



Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center

2025-26 Nursing Research Fellowship

The **Nursing Research Fellowship (NRF)** is designed to increase nurses' research capacity and our organizational infrastructure to build a culture that fosters a spirit of inquiry for developing new knowledge and innovation. The Fellowship follows a practicum model as an approach to learning the skills for conducting research guided by nurse scientists and mentors on a research project. The practicum provides a forum to actively participate in IRB-approved research at MSK and apply knowledge of research principles with a seasoned researcher. The Fellowship expands the nurse's ability to investigate topics found in daily practice, empowering them to influence policies and change patient outcomes. This effort develops future research leaders and enhances the research culture at MSK

Program goals and expectations:

- Learning conceptual and empirical foundations, study designs and methodological approaches, and statistical tools for collecting study data.
- Preparing to submit research projects through the MSK ethical review processes and obtain Internal Review Board (IRB) approval to conduct the study.
- Generating research on topics that align with the institution's mission and strategic goals.
- Leading a small research study in collaboration with experienced Nurse Scientists.
- Presenting the culmination of your work internally at a Nursing Grand Rounds.
- Providing ongoing scientific assistance for external dissemination of research findings at professional conferences and journal submissions.

The Nursing Research Fellowship provides knowledge and skills that enable Fellows to:

- Define Research to differentiate from Evidence-based Practice.
- Identify Theoretical and Conceptual frameworks that make nursing research independent from other research methods.
- Identify and explain knowledge gaps and determine the significance of the selected problem.
- Conduct a comprehensive, topical review of the literature.
- Identify types of Research and differentiate between quantitative and qualitative study designs.
- Understand how to develop a budget.
- Recognize the importance of working with the institutional Office of Research and Project Administration (ORPA), finding grants, and drafting letters of support.
- Disseminate nursing research in internal and external presentations with the end goal of publishing their research in peer-reviewed journals.
- Engage in the ongoing formative and summative evaluation of the fellowship.

Discussion includes system outcomes that focus on alignment with institutional, organizational, and Nursing Department goals. Practicum provides a forum to actively participate in IRB-approved research and apply knowledge of research principles with a seasoned researcher.

Applicants with the following qualifications are eligible for the Fellowship:

- An employee of MSK (or member institution) for 1 year
- A proposed research project
 - Proposal should demonstrate feasibility and specificity of your interest in research
- Have discussed tentative project with your unit Nurse Leader and/or Nursing Director as indicated by **Letter of Support & Endorsement Form (PDF)** (*one endorsement only*)
- Alignment with the work of an Office of Nursing Research Mentor, and MSK Organizational and Department of Nursing goals

Each prospective candidate must complete the online application according to one of three Pathways below which includes an abstract of their research interest and reasons for applying to the Nursing Research Fellowship. The Nursing Research Fellowship is a partnership. Although MSK provides substantial protected time to Fellows, acceptance into this program requires personal responsibility to work on their specific project. This commitment means that a Nursing Research Fellow will often be working on components of their project on their own time.

Pathways to the Nursing Research Fellowship

To facilitate fellows' hands-on immersion in addition to the didactic learning, applicants will use one of the following three **Pathways** that balance varied goals and levels of experience:

Working with a Mentor

Nurses without previous Research experience will be paired with a nurse scientist Mentor to work on their project (or an amendment) with specific project deliverables including:

- Literature Review
- Data Collection
- Data Analysis
- Manuscripts, posters and slide presentations

Dissertation or Capstone projects

For Nurses who have:

- A PhD or MS research project they would like to work on in the Fellowship (must include a research, not PICOT question)
- Fully-formed project ideas and a viable execution plan including institutional support.

Applicants must submit the dissertation or MS proposal, as well as identify timelines and other key stakeholders (i.e. mentors from education programs)

Mission-targeted Projects

Consideration will be given to applicants with projects that strategically align with Department of Nursing goals or are aimed at an issue presenting at the unit level.

Applicants will be contacted for a short interview with a combined group of Nurse Scientists from the member institutions. During this meeting, the candidate will have the opportunity to discuss a potential project with the Nurse Scientists and together identify appropriate mentorship pairings. The applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis and interview meetings will be scheduled upon submission. Early application is strongly encouraged.

Modules from the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) are required for all MSK investigators who participate in research: **Good Clinical Practice (GCP)** and **Human Subjects Protection (HSP) - Group 2: Social/Behavioral Research**. These modules are free and available to all MSK employees. Please register with your MSK email address and affiliation. (*Note: You cannot Log in through the Organization.*) These courses **MUST** be completed before acceptance to the Fellowship program is official. Go to: citiprogram.org to register.

Fellows are expected to:

- Develop their skills and knowledge for identifying areas for research inquiry.
- Actively participate in all didactic and online curriculum modules and keep up with reading materials outlined in the syllabus.
- Maintain communication with their mentors and reach out for guidance on a regular basis.
- Conduct themselves at the highest level of professionalism.
- Maintain appropriate collegial working relationships with all faculty, other fellows, physicians, residents, and all employees at MSK.

Curriculum includes:

- Online Modules
- Defining the significance of the problem
- Development of a research question
- Review and analysis of existing research findings in the literature
- Research types and study designs
- Quantitative and qualitative study designs and analysis
- Budget development and identification of funding opportunities
- Foundational/fundamental grant writing expertise
- Dissemination of research
- Applicable theoretical/conceptual frameworks to undergird selected research topic

Faculty:

Includes experts from the MSK Office of Nursing Research and research faculty and colleagues from: the six member institutions, Hunter College, University College Dublin School of Midwifery and Health Services, Rockefeller University. Research and Library support from each of the member institutions will also be available for the respective Fellows.

Online modules and live class sessions:

Formal classes are designed to provide didactic instruction will be presented in 2 parts: self-paced modules will be viewed in preparation for live class sessions. Modules and diagnostic assessments for each will be available on a virtual classroom platform, access to which will be granted upon acceptance into the fellowship. The syllabus, class dates, class materials, and announcements will be available there.

Live class sessions will also be presented where the modules will be reviewed and discussed in addition to selected readings and texts. Hands-on exercises will accompany these discussions along with time for self-study and work with their Nurse Scientist mentor on their Fellowship project. Class sessions will be timed to allow participants from all institutions to join, with the independent time on

those days scheduled according to the respective time zone. Class dates and times are found in the syllabus and describe the content, expectations, and reading assignments for each session.

Timeline, Protected time, and Continuing Education Credits:

The full program timeline is 12-18 months from the first class to the required final presentation. A total of 18 protected or indirect days are required to attend live sessions classes and for independent assignments; the 9 days of formal classes will be presented virtually. The other 9 Independent Days are protected time intended to support fellows' ability to work with their mentors on the various assignments that facilitate a research project.

- **Months 1-3 (Sept.- Nov.)** There is one didactic (live) class session each month.
- **Months 4-6 (Dec.- Feb.)** There are two sessions, usually one class day and one indirect day to work on aspects of the study.
- **Months 7-8 (Mar.- Apr.)** 3 scheduled Independent Days devoted to working on the study.
- **Months 9-10 (May - Jun.)** There is one class day and 1 indirect day to work on the study, plus another ID to prepare for the *Fellows Presentations*, a mock Grand Rounds and roundtable.
- **Summer following Fellowship** Fellows retain availability of 1 final Independent Day to use at the discretion of them, their Mentor, and their Leadership, previously held as a prep day for the **Nursing Grand Rounds** presentation upon project completion.

*There may be extra time needed for independent work with the nurse scientist mentors and **optional** symposia with a specific focus on research practices.*

Continuing education credit hours are also available for the Fellowship didactic sessions, offered by MSK Nursing Professional Development.

Course Text:

Textbooks with reading assignments are provided to Nursing Research Fellows. Handouts will be provided for specific classes. Slides presented will also be available following each class.

Main readings:

Reading assignments from the textbook help explain the content discussed during each class or lecture and additional readings may be assigned. All information will be disseminated by email or the Fellowship Teams channel (likely both).

Additional readings:

Additional readings are from journals illustrating application/s of the theoretical issues and concepts addressed in the lecture. Additional readings are shared throughout the course.

Ongoing Metrics:

The Office of Nursing Research will conduct a periodic follow-up survey (*Nursing Research Fellowship Follow-up Assessment*) to monitor fellows' progress after the program. The survey focuses on further research, dissemination (posters, podium presentations, or manuscripts), and citations for published works. Data will be presented in aggregate format. Aggregate data is used for internal ongoing assessment of the program, and submission to the Magnet document(s).

Application Timeline:

Monday, June 16 - Friday, August 15, 2025 APPLICATION OPEN	
Summer 2025	Candidate Interviews (<i>individual 45-minute conferences</i>) will be scheduled on a rolling basis as applications are submitted.

Overview of Syllabus and class sessions

Summer 2025	<i>Pre-class work (online modules)</i>
September 9, 2025	<i>The Basics of Nursing Research: Welcome and Introduction</i>
October 7, 2025	<i>Review of the Literature</i>
November 4, 2025	<i>Study Designs</i>
December 2, 2025	<i>Quantitative Research</i>
December 16, 2025	INDEPENDENT PROTECTED DAY (<i>preliminary biostats meetings if necessary</i>)
January 13, 2026	<i>Qualitative Research</i>
January 27, 2026	INDEPENDENT PROTECTED DAY
February 10, 2026	<i>Finishing the Study/Planning for a Grant Submission</i>
February 24, 2026	<i>Spreading the Word: Disseminating Nursing Research</i>
March 10, 2026	INDEPENDENT PROTECTED DAY
March 31, 2026	INDEPENDENT PROTECTED DAY
April 21, 2026	INDEPENDENT PROTECTED DAY
May 5, 2026	<i>Strategies for Success: Organizational Change and Making it Stick</i>
May 19, 2026	INDEPENDENT PROTECTED DAY
May 29, 2026	INDEPENDENT PROTECTED DAY
June 9, 2026	INDEPENDENT PROTECTED DAY
June 16, 2026	<i>Fellow Presentations</i>
Summer 2026	INDEPENDENT PROTECTED DAY (<i>TBD with mentor and Nurse Leader</i>)
<i>Nursing Research Fellows will present at an MSK Nursing Grand Rounds in 2026-27 as a culmination of their work in the Fellowship</i>	

Note: Dates of classes, as well as a final order of content, will be published in the full syllabus with acceptance letters.