# Why You Need a PHD in Nursing

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### What is a PhD in Nursing?

Nurse scientist

Studies.....









## Why?

For bedside nurses, doctoral studies informed by clinical nursing experiences provides a unique opportunity to impact patient care through the advancement of nursing science.

Bedside nurses focus on improving health outcomes of individual patients and sometimes families. Through research, PhD prepared nurses have opportunities to impact health beyond the individual through generating evidence that informs policy, improves health systems, and improves bedside care

# Why?

Fewer than 1% of nurses have a PhD

Nurse scientists provide answers to questions that improve patient outcomes

Nurse scientists can change the practice world

Gives you opportunities to do anything you want

Most jobs for PhD prepared nurses are very flexible

Opportunities for local, regional, national and international influence

#### Why?

Publish, present

Consult world-wide

Visiting professorships

Influence development of nursing in other countries

Lead interdisciplinary research teams

#### Application Process

Apply through the graduate school

After their review, application is forwarded to CON

Application reviewed by Assistant Dean of PhD program

Applicant is interviewed by two members of the PhD faculty

Full application, including interview summaries, is reviewed by PhD Program Committee who make decision

Application deadline – February 15th for fall; October 15th for spring

### Already Applied and Been Denied?

#### Make your letter more specific, make it your best work

- Proofread and get others to read
- Who do you think you want to work with? Name names
  - Go talk with them and put that in your letter
- What do you want to do in the research arena and why?
  - Can change, but have some ideas
- What do you want to do when you are done?
  - Researcher in clinical setting?
  - Researcher in an academic setting?
  - Researcher in industry?
  - Researcher in policy setting organization?

#### Already Applied and Been Denied?

#### Beef up your letters of recommendation

- 2 glowing paragraphs from your best friend at work are not helpful!
- Letters that speak only to your clinical strengths are not helpful
  - Need to speak to potential for research
    - Creativity, innovation, inquiring mind, questioning
- Lukewarm letters from a long-ago instructor are not helpful
- Take a class and get an A

#### Resources

Kathy Collins: <u>Kathy.Collins@uky.edu</u>

Debra Moser: <a href="mailto:debra.moser@uky.edu">debra.moser@uky.edu</a>

323-6687 (cell)

#### Employee Education Program (EEP)

UK pays tuition for 6 credits per semester (including summer)

Erin Baumgart is the new Administrator (replacing Stefan Schagane) and her contact information is: #859.257.8772 or via email: edubenefits@uky.edu