

## **Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing Core Curricular Outcomes – PhD Comprehensive Exam Questions**

*The following questions are examples of questions for the comprehensive examination based on PhD curricular outcomes. The questions are intended as a guide to students as they prepare for the examination.*

### *Curricular Outcomes*

1. Develop self as an instrument of caring.
  - PhD: Develop self as a researcher with a foundation in caring science.
2. Practice nursing reflectively guided by a caring philosophy and integrating a broad base of knowledge that includes theory and best evidence.
  - PhD: Evaluate theory-guided approaches to synthesize an evidence-base that informs caring practice and develops caring knowledge.

**Question: What theory of caring most closely resonates with your idea for research? How does it resonate?**

### *Curricular Outcomes*

3. Use complex patterns of knowing in creatively responding to calls within nursing situations.
  - PhD: Create research designs that honor the inherent calls in nursing situations and integrate understanding gleaned from complex patterns of knowing.
4. Demonstrate accountability for ethical, safe nursing practice and inquiry.
  - PhD: Demonstrate accountability as an ethical nurse researcher.

**Question: What qualitative and quantitative designs may be appropriate to study your area of interest? How have complex patterns of knowing contributed to your knowledge development, including selection of design. Specifically, address ethical knowing.**

### *Curricular Outcome*

5. Approach nursing situations with cultural humility.
  - PhD: Integrate cultural humility into research methods, including study design, sample selection and data collection plans.

**Question: Discuss your understanding of culture and describe how this understanding will be expressed in your plans for research....design, sample selection, data collection.**

### *Curricular Outcomes*

6. Engage in systematic inquiry as a foundation for nursing practice, healthcare delivery, and the evolution of nursing science.
  - PhD: Develop expertise as a nurse researcher to engage with intra and inter disciplinary colleagues, leading systematic inquiry that enhances nursing practice, improves health care delivery and contributes to nursing science.
  
7. Use technology and information systems to promote well-being, facilitate decision-making and enhance collaboration.
  - PhD: Analyze strengths and weaknesses of available technology and information systems to determine best options for use in intra and inter disciplinary research.

**Question: Describe the contribution of inter-disciplinary knowledge to research idea development.**

### *Curricular Outcome*

8. Promote well-being for persons and populations across the lifespan.
  - PhD: Construct the foundation for a research program intended to promote well-being for a particular population within the context of lifespan development.

**Question: Discuss essential elements of research design related to address health issues for a given population. For instance, if little knowledge is available about a health issue, what design is most appropriate?....how about addressing and health disparity issue? When are intervention studies appropriate? How does one choose an appropriate instrument to measure selected health constructs?**

### *Curricular Outcome*

9. Create caring environments that nurture wholeness.
  - PhD: Engage with intra and inter disciplinary colleagues living values expressive of caring in all endeavors, including ones where communities of research scholars convene.

**Question: What do you hope to learn/hope to share with interdisciplinary colleagues? How do caring values live in engagement to accomplish research?**

### *Curricular Outcome*

10. Honor human dignity and advocate for equity in local and global health policy and healthcare delivery.
  - PhD: Design research that reflects valuing for human dignity and understanding of complex local, national, and global policies that affect the lives of populations of interest.

**Question: Discuss the policy implications for the research you are proposing? How do current policies impact the population that you intend to study?**

*Curricular Outcomes*

11. Transform complex healthcare systems through caring leadership that facilitates intra and inter professional collaboration to achieve quality outcomes.
  - PhD: Establish a foundation for transforming complex healthcare systems through intra and inter disciplinary research informed by caring science.
12. Engage in responsible stewardship to advance the discipline and profession, preserve resources and respect the environment.
  - PhD: Become an example of responsible stewardship by advancing the discipline through well-designed research; honoring the profession through engagement in meaningful nursing leadership activities; preserving resources and respecting the environment through everyday actions.

**Question: What are your hopes and dreams about advancing the discipline of nursing? How will your scholarly contribution advance the discipline?**