

The University of Oklahoma
College of Public Health
Department of Health Promotion Sciences



Doctor of Philosophy
Health Promotion Sciences

Admission Requirements:

Master's degree in Public Health (or relevant Master's degree) and completion of the five (5) core public health courses; 3.50 GPA; suitable GRE revised score such as 145+ on the verbal and quantitative reasoning sections of the exam and 2+ on written section; evidence of writing and research ability (a writing sample) and a statement of purpose. Conditional admittance on probationary status may be conferred for students who do not meet all of the admission requirements.

A professional and supportive faculty/student relationship is an important component of successful doctoral programs. Faculty members are most likely to accept a doctoral student when the prospect of productive academic and professional advancement is high. Prospective students are encouraged to contact HPS faculty members to determine who could be an optimal mentor. The absence of a good fit can reduce enthusiasm for accepting a particular applicant.

Curriculum: completion of a minimum of 60 credit hours post-Master's

A Student who previously has not completed the MPH core courses or earned a MPH degree will complete the overview course in the first academic year of enrollment:

- BSE 5960 Overview of Public Health (3 credit hours)

Core Courses

9 credit hours

HPS 6633 Health Promotion Theory I
HPS 6643 Health Promotion Theory II
HPS 6943 Advanced Program Evaluation

Methods

15 credit hours

Required Specific Courses:

HPS 6933 Qualitative Research Methods in Public Health
BSE 5173 Biostatistics Methods II or BSE 5663 Analysis of Frequency Data
HPS 6953 Advanced Research Methods in Social and Behavioral Sciences

Additional Courses: Two of the following in either Qualitative or Quantitative Methods (student will become a specialist in one of the two methods):

- Quantitative Methods Electives (Prerequisite: BSE 5173 or BSE 5663)
 - BSE 5643 Regression Analysis
 - BSE 5653 Nonparametric Methods
 - BSE 6643 Survival Data Analysis
 - BSE 6663 Analysis of Multivariate Data
 - HPS 6853 Measurement in Health Education
- Qualitative Methods Electives (Prerequisite: HPS 6933):
 - HPS 6453 Focus Group Research
 - HPS 6833 Social Marketing
 - SOC 5313 Qualitative Methods: Participant Observation
 - SOC 6232 Advanced Qualitative Analysis

Major (Substantive Area): **15 credit hours**

A minimum of 15 credit hours in a substantive area of public health will comprise the primary area of concentration. Examples of concentration areas include health and aging, minority health, adolescent health, health disparities, maternal and child health, international health, social determinants of health, women's health, among others. Each student must identify sufficient courses to satisfy the declared major. Health and aging is an example of one area that could be sustained through the following courses:

- BSE 5363 Epidemiology and Prevention of Chronic Diseases
- BSE 6353 Epidemiology of Cardiovascular Disease
- BSE 6363 Cancer Epidemiology and Prevention
- HAP 5783 Public Policy and the Aged
- HAP 5823 Long Term Care Administration
- HPS 5383 Health and Illness in Old Age
- HPS 5473 Psychology of Aging
- HPS 5603 Human Behavior and the Social Environment I
- HPS 5753 Psychosocial Aspects of Disability
- SWK 5010 Social Gerontology

Minor (Related Area): **9 credit hours**

A minimum of three courses from one of the following areas of public health or an established discipline in the social or behavioral sciences will comprise a secondary area of concentration. Approved areas and courses for the related area include:

Anthropology:

- ANTH 5223 Theories of Culture
- ANTH 5123 Introduction to Socio-Cultural Anthropology
- ANTH 5563 Medicine and Society
- ANTH 5803 Theories of Identity
- ANTH 5833 Theories of Social Organization

Communication:

- COMM 5263 Health Communication
- COMM 5333 Organizational Communication

COMM 5343 Mass Communication Perspectives
COMM 5553 Persuasive Communication Campaigns
COMM 6453 Seminar in Social Influence
COMM 6433 Communication in Health Organization

Political Science:

PSC 5323 Problems in Public Policy (Health Policy)
PSC 5343 Public Policy and Inequality
PSC 5403 Mediating Institutions: Parties, Interest Groups, and Mass Media
PSC 5733 Contemporary Political Theory
PSC 6003 Political Science: Survey of a Discipline

Psychology:

PSY 5103 Physiological Psychology
PSY 5413 Personality
PSY 5423 Social Psychology
PSY 5703 Survey of Industrial and Organizational Psychology
PSY 5203 Survey in Cognitive Psychology
PSY 6933 Seminar in Human Learning and Motivation

Sociology:

SOC 5933 Seminar in Sociological Social Theory
SOC 6313 Seminar in Social Change
SOC 6363 Special Topic in Social Differentiation
SOC 5383 Seminar in Social Stratification
SOC 6903 Seminar in Issues in Sociological Theory

Social Work:

SWK 5013 Profession of Social Work
HPS 5603 Human Behavior and the Social Environment I
SWK 5263 Human Behavior and the Social Environment
SWK 5313 Social Welfare in a Changing World

Occupational and Environmental Health

OEH 6252 Occupational and Environmental Risk Communication
OEH 5033 Environmental Issues
OEH 5233 Principles of Environmental Management
OEH 5723 Occupational and Environmental Hazards
OEH 5262 Occupational and Environmental Law

Biostatistics and Epidemiology – Epidemiology Track

BSE 5153 Clinical Trials
BSE 5193 Intermediate Epidemiological Methods
BSE 5303 Epidemiology of Infectious Disease
BSE 5363 Epidemiology and Prevention of Chronic Disease
BSE 6333 Pediatric Epidemiology

Health Administration and Policy

HAP 5183	Organizational Theory and Behavior
HAP 5413	Principles of Health Services Management
HAP 5613	Financial Management
HAP 5873	Health Information Systems
HAP 5303	Health Policy and Politics

Not all courses are offered on an annual basis. Courses outside the College of Public Health can support a concentration and can be found throughout the University. Students will work with faculty advisors to determine the optimal selection of coursework.

Dissertation:

Minimum of 12 credit hours

Dissertation work occurs in steps. Close collaboration with the faculty advisor and dissertation committee members is required throughout the process.

- The required coursework noted above (Core, Methods, Major, and Minor) is completed first.
- Written comprehensive exams are then taken that cover three content areas: Theory, Methods, and the concentrations.
- Dissertation Proposal Oral Defense – Once the student has successfully passed the written comprehensive exams, the student will complete and orally defend a dissertation proposal under the direction of their 5-member dissertation committee.
- Dissertation Oral Defense – Once the student has completed the dissertation work, the dissertation committee will conduct the oral defense of the dissertation.

Course Sequencing

Certain courses are important prerequisites for other courses, yet some Departmental courses are only taught once a year or less frequently. To assure that students are following the proper course sequence, all students must meet with their advisor each semester in order to complete enrollment for the next semester. In addition, all students are requested to enroll for at least six credit hours per semester to facilitate students progressing through the curricula as a cohort.

This degree program is subject to the policies and procedures printed in the University of Oklahoma College of Public Health Bulletin.