

PhD Program Time Limitations

Subject: PhD Program Time Limitations

Effective Date: 8/1997

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

Students in the PhD in Nursing program must complete all degree requirements within a maximum of ten calendar years from their initial registration as a PhD student at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, Cizik School of Nursing (CSON). Continuous enrollment is required throughout the program, including the semester in which the student graduates and completes their degree requirements, unless the student applies for and is granted an extension (policy D7800).

This policy establishes the time limitations for completing the Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing (PhD) degree. It ensures that students progress through the program in a timely manner while maintaining enrollment status up until graduation. The ten-year time frame is set to ensure that students complete their doctoral studies in a reasonable period and that the knowledge and skills they acquire remain current.

II. DEFINITIONS

- **PhD Degree Requirements:** All academic, research, and dissertation requirements that a student must complete to earn the Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing degree.
- **Continuous Enrollment:** The requirement for students to maintain active enrollment in the program without breaks, excluding approved leaves of absence as per policy D7800.
- **Ten-Year Limit:** The maximum period within which students must complete all degree requirements from the time of their initial registration as a PhD student.

III. PROCEDURE

Completion Deadline:

Students must complete all PhD degree requirements within ten calendar years from the date of their initial registration in the program.

Continuous Enrollment:

Students are required to remain continuously enrolled throughout their time in the PhD program, including the semester in which they complete their degree requirements.

Enrollment must be maintained during the semester of graduation to be eligible for degree conferral.

Time Limit Extension:

Extensions to the ten-year time limit may be granted under exceptional circumstances, subject to approval by the PhD Program Director and the PhD Council.

Responsibility for Adherence:

It is the student's responsibility to ensure that they meet all program milestones and requirements within the specified time frame.

IV. CONTACTS

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

V. EXHIBITS