nursing Science**



***“Learning to care for those in  
harm’s way”***

### ***The Graduate School of Nursing (GSN)***

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) is focused on preparing health care professionals for practice, administration, research and education in military and federal health care systems. The University is located in Bethesda, Maryland on the spacious grounds of the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, across the street from the National Institutes of Health and the National Library of Medicine.

Established by Congressional action in 1993, the GSN's mission is derived from the mission statement of the USU. The GSN is dedicated to a quality and unique education that prepares nurses to deliver care and services during peace, war, and other contingencies. Outstanding faculty and staff provide the Nation with nursing professionals dedicated to a career of service to the Uniformed Services and federal agencies.

Our PhD curriculum is designed to provide rigorous research training relevant to both military and federal health care. The curriculum is structured to provide a sound scientific basis for students' area of investigation in concert with rotations in research-intensive environments.

The GSN PhD curriculum prepares nurse scientists for service in our nation's military and federal health systems. Consequently, the graduate is uniquely prepared to contribute cutting edge research in support of force health protection, military readiness, and the support of disaster relief and humanitarian interventions.

***The PhD Program In Nursing Science*** includes a common core of required courses and cognate courses in an area of students' focused area of scientific investigation. We provide unique opportunities for students to work closely with senior scientists in an array of disciplines to develop specific research skills, develop collaborative relationships, and experience the excitement of scientific discovery.

Graduates of the PhD Program are well prepared to assume leadership roles in diverse settings including deployed locations around the world where real time investigations improve the care of the sick or injured.

### ***The Faye Glenn Abdellah for Military and Federal Health Care Research Center:***

The purpose of the Faye Glenn Abdellah Center for Military and Federal Health Care Research Center is to create a vigorous research environment that provides multiple levels of support from the processing of grant applications to seminars in research development.

The Center is developing mechanisms for securing research support for faculty and student scholarship relevant to the military, the public health service and student scholarship activities such as publishing in refereed journals and presenting at local/regional, national and international conferences. A main objective of the Center is to increase funding to support faculty and student research.

***Excellent resources enhance the GSN learning environment:***

### ***Multidisciplinary Faculty Strength***

Faculty members have an exceptional blend of research experience in the military and/or the federal health system. Strong interdisciplinary research programs in evolving federal health areas such as:

Military Medicine  
Behavioral Sciences  
Policy and Ethics  
Health and International Policy  
Physiology/Genetics  
Preventive Medicine & Biometrics  
Neurobiology

### ***Dissertation Topics of Recent Graduates***

***“Magnetic Resonance Imaging of Heart Failure Using a Swine Model”***

***“Increased Protein Kinase A Activity in the Prkar1a-defective mouse is associated with hyperarousal and increased anxiety”***

***“Exploring Gentoxic Changes to Rodent Cells Exposed In Vitro to Tungsten, Nickel, Cobalt and Iron”***

***“Positive Emotion Gratitude: Impact on Perceived Stress and Psychological Resilience”***

