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## **Doctor of Philosophy Program in Public Health Sciences Concentration in Health Promotion**

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### **Introduction**

The PhD concentration in Health Promotion in the Department of Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences is in the PhD in Public Health Sciences degree program in the University of Louisville's School of Public Health and Information Sciences. The concentration is designed to prepare students for careers in higher education, upper level management positions in government and private nonprofit health agencies, and research positions with universities, government agencies and in the private sector. In addition to gaining a solid foundation in the theories and concepts of the discipline, students will also achieve competency as independent researchers.

### **Competencies**

The successful student will be able to demonstrate:

- Advanced knowledge of behavioral and cognitive sciences related to public health education and promotion.
- Expertise in planning, implementing, and evaluating theory-driven health promotion interventions in a variety of community and clinical settings.
- Research, evaluation, scholarship and leadership skills that may be applied in higher education, government, and community health agencies.

It is expected that prior to graduation, students in the program will have demonstrated these competencies by completing the curriculum, passing the qualifying exam, successfully defending the dissertation, participating in collaborative research and service projects with public health agencies, and serving as an instructor and mentor for master's level and beginning doctoral students.

Competency in the basic principles and application of epidemiology is a requirement for all students in the School. If a student has not had sufficient exposure to epidemiology prior to matriculation, he or she will be required to take a course in epidemiology as part of the program of study.

### **Admission**

Applicants should have a minimum of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale and, in most cases, should have completed a master's or other graduate degree related to the theme of the doctoral program. Applicants who have a master's degree in a different discipline may be admitted with the stipulation that they complete foundation course work during their enrollment for the doctoral degree. This coursework will be in addition to the outlined curriculum, and will be negotiated with the student's academic advisor on a case-by-case basis.

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The formal application, curriculum vitae, personal statement, application fee, at least two letters of recommendation, official transcripts of all college work, and official scores on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test must be submitted to the Graduate School Office of Admissions. The personal statement should be a one-two page essay which discusses the student's background in health promotion, why the student is attracted to the field, and how the degree will help the student reach his or her career goals. Students should score above the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile on the GRE. In addition, prior work experience relevant to the health promotion discipline will also be considered as a factor in acceptance into the program. International students will also be required to submit TOEFL scores and a foreign credential evaluation of their transcripts. These are required no later than thirty days before the first day of classes of the semester in which the applicant plans to enroll.

For specific information about the degree concentration or the application process, students should contact Dr. Richard W. Wilson, Chair, Department of Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences, 502-852-8040.

### **Curriculum**

The typical progression through the Health Promotion curriculum is:

- Program of Study (Year 1)
- Required and elective coursework of 48 credit-hours (Years 1 and 2)
- Qualifying examination (Year 2)
- Candidacy
- Dissertation research and preparation
- Oral examination

### ***Faculty Advisor***

The Department of Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences will appoint a Director of the PhD concentration program each year. The Director will assign advisors for each doctoral student. The appointment process will be negotiated with the student who will have the option of requesting a specific advisor. The student's choice is contingent on the agreement of the desired advisor, his or her availability, and the overall faculty resources of the Department.

### ***Program of Study***

Upon matriculation in the program, each student will meet with his or her assigned advisor and develop a program of study, which will include courses in research design and statistics as well as selected cognate courses. The program of study may be modified as the student's needs change or course availability is altered.

If a student has not had sufficient exposure to epidemiology prior to matriculation, he or she will be required to take a course in epidemiology as part of the program of study. In addition the program of study will include development of competencies in other areas of public health knowledge that are relevant to the student's areas of interest.

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### Degree Requirements

The Health Promotion concentration of the PhD in Public Health Sciences consists of a minimum of 48 credit-hours, including the following requirements:

Health promotion theory and principles	12 credit-hours
Research design and statistics	12 credit-hours
Cognate courses	12 credit-hours
Dissertation research	9 credit-hours
ELFH 683 College Teaching	3 credit-hours

### Coursework

Semester	Course #	Course Title	Credit -Hours
Fall I	PHPB 704	Psycho-Social Foundations of Health Decision Making	3
	PHPB 705	Community Organizing and Health Policy Advocacy	3
		Research design and statistics elective (with approval)	3
	Semester Total		9
Spring I	PHPB 701	Theoretical Basis of Health Promotion	3
	PHPB 710	Community-Based Participatory Research	3
		Cognate elective (with approval)	3
	Semester total		9
Summer I	PHPB 777	Dissertation research	3
Fall II	PHPB 722	Health Risk Communication	3
		Research design and statistics elective (with approval)	3
		Cognate elective (with approval)	3
	PHPB 724	Dissertation Methods Seminar	3
	Semester total		12
Spring II		Research design and statistics (with approval)	3
		Cognate elective (with approval)	3
	ELFH 683	College Teaching	3
	Semester total		9
Summer II	PHPB 777	Dissertation research	6
<b>Degree Total</b>			<b>48</b>

### Research Design and Statistics Electives

Students will work with their advisors to select appropriate courses to complete the 12 credit-hours required in this category. Selections will be based on the research and statistics

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background of students and the anticipated research and statistics needs of the dissertation research projects.

The following is the list of approved electives for this category. Other courses may be considered with permission of the faculty advisor and the Program Director.

PHEP 602	Epidemiological Methods
PHEP 710	Community-based Participatory Research
PHPB 711	Qualitative Research Methods in Public Health
PHPB 724	Dissertation Methods Seminar
PHST 630	Applied Statistical Methods
PHST 640	Statistical Methods for Research Design in Human Studies
PHST 680	Biostatistical Methods I
PHST 681	Biostatistical Methods II
PHST 682	Multivariate Statistical Analysis
PHST 684	Categorical Data Analysis
PHST 725	Design of Experiments
PSYC 610	Advanced Statistics I
PSYC 611	Advanced Statistics II
PSYC 612	Advanced Statistics III
ECPY 793	Reviewing Scientific Literature [course in meta-analysis]

### *Cognate Electives*

Students will work with their advisor to select appropriate courses to complete the 12 credit-hours required in this category. Selections will be based on the research and professional interests of students and the career paths anticipated.

The following is the list of approved electives for this category. Other courses may be considered with permission of the faculty advisor and the Program Director.

PHMS 603	Legal and Bioethical Aspects of Public Health
PHPB 604	Health Decision and Risk Analysis
GEOG 657	Geographic Information Systems
PHEH 620	Global Issues
PHPB 610	Introduction to Health Informatics
PHPB 721	Health Promotion and Healthcare-Associated Infection
PHPB 655	Systems Thinking and Dynamic Modeling in Public Health
PHCI 631	Social and Behavioral Sciences in Health Care
PHPB 650	Advanced Topics in Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences
PHPB 727	Culture and Public Health
COMM 590	Health Communications
PSYC 581	Introduction to Health Psychology
HSS 669	Administering Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Programs
HSS 675	Health Promotion and Disease Prevention at the Individual Level
HSS 676	Community Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

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HSS 684 Program Planning in Health Education and Promotion  
NURS 657 Health Promotion and Illness Prevention Across the Lifespan

### Qualifying Examination

Upon completion of all formal course work, typically at the end of the second year, students will take a written qualifying exam to demonstrate their ability to synthesize and apply concepts from those courses. The exam will be evaluated on a pass/fail basis; students who don't pass the exam at the first administration will be given time to prepare to sit for the exam one additional time. Once the qualifying exam is successfully completed, students will be admitted to candidacy for the doctoral degree.

### Dissertation

A dissertation, based on original research conducted by the student, is required of a candidate for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Public Health Sciences with a concentration in Health Promotion. The dissertation is to be a scholarly achievement that demonstrates the student's thorough understanding of research techniques in health promotion and the ability to conduct independent research.

The student's dissertation research will be guided by, and the final product approved by, a dissertation committee, chaired by the student's faculty advisor, and appointed by the Dean of the Graduate School upon the advice of the Chair of the Department. The dissertation committee shall consist of five members, and must include one representative outside the Department. Once the student has completed work on the dissertation, the dissertation committee will schedule a date for the student's final examination during which the student will be asked to defend the dissertation and the supporting research. The dissertation must be approved by the committee and by the Chair of the Department.

The dissertation is to be submitted in completed form to the Chair of the Department at least thirty days before the end of the semester in which the candidate expects to graduate. One unbound copy of the dissertation, signed by the dissertation committee, must be deposited with the Graduate School before graduation.

**Program Data**

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School/College: School of Public Health and Information Sciences  
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