



## PhD Program Degree Plan

**Subject:** PhD Degree Plan

**Effective Date:** 08/1997

**Scope:** This policy applies to PhD program students.

**Date Reviewed/Revised:** 04/2025

**Next Scheduled Review Date:** 04/2028

**Responsible Office:**  
Department of Research

**Responsible Executive:**  
• PhD Program Director  
• Associate Dean for Research, Chair,  
Department of Research

### I. POLICY AND GENERAL STATEMENT

Each doctoral student admitted to the PhD in Nursing program is assigned an academic advisor to assist in navigating the student's academic journey. The student, in collaboration with the academic advisor, is required to complete a Degree Plan to ensure compliance with coursework requirements for the program. The Degree Plan is reviewed and finalized during the first semester and distributed to the Office of Academic Affairs. Throughout the program, revisions are submitted to the Office of Academic Affairs.

This policy outlines the process for creating and revising the PhD in Nursing Program Degree Plan. The Degree Plan is developed collaboratively between the student and academic advisor to ensure the student completes all required courses in a structured and timely manner. It is the student's responsibility to adhere to the established deadlines and procedures for submitting their Degree Plan and any revisions. The post-master's or post Doctor of Nursing Practice pathway to the PhD in Nursing degree consists of 66 semester hours and the post-BSN curriculum pathway consists of 90 hours.

### II. DEFINITIONS

- **Academic Advisor:** A Cizik School of Nursing faculty member assigned to provide guidance to the student throughout their doctoral journey, helping them navigate program requirements and academic decisions.
- **PhD Program Degree Plan:** A document that outlines the courses a student will take to fulfill the program requirements, developed in consultation with the academic advisor.

- **Advisor and PhD Nursing Student Compact and Milestone Agreement:** A formal agreement between the student and advisor that outlines key academic milestones and expectations during the PhD program.
- **PhD Council:** The governing body responsible for determining the required courses and curriculum structure for the PhD in Nursing program.
- **PhD Program Director:** The individual responsible for overseeing the PhD Nursing program and ensuring that students meet all academic and procedural requirements.

### III. PROCEDURE

- **Assignment of Academic Advisor:** Upon admission, each PhD in Nursing student will be assigned an academic advisor who will assist with course selection and academic planning.
- **Degree Plan Completion:** By October 1st of the student's first semester, the student, in collaboration with their advisor, will complete the Advisor and PhD Nursing Student Compact and Milestone Agreement and the Degree Plan. This document will specify the courses required to meet the degree requirements.
- **Signatures and Submission:** Both the student and the advisor will sign the completed Compact and Milestone Agreement, along with the Degree Plan. This signed documentation must be submitted to the PhD Program Director.
- **Revisions to Degree Plan:** If necessary, the student may revise the Degree Plan with the consent of the academic advisor. Any revised plans must be submitted by the student to the Student Affairs Office and the PhD Program Director.
- **Required Courses:** The PhD Council sets the required courses to meet the degree requirements.
- **Ongoing Monitoring:** The student and advisor periodically review the Degree Plan to ensure progress toward degree completion and adjust if needed.

### IV. CONTACTS

Contact	Telephone	Email/Web Address
Meagan Whisenant, PhD Program Director	713-500-2279	meagan.whisenant@uth.tmc.edu

### V. EXHIBITS