

ETERNAL UNIVERSITY

Baru Sahib, Himachal Pradesh



Ph.D. NURSING – PROGRAM OUTLINE

Academic year 2025 Onwards

(Approved in 87th Academic Council Meeting Held on 25/07/2025)
Board of Studies Resolved to Recommend on 24/07/2025

ETERNAL UNIVERSITY

BARU SAHIB, SIRMOUR-173101
HIMACHAL PRADESH

ETERNAL UNIVERSITY, BARU SAHIB, HIMACHAL PRADESH

Ph.D. in Nursing –Program Outline

1. Background

The National Health Policy (2017) highlights the importance of health research. It focuses on improving nursing education, leadership, and regulations. Ph.D. in Nursing is important to meet India's healthcare needs.

2. Philosophy

The policy emphasizes the need for nurses with advanced training to support new medical institutions. India lacks enough nursing teachers at UG and PG levels. Ph.D. helps nurses become leaders, researchers, and educators. It builds on their previous knowledge and skills, focusing on theory and research to guide better healthcare.

3. Purpose

To train nurses who will contribute to nursing knowledge and improve teaching, research, and clinical care.

4. Objectives

Ph.D. nurses will:

- Do research relevant to nursing
- Create new nursing theories
- Use knowledge from nursing and other sciences
- Show leadership in teaching, practice, and research
- Share research and theory advancements

5. Research Guide

- Guides can select **two scholars only every year** but not more than 6 scholars at any given period of time.
- Scholars can have co-guide from nursing or other disciplines if necessary.
- The Ph.D. doctoral holders who are within health care disciplines can be appointed as co-guides.
- The guide should be from the same University.

6. Eligibility for Research Guide

- Ph.D. in Nursing with 5 years of teaching experience and 5 research papers in indexed journals.

- Maximum age: 70 years.
- Can guide a maximum of 6 students, including as co-guide.
- The Ph.D. doctorate holders who are not formal teachers can be appointed as co-guides.

7. Types of Research Scholars

- **Full time research scholars** are those who register for Ph.D. on full time basis and are not employed anywhere.
- **Part time research scholars** are those who are presently employed in any College/School/Hospital/ Institute/Nursing department within the University jurisdiction.
- Scholars can select the guide from the list of guides placed in the University website.

8. Scholar Eligibility

(I) Who can apply:

- M.Sc. in Nursing with at least 60% marks and Three year of teaching or clinical experience after M.Sc. Nursing.

(II) Selection:

- a) Selection for the Ph.D. Nursing scholars will be based on merit, that to be determined by entrance examination.
- b) Selection of the candidate will be based on —
 - I. Entrance test marks obtained out of 90 marks (Minimum weightage pass marks for entrance will be 60% of 90 i.e. 54).
 - II. 5 marks for candidates possessing M.Phil. in Nursing.
 - III. 5 marks weightage for publications (Only Papers Published In Scopus/Pubmed/Web of Sciences As First /Correspondence Author

9. Reservation Policy

As per University Grants Commission (UGC) guidelines.

10. Duration

1. **Full time:** Three years, maximum of five years
 - a) Candidate currently employed with any organization cannot be considered under full time category.
 - b) Candidate those currently employed must obtained study leave & No Objection certificate from their respective organization.

2. **Part time:** Five years, maximum of seven years.

A candidate can register for Ph.D. course on part time basis.

- (a) A candidate should complete research work and submit the thesis to the University within five years from the date of provisional registration.
- (b) Maximum period for submission of thesis will be Seven years from the date of provisional registration subject to the approval from the Board of Research Studies on the recommendations of the guide. There will be no provision for further extension of the period.

Under extraordinary circumstances, affecting a student warranting extension of period for submission of thesis, the student should submit an application to the Registrar through the guide who will refer the same to the Board of Research Studies.

11. Calendar of Events

- Provisional registration is available from 1st October every year. (Tentative)
- Submission of half-yearly progress report - 15th April every year/15th October every year.
- No two half-yearly progress reports should be submitted at the same time.
- Conducting the Pre-Ph.D. examination after the completion of the course work (contact hours)
- The exact date of the examination will be notified by the University.
- Confirmation of registration after successfully completing the Pre-Ph.D. examination.
- Submission of ethical clearance certificate within one year after provisional registration.
- Ethical clearance/permission from the Institution/Concerned Authorities should be obtained from where data is being collected.
- Submission of final synopsis of research work leading to Ph.D. degree after approval of all half yearly reports and on permission to submit the synopsis of Ph.D. registration committee.
- Submission of Ph.D. thesis along with the application within 6 months after the approval of the final synopsis and permission to be sought by Ph.D. registration committee to submit the thesis.
- Final Viva-Voce examination after the acceptance and approval of Ph.D. thesis by the examiners (date to be notified by the University).

12. Registration Process

Candidates must: (For Part-time)

1. Selected candidates applying for registration shall submit the duly filled registration form

through Head of the College of Nursing within the stipulated time along with the prescribed fee. The candidate shall furnish the information detailed below —

- a) Qualification and details of previous study and research, if any, and full particulars of the publications to his/her credit in accredited journals. (attested copies to be furnished)
 - b) Name and address of the recognized Guide/Co-Guide under whom the candidate proposes to carry out research.
 - c) Name of the department and institution where the candidate proposes to work and to conduct research.
 - d) Title and synopsis of the proposed research work.
2. Candidates in service shall forward application along with the consent of the guide with name, signature & seal and a No Objection Certificate from the Head of the Department and Head of the Institution where the candidate is working (place of work) while submitting the application along with the documents mentioned under schedule for the candidates.
 3. All applications received by the University before the stipulated time and date shall be placed before the Board of Research Studies. The Board shall examine the applications and after screening process shall recommend to the University for Provisional Registration within three months from the last date notified for the receipt of applications.
 4. Provisional registration shall be effective from the date mentioned as the last date for payment of prescribed fees in the concerned specialty for the selected candidate.

Candidates must: (For Full-time)

1. Selected candidates applying for registration shall submit the duly filled registration form within the stipulated time along with the prescribed fee.
2. Other guidelines are the same as those for part-time candidates."

13. Doctoral Research Committee

The Doctoral Research Committee will consist of —

1. Dean, Health & Allied Sciences (Chair)
2. Principal, College of Nursing
3. Ph.D. Coordinator (Nursing)
4. 2–3 INC/UGC eligible Ph.D.-qualified nursing faculty (Internal)
5. 1–2 External subject experts (Rotational, as needed)

14. Progress Reports

- After provisional registration, every candidate shall submit half yearly progress report regularly through the guide.
- Every such half yearly report shall be submitted for the period from 1st October to the end of March and from 1st April to the end of September

- Submission of half-yearly progress report - 16th April every year/15th October every year
- The half yearly progress report shall cover the following aspects —
 - (a) Progress in the review of literature
 - (b) New data acquired or theoretical background/techniques developed
 - (c) Progress/standardization in research methodology
 - (d) Discussion of the work done
- If the candidate fails to submit two consecutive half yearly progress reports in time, his/her provisional registration shall stand cancelled.
- If two consecutive half yearly progress reports are not satisfactory, the Board shall recommend to the University for cancellation of the registration.

15. Pre-Ph.D. Exam

- The provisional registration of the candidate shall be confirmed only after he/she has passed the Pre-Ph.D. examination which shall be conducted after the completion of one year from the date of provisional registration of the candidate.
- The scheme of Pre-Ph.D. examination to be conducted by the University shall be as follows —

S.No.	Subject	Duration	Marks
Paper I	Research Methodology & Applied Statistics	3 hours	100
Paper II	Nursing Science & Theory Development	3 hours	100
	Seminar/Term paper in the area of research (Internal assessment)	—	100
	Viva Voce (Proposal defense)*	—	100

** > = 60% of marks will be considered as pass.*

Note: 70% attendance is compulsory for contact hours. If the student does not have 70%, he/she will not be allowed to appear for the Pre-Ph.D. examination, however they have to make up for the same next academic year.

The syllabi for both the papers shall be as prescribed by the external university as per the guidelines of the Indian Nursing Council.

Scope for changing the research topic: The research topic can be changed within one year.

16. Pre-Ph.D. Exam Process

- The Board of Research Studies shall prepare a panel of both external & internal examiners and will constitute the Board of Examiners for the conduct of the Pre-Ph.D. examination.
- The Board of Examiners for the Pre-Ph.D. examination consists of the following —
 1. There shall be double valuation of the answer scripts of Paper I and Paper II by

the examiners (preferably by the examiner who have set the question papers). The marks list shall be sent by the examiners directly to the University.

2. There shall be one internal and one external examiner for the valuation of the answer script.
 3. If the difference of the marks in valuation between the two examiners exceeds 15% of the concerned answer scripts, the same will be valued by the third examiner. The marks awarded by the third examiner shall be sent to the University concerned for the announcement of results.
 4. The Viva-Voce (proposal defense) examination shall be conducted in presence of the panel consisting of —
 - Two examiners (Subject Experts) appointed by the University
 - Guide/Co-Guide
- The candidate shall be declared as successful in the examination if he/she secured not less than 60% of marks in each paper.
 - In case the candidate is not successful in the Pre-Ph.D. examination in the first attempt he/she may be given two more chances to appear for entire examination after a period of six months. Further, if he/she is unable to attend or appear in the supplementary examination, then he/she has to appear in the next regular examination, after that he/she will not be permitted to sit in the examination.
 - If the candidate is not successful in the Pre-Ph.D. examination, even in the second appearance, his/her provisional registration shall stand cancelled.

17. Change of Guide

Change of guide may be allowed within a period of less than two years. In extraordinary circumstances warranting change of guide, the guide and/or the student should place the facts before the Board of Research Studies for its opinion. The decision and the recommendations of the Board of Research Studies shall be final.

18. Thesis Submission

For part-time candidate

- Any candidate who has completed the minimum period of five years doing prescribed research from the date of his/her provisional registration and not less than three months before the expiry of the maximum period prescribed for submission of thesis, Published two original research paper in the journal indexed in PubMed/ Scopus/ Web of Sciences may submit an application along with five copies of synopsis of the thesis through the Guide, the Head of the institution to the respective Board of Research Studies for permission to submit the thesis as per the University procedures.
- After the approval, four copies of the approved final synopsis (hard

copy/CD) shall be sent to Board of Research Studies who shall proceed with the Constitution of Board of Examiners for the adjudication of the Ph.D. thesis and keep it ready prior to the submission of the thesis.

- Every candidate shall submit with his/her application, five copies of the thesis embodying the results of the research carried out by him/her within six months after the submission of the final synopsis as per the University procedures.
- A candidate may also submit along with his/her thesis papers published by him/her embodying the results of investigation for the Ph.D. degree and also any other contribution/s to the knowledge of his/her subject or any cognate branch of the subject.
- Every candidate shall submit with his/her thesis, a certificate from the guide/s under whom he/she worked, that the thesis, submitted is a record of research work done by the candidate during the period of study under him/her that it has not previously formed the basis for the award of any degree or diploma, associateship/fellowship or any other similar award.
- If, however, the thesis submitted has formed in part the basis for the award of previous research degree the candidate shall clearly set forth in a preface or written statement the portion(s) which have formed the basis for the award of the previous degree.
- Along with the thesis the candidate will also produce a “No Due Certificate” from the Head of the Department and Head of the Institution and from the University Librarian and Finance Section if applicable.

For full-time candidate

- Any candidate who has completed the minimum period of three years doing prescribed research from the date of his/her provisional registration and not less than three months before the expiry of the maximum period prescribed for submission of thesis, Published two original research paper in the journal indexed in PubMed/ Scopus/ Web of Sciences may submit an application along with five copies of synopsis of the thesis through the Guide, the Head of the institution to the respective Board of Research Studies for permission to submit the thesis as per the University procedures.
- "Other guidelines are the same as those for part-time candidates."

19. Ph.D. Examination

For the adjudication of Ph.D. thesis there shall be a Board of Examiners of two external members to be chosen by the University, from the panel of examiners recommended by the Board of Research Studies. The guide shall be the Chairperson of the Board of Examiners. However, under extraordinary circumstances, Board of Research Studies may appoint a Chairperson other than the Guide from the panel of Board of Examiners. The external examiners must be from outside the University who are subject experts who fulfill the criteria of a guide.

Each external examiner appointed to adjudicate the thesis shall send the report to the Chairperson within two months from the date of receipt of the thesis. Such reports should include —

- a) A critical account of the work of the candidate as embodied in the thesis and the evaluation of the work in term of its contribution to the advancement of knowledge.
- b) Details of any questions to be asked or points to be clarified at the Viva-Voce examination.
- c) Definite recommendations as to whether the Ph.D. degree should be awarded or not.

The Chairperson shall forward the report of the examiners along with the consolidated recommendations of the Board of Examiners to the university. If both the examiners give definite recommendations against the award of the degree, the thesis shall be rejected.

If one of the examiners gives a definite recommendation against the award of the degree the thesis may be referred to third external examiner, from out of the panel recommended by the Board of Research Studies. If the report of the third examiner is favorable, then the candidate shall be eligible to appear for the Viva-Voce examination and if it is not favorable, then the thesis shall be rejected.

If one of the examiners makes qualified recommendations with valid reasons (for e.g. to resubmit the thesis after suitable modifications), the Chairperson shall communicate the same to the Registrar university, who will in turn intimate the candidate for resubmitting the thesis with the suitable modifications within six months from the date of communication. The resubmitted thesis with suitable modifications will be sent to the same examiner and the reports received thereon by the Chairperson shall be communicated to the university.

No candidate shall, however, be permitted to submit the thesis more than two times.

The thesis may be published in any form after obtaining necessary permission from the University.

20. Viva-Voce Examination

Viva-Voce examination shall be conducted after the receipt of the satisfactory report, on the thesis from all the examiners. The Viva-Voce examination shall be conducted by a Board constituted as follows —

- I. Guide/Chairperson
- II. Guide/Co-Guide (in case Guide is not the Chairperson)
- III. At least one of the external examiners shall be present at the Viva-Voce examination. However, under extraordinary circumstances, where any external examiner cannot be present at the Viva-Voce examination, the Vice-Chancellor may appoint any external substitute examiner from the panel constituted by the Board of Research Studies.

Teachers and research scholars of the concerned departments/institutions may be invited as observers only to attend the Viva-Voce examination.

The Viva-Voce examination is primarily designed to test the understanding of the candidate of the subject matter of the thesis including methodology employed and his/her competence in the general field of study. Since the points raised by the examiners of thesis are to be clarified during the Viva-Voce examination, the report of the examiners who adjudicated the

thesis will be made available to the Board for Viva-Voce examination. The candidate shall produce all the relevant documents, materials, and preparations etc., concerned with the research project during Viva- Voce examination.

Members of the Board for the Viva-Voce examination shall report specifically on whether the candidate's performance on the examination is satisfactory and therefore be considered as accepted or not accepted.

A candidate who is not successful at the Viva-Voce examination may be permitted to undergo the Viva-Voce examination for a second time after a period of three months. No candidate shall be permitted to take the Viva-Voce examination on more than two occasions.

21. Award Of Ph.D. Degree

The degree will be awarded by the University, after the candidate successfully completes Viva-Voce examination. The Chairperson shall consolidate the recommendations for the award of Ph.D. degree based on the following —

- I. The report of examiners who adjudicated the thesis
- II. Evaluation of the candidate's performance in the Viva-Voce examination.

The Chairperson shall forward the consolidated and individual reports with recommendation - to the University. Based on these reports, the University shall award the Ph.D. degree after the recommendations are approved by the Vice-Chancellor.

CURRICULUM FOR THE COURSE WORK

Prescribed Contact Hours

Subjects	Contact hours	Self study hours	Total hours of instruction	Total credit
Research Methodology And Applied Statistics	100 Theory (60 hours)	20	120	8 (One credit = 15 contact hours)
Nursing Science And Theory Development Including Nursing Leadership	75	45	120	8 (One credit = 15 contact hours)
	Nursing leadership in health care delivery system Contact hours: 20 hours; Self study: 10 hours (2 credits)			
	Philosophy of nursing science and theoretical perspectives Contact hours: 15 hours ; Self study: 15 hours (2 credits)			
	Nursing theories and theory development Contact hours: 40 hours ; Self study: 20 hours (4 credits)			

Scheme of Contact Hours for the Batch 2025-26(First batch)

	Contact Classes	Tentative Dates	Total hours
1	01st Contact classes for first batch	17 th to 23 rd November 2025	59.5
2	2nd Contact classes for first batch	16 th to 22 nd February 2026	59.5
3	3rd Contact classes for first batch	18 th to 24 th May 2026	59.5
	Total Note:- Total prescribed Contact Hours = 175		178.5

SYLLABUS

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND APPLIED STATISTICS

- Contact hours = 100 hours
- Self study = 20 hours
- Total hours of instruction: 120 hours (8credits) One credit = 15 contact hours

Unit-I Introduction (3 hours)

Methods of acquiring knowledge, problem solving and scientific method, characteristics of high quality research, importance of nursing research, priorities/areas of nursing research - priority setting process, current and future directions for nursing research, research innovations and trends - latest types of research.

Unit-II Research process overview (5 hours)

Phases of quantitative and qualitative research - review, research paradigms, research question - policy relevant questions/problem, statement and key concepts used in research and hypothesis - types and formulation.

Unit-III Review of literature (5 hours)

Sources, steps, literature retrieval from various databases, and preparation of literature review, scoping review and systematic reviews.

Unit-IV Designing and conducting research: (25 hours)

Research Approaches: Quantitative and qualitative

Quantitative Research: Non-experimental and experimental

- Non-experimental/observational studies: Survey approach, longitudinal, cross-sectional, cohort, case control studies
- Experimental designs: Purposes, characteristics, types of design, pre-experimental and quasi and true experimental design: clinical trials, and steps of experimental research
- Sampling: Sample, population, sampling methods, sampling criteria, determination of sample size
- Data collection: Methods and tools/instruments
- Selection and construction of scales/tools, testing validity and reliability
- Data analysis, management and interpretation
- Rigor and validity in quantitative research.

Qualitative Research

- Ethnography, phenomenology, grounded theory
- Sampling
- Data collection: Methods, tools used for qualitative research, observation, focused group discussion, measurement and record analysis and field trips
- Data analysis, interpretation and data management

- Trustworthiness and rigor in qualitative research

Other types: (4 hours)

- Mixed methods research
- Translational research
- Implementation research
- Health systems research: Policy relevant research
- Epidemiological, evaluation research, and historical research

Unit-V Quantitative analysis: Statistical (10 hours)

- Descriptive, inferential and advance statistics
- Parametric and non-parametric methods
- Multivariate analysis

Unit-VI Ethical considerations in nursing research (2 hours)

- General considerations
- Ethical considerations specific to approaches, design and data collection procedures
- Ethics Committee: Composition, role and importance - Guidelines for ethical clearness
- Ethical issues: Relation to scientific and professional community (Plagiarism)

Unit-VII Communicating research findings (4 hours)

- Research critique
- Project proposal for funding
- Research utilization

Unit-VIII Scientific writing (2 hours)

- Research grant writing and bidding
- Intellectual property rights
- Patency rights
- Copyrights

NURSING SCIENCE AND THEORY DEVELOPMENT INCLUDING NURSING LEADERSHIP

- Contact hours = 75 hours
 - Self study = 45 hours
 - Total hours of instruction: 120 hours (8 credits) One credit = 15 contact hours
1. Nursing leadership in health care delivery system Contact hours: 20 hours; Self study: 10 hours (2 credits)
 2. Philosophy of nursing science and theoretical perspectives (Contact hours: 15 hours ; Self study: 15 hours (2 credits)
 3. Nursing theories and theory development. (Contact hours: 40 hours ; Self study: 20 hours (4 credits)

I. NURSING LEADERSHIP IN HEALTH CARE DELIVERY SYSTEM (20 hours)

Course overview: This course is designed to prepare the doctoral student to identify and utilize the nursing science and leadership roles as a basis for analyzing, developing and implementing national health policy and population policy and development of nursing profession.

Objectives: Upon completion of this course the student will be able to —

1. analyze the health problems and societal forces, health economics and politics in relation to corresponding national health policy and population policy
2. relate the impact of health policy and population policy to structure, content, distribution and financing of health services in general and nursing services in particular
3. analyse the leadership theories
4. identify the leadership roles necessary for the nursing leaders for developing nursing profession and people's health

Syllabus

I. Current health issues and policies (8 hours)

1. Analysis of current health problems - national & global
2. Health care delivery system in India
3. National health policy, population policy and alternative systems of medicine, National Educational Policy (NEP)
4. Health policy issues relevant to nursing practice - Development of nursing services in health policy
5. The functions and roles of law in health care delivery - Existing legislations related to nursing. Laws for new and emerging roles (e.g.) Nurse practitioner, private practice (nursing homes)
6. Social system and health policy
7. Politics and health policy - lobbying for development of nursing profession
8. Health economics and health policy (economics of health care and nursing)
9. Health insurance

10. Quality improvement including accreditation

II. Nursing leadership (8 hours)

1. Leadership theories including transformational versus transactional leadership
2. Nursing leadership and decision making
3. Nursing leadership and change process
4. Human resource planning and management by nurse leaders
5. Profession building in health care system - advocacy, lobbying
6. Nursing ethics
 - Code of ethics, professional conduct for nurses in India
 - Nursing standards, nursing practice, standards and quality assurance
7. Human relations
 - Valuing human being
8. Communication skills

III. Nursing informatics (4 hours)

- Nursing management information system, Networking institutions through literature search.
- Nursing Universities, Internet, Literature search
- Knowledge about basic computers
- Review

OR

1. Overview of computers and nursing
2. Computer systems: Data processing, the internet, a nursing resource
3. Nursing informatics and health care policy, privacy, confidentiality and security
4. Nursing informatics theory, clinical information systems
5. Applications: Practice applications, administrative application (information technology for nursing managers), educational applications and research applications
6. Consumer use of informatics
7. The future of informatics

2. PHILOSOPHY OF NURSING SCIENCE AND THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES

(15 hours)

Course overview: This is an introductory course. It begins the students' integrative analysis of the conceptual and empirical base of the domain of nursing. This course enables the student to trace the historical development and current status of nursing science in the context of the philosophy and history of science . (Study of nursing as a scientific discipline)

Objectives: Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to —

- analyse the historical roots and current status of contemporary nursing science
- explicate the paradigms of inquiry which influence the investigation of nursing phenomena
- explore the impact of scientific issues on the development of nursing science

Syllabus

1. Introduction to the course, study of philosophy, history of philosophy
2. History and philosophy of nursing science
3. Nursing as a science and a discipline (evolution and development)
4. Nursing knowledge and development
 - Historical roots
 - Domains of nursing
 - Paradigms in nursing
 - Knowledge development
5. Paradigms that influence approach to nursing science development
6. Epistemological and ontological assumptions of diverse approaches to knowledge generation in nursing

3. NURSING THEORIES AND THEORY DEVELOPMENT (40 hours)

Course overview: This is designed to facilitate the refinement of the critical skills necessary for analyzing and evaluating theoretical formulations, synthesizing theoretical components into conceptual models and developing testable hypotheses. The interrelationships among theory and practice and research in nursing will be examined.

Objectives: Upon completion of this course the student will be able to —

- describe strategies for concept and theory development
- get overview of nursing theories
- evaluate theories used in nursing practices
- demonstrate skill in developing and testing conceptual models that will impact nursing science
- examine interrelationship among science, theory, practice and research in nursing

Syllabus

1. Epistemology (5 hours)
 - Concepts, statements and theories
 - Strategies for theory development
 - Evaluation of theories
 - Metatheory

2. Overview of theory in nursing (10 hours)
 - Overview of theory
 - Importance of theory in nursing
 - Historical overview
 - Classification of theories in nursing
 - Issues in theory development in nursing
 - Nursing Theory: an examination of the concept development of nursing theory
3. Overview of nursing theories (15 hours)

The theorists and the theories

 - On nursing clients
 - On human being - Environment interactions
 - On interactions
 - On nursing therapeutics
 - Other theories: Practice level/Prescriptive/situation specific theories
4. Analysis of nursing theories & evaluation of nursing theories
5. Nursing theory and practice
6. Nursing theory and research
7. Inter relationships between science, theory, practice and research in nursing.
(4,5,6,7=10 hours)