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**School of Public Health and Information Sciences  
Doctor of Philosophy Program in Public Health Sciences**

**Handbook  
Specialization in Health Promotion**

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Fall 2012

**Contact Information**

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## Introduction

Health promotion interventions have a strong influence on health–related behavior as well as the economic, environmental, organizational and policy supports necessary for long-term health improvement.

The Department of Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences offers instruction, conducts research and provides community service to advance public health education and health promotion competencies. The Department’s focus is on understanding factors that influence health information utilization and its effects on individuals and communities. Coursework is designed to help students develop critical thinking skills and to use these skills to understand and address today’s and tomorrow’s public health challenges.

Expanding on traditional public health approaches to health education, the Department utilizes different instructional styles, such as online courses, team learning, and community engagement to help students broaden their knowledge base and enhance their ability to interact effectively with local, state and federal agencies, individuals and communities.

Areas of research for faculty include emergency and disaster response and preparedness, health decision and risk analysis, disease prevention, cognitive and social influences on health-related decision making.

By the end of our program the successful student is able to:

- Evaluate social, behavioral and cognitive sciences in public health education and health promotion
- Design theory-driven health promotion interventions
- Apply standards of research, evaluation and scholarship to health education and health promotion
- Demonstrate leadership skills in health promotion research and practice.

Students in the program will develop these competencies through completing the curriculum and participating in collaborative research and service projects with public health agencies. They will demonstrate these competencies by passing the qualifying exam and successfully defending the dissertation. If you have specific questions, please feel free to contact the Director of the PhD Program, Dr. Muriel Harris, Tel: 502-852-8040 or e-mail [mjharr08@louisville.edu](mailto:mjharr08@louisville.edu) .

## Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences Faculty and Staff

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Muriel Harris	Associate Professor and PhD Program Director	(502) 852-4061	213
Scott LaJoie	Associate Professor	(502) 852-1879	211
Kathie Sacksteder	Administrative Assistant	(502) 852-8040	208

## Admission Requirements

### General Admission Requirements

- Formal application and acceptance to the University of Louisville, School of Interdisciplinary and Graduate Studies
- Payment of all application fees
- An appropriate master's level degree program or other graduate degree related to the theme of the doctoral program
- GPA of 3.0 or more on a 4.0 scale
- GRE scores
- Curriculum Vitae/Resume
- Personal Statement
- Official transcripts of all college level work
- At least two academic or professional letters of recommendation
- International students also need TOEFL scores and a foreign credential evaluation of their transcripts
- A writing sample may be requested from applicants
- After first review applicants still being considered for admission may have an interview with faculty

Competency in the basic principles and application of epidemiology and public health practice are requirements for all students in the PHS PhD. If a student has not had sufficient exposure to these areas prior to matriculation, he or she will be required to take additional courses prior to beginning their doctoral level courses. Applicants who have a master's degree in a discipline other than the theme of the doctoral program may be admitted with the stipulation that they complete foundation course work. 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.

### Formal Application

The formal application and all accompanying items **must** be submitted to the School of Interdisciplinary and Graduate Studies Admissions Office (<http://graduate.louisville.edu>) for consideration by the published deadline. Items sent/given directly to the School of Public Health and Information Sciences faculty or staff will **not** be considered to be officially submitted and may result in delays in admission. All application fees required by the School of Interdisciplinary and Graduate Studies, must be paid before an applicant can be considered for admission.

### Curriculum Vitae/Resume

CV/Resume should reflect academic history, work and relevant experience as well as any publications. Prior work experience relevant to the health promotion discipline is desired but not required, however, relevant experience will be considered as a factor in acceptance into the program.

### Personal Statement

The personal statement should be a one or two page essay which discusses the student's background in health promotion, why the student is attracted to the field, research interests and how the degree will help the student reach his or her career goals.

### Letters of Recommendation

Submission of at least two letters of recommendation is required. The online form or a formal letter of recommendation may be used. All references must be submitted to the School of Interdisciplinary and Graduate Studies Graduate Admissions Office (<http://graduate.louisville.edu>). Any letters sent directly to the School of Public Health and Information Sciences will not be considered officially submitted and will not be considered for review or decision making purposes.

### Transcripts

Official transcripts of all college work are required and should be sent directly to the School of Interdisciplinary and Graduate Studies, Graduate Admissions Office. Unofficial transcripts will not fulfill the admission requirement.

### Academic Testing

Official scores within the last five years on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or an equivalent test score are required.

If GRE scores date from a test taken before August 2011, a combined Verbal and Quantitative score of 1000 and above will be given preference. For GRE scores from a test taken after August 2011 preferred applicants should score at or higher than: Quantitative 144, Verbal 153

and Written 4. Scores are considered in the context of a complete application; by themselves, they do not determine the success or failure of an application.

### Transfer of Credit Hours

The HPBS Department may authorize a transfer of up to six hours of graduate credit from an accredited institution that offers advanced degrees. In addition, with the permission of the department, a petition can be submitted to School of Interdisciplinary and Graduate Studies for the transfer of an additional six hours. Any transfer will require a faculty review of the syllabus for each course in question and the course must not have been used to fulfill the requirements of a previous degree. Students will still need to take enough credits at the University of Louisville to meet the requirements for the degree and the residency requirements of the School of Interdisciplinary and Graduate Studies. **Request for transfer credits must be submitted at the time of admission to the program and should be no more than three (3) years old at the time of matriculation into the program.**

### International Students

International students are also required to submit TOEFL scores and a foreign credential evaluation of their transcripts. These documents are required before an application can be reviewed and evaluated for admission to the program.

### Deferment of Admission

**Deferment does not mean automatic admission for a future date.**

If an applicant who has been accepted into the PHS Health Promotion PhD program decides, for whatever reason, to defer admission until a future date, they may go into the graduate application site online and change the year of their application and possibly avoid having to pay an additional fee. However, this does not assure them admission for the future date. Each spring all applications will be considered for admission on the same level. Acceptance will depend on which applications in the pool for that year are determined the most competitive and accomplished by the HPBS Admission Committee and by the available space in the program.

## After Admission

### Residency Requirement

In order that doctoral students have the opportunity to work closely with faculty, use university resources and facilities, and be immersed in the intellectual life of their disciplines, you must spend at least two years of study at the University of Louisville, and at least one year in full-time residency. Full-time residency for doctoral students is defined as being registered for a minimum of 18 credit hours in a twelve-month period. Enrollment in candidacy does not fulfill this requirement. You will need to work with your advisor to make sure that you meet this requirement while you are taking courses. If you are a part-time student, talk with the program director to see if there is an alternate residency option.

### Good Standing/Academic Probation

To stay in good standing academically you must maintain a graduate grade point average of 3.0 or above; that grade point average will include all coursework listed on your graduate transcript. If your GPA falls below 3.0, you will be placed on Academic Probation until you regain a 3.0 or are dismissed from the program. Students are not allowed to continue on Academic Probation for more than one semester. The School of Interdisciplinary and Graduate Studies allows 6 hours of “C” to count toward the degree. However, you must have a GPA of 3.0 to be in good standing and to graduate.

## Curriculum

### Typical Degree Timeline

The typical progression of a full-time student through the Health Promotion PhD curriculum is:

- Develop Program of Study (Year 1)
- Required and elective coursework of 39 credit-hours (Years 1 and 2)
- Qualifying examination (Year 2)
- Candidacy
- Dissertation research ( Year 2-6)
- Dissertation Defense (Dissertation and Oral examination).

\*The Dissertation Defense must occur no more than four years following admission into Candidacy.

### Degree Requirements

The Health Promotion specialization of the PhD in Public Health Sciences consists of a minimum of 39 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
ELFH 683 College Teaching	3 credit-hours

## Advisement

### Faculty Advisor

The Director of the PhD program will assign advisors for each doctoral student. 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 public health theory and principles, research design and statistics as well as selected cognate courses. The program of study will identify a set of courses for the development of competencies in areas of public health and health promotion that are relevant to the student's area of interest. The program of study may be modified as the student's needs change or based on course availability.

If a student has not had sufficient exposure to Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Public Health Theory prior to matriculation, he or she will be required to take additional courses as part of the program of study. These courses may be taken prior to starting doctoral level work.

## Degree Requirements

### Coursework

The Health Promotion specialization of the Ph.D. in Public Health Sciences consists of a minimum of 39 credit-hours, including the following requirements:

39 total credit-hours:

21 credit-hours of required coursework:

12 credit-hours of coursework in health promotion theory and principles

6 credit-hours of research design and statistics

3 credit-hours of ELFH-683 College Teaching

18 credit-hours of elective coursework:

12 credit-hours of cognate coursework

6 credit-hours of research design and statistics



<i>Required Coursework</i>		
<i>Course #</i>	<i>Course Title</i>	<i>Credit-Hours</i>
PHPB-701	Theoretical Basis of Health Promotion	3
PHPB-704	Psycho-Social Foundations of Health Decision Making	3
PHPB-705	Community Organization and Health Policy Advocacy	3
PHPB-710	Community-Based Participatory Research	3
PHPB-722	Health Risk Communication	3
PHPB-724	Dissertation Methods Seminar	3
	Research design and statistics electives (with approval of advisor)	9
	Cognate electives (with approval of advisor)	9
ELFH-683 or ELFH-661 or other course	College Teaching or Adult Development and Learning or equivalent course (with approval of advisor)	3
Total		39

### *Research Design and Statistics Electives*

Students work with their advisors to select appropriate courses to complete the six credit-hours required in this category. Selections are based on the research and statistics background of student and the anticipated research and statistics needs of their dissertation research project.

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

<i>Approved Research Design and Statistics Courses</i>		
<i>Course #</i>	<i>Course Title</i>	<i>Credit-Hours</i>
ECPY-793	Reviewing Scientific Literature [course in meta-analysis]	3
ECPY-793	Reviewing Scientific Literature [course in meta-analysis]	3
ELFH 701	Statistics and Methodology II	3
PHEP-618	Epidemiological Methods II	3
PHEP-618	Epidemiological Methods II	3
PHPB-615	Advanced Program Evaluation	3
PHPB-615	Advanced Program Evaluation	3
PHST-630	Applied Statistical Methods	3
PHST-630	Applied Statistical Methods	3
PHST-640	Statistical Methods for Research Design in Human Studies	3
PHST-640	Statistical Methods for Research Design in Human Studies	3
PHST-680	Biostatistical Methods I	3

<i>Approved Research Design and Statistics Courses</i>		
<i>Course #</i>	<i>Course Title</i>	<i>Credit-Hours</i>
PHST-680	Biostatistical Methods I	3
PHST-681	Biostatistical Methods II	3
PHST-681	Biostatistical Methods II	3
PHST-682	Multivariate Statistical Analysis	3
PHST-682	Multivariate Statistical Analysis	3
PHST-684	Categorical Data Analysis	3
PHST-684	Categorical Data Analysis	3
PHST-725	Design of Experiments	3
PHST-725	Design of Experiments	3
PSYC-610	Advanced Statistics I	3
PSYC-610	Advanced Statistics I	3
PSYC-611	Advanced Statistics II	3
PSYC-611	Advanced Statistics II	3
PSYC-612	Advanced Statistics III	3
PSYC-612	Advanced Statistics III	3
SOC-609	Seminar in Statistics I	3
SOC-610	Seminar in Statistics II	3
SOC-618	Qualitative Field Research Methods	3

*Cognate Electives*

Cognate courses are elective courses chosen with the assistance of the advisor that individually and collectively enhance the depth of understanding of the student's chosen research area, professional interests and anticipated career paths. Students work with their advisors to select appropriate courses to complete the twelve credit-hours required in this category.

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

<i>Approved Cognate Courses</i>		
<i>Course #</i>	<i>Course Title</i>	<i>Credit-Hours</i>
ECPY 764	Structural Equation Model and Path Analysis	3
GEOG-657	Geographic Information Systems	3
HSS-669	Administering Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Programs	3
HSS-675	Health Promotion and Disease Prevention at the Individual Level	3
NURS-657	Health Promotion and Illness Prevention Across the Lifespan	3
PAS-615	Advance Seminar on Race: Topic Race, Gender, and Mental Illness	3
PHEH-620	Global Issues in Environmental & Occupational Health	3
PHMS-604	Legal and Bioethical Aspects of Public Health	3

<i>Approved Cognate Courses</i>		
<i>Course #</i>	<i>Course Title</i>	<i>Credit-Hours</i>
PHPB-604	Health Decision and Risk Analysis	3
PHPB-612	Health Communication Campaigns	3
PHPB-650	Advanced Topics in Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences	3
PHPB-655	Systems Thinking and Dynamic Modeling in Public Health	3
PHPB-727	Culture and Public Health	3
PHPB-753	Independent Study in Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences	3
PHPH-630	Geographic Information Systems in Public Health	3
PSYC-581	Introduction to Health Psychology	3

## Qualifying Exam

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 public health and health promotion concepts, research and evaluation methodologies and statistical methods. The exam will be evaluated on a pass/fail basis; students who don't pass the exam on their first attempt will be given time to prepare to sit for the exam one additional time. The retake of the exam must be attempted no more than two years following the first attempt. If a student fails to pass on the second attempt, the student will be dropped from the program. Once the qualifying exam is successfully completed, students will be admitted to candidacy for the doctoral degree.

### Preparing for the Qualifying Exam

Students preparing to take the Qualifying Exam are required to maintain enrollment in the program. Students must enroll in PHPH 701 Directed Reading for Qualifying Examinations every Spring, Summer and Fall semester while preparing to take the Qualifying Exam, this includes the semester in which they take the exam.

Students who pass the Qualifying Exam will demonstrate the following competencies:

- Evaluate social, behavioral and cognitive sciences in public health education and health promotion
- Design theory-driven health promotion interventions
- Apply standards of research, evaluation and scholarship to health education and health promotion.

Students will have six questions from which to choose five and they will complete the exam over a five day period.

### Schedule for the Qualifying Exam

Qualifying exams are scheduled three (3) times a year. The tests are scheduled about the 2nd week in February, July and October. Dates may vary slightly to accommodate student schedules. Qualifying exams will not be offered at any other times. The exam will begin on Monday at 8:30 a.m. EST and end on Friday of that week at 4:00 p.m. EST. All exams will be turned in electronically (by e-mail or similar) as well as in a printed copy. For students living outside Louisville, they will turn in an electronic copy on Friday at 4:00 p.m. EST and the printed copy must reach the Department of Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences no later than five (5) working days following completion of the exam. There will be a turn-a-round time of 4-6 weeks. Times may vary slightly to accommodate faculty schedules. Students are required to complete the exam and if required, retake the qualifying exam no more than 2 years after completing their coursework. Students who do not pass the retake will not be eligible to enter candidacy and complete a dissertation.

## **Dissertation**

Students who complete the dissertation process will be able to:

- Demonstrate leadership skills in health promotion research and practice.

### Dissertation Content

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 specialization in Health Promotion. The dissertation is to be a scholarly achievement that demonstrates the student's ability to conduct independent research and a thorough understanding of research principles, concepts and techniques in health promotion.

### Dissertation Process

The student's dissertation research will be guided by, and the final product approved by, a Dissertation Committee. The Dissertation Committee consists of no fewer than four faculty, including the Chair. The Chair of the Committee must come from within the department and be appointed by the Dean of the School of Interdisciplinary and Graduate Studies upon the advice of the Chair of the Department of Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences. The Dissertation Committee members must be approved by the Department Chair.

The following are considerations for forming your committee:

1. The chair must be from the Department of Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences

2. Other members of the committee should be content or research experts
3. At least one committee member should have expertise in research methodology that matches the research approach selected for the dissertation study
4. A committee member must have a doctoral degree and have conducted research in the previous 5 years.

After obtaining the Chair's approval for the committee members, the student should as soon as possible send contact information to the Administrative Assistant in the Department. This information should include name, terminal degree, position, department and immediate supervisor's contact information. A copy of the member's CV is also required. This information is used to generate letters of nomination for members. If a committee member is selected from outside the department's faculty, that person must be approved by the School of Public Health and Information Sciences to serve on the committee. Letters must go to the Chair of the committee, the member's supervisor the member themselves and then to SPHIS Associate Dean Pete Walton. Dr. Walton submits all the letters to the School of Interdisciplinary and Graduate Studies for approval. It may take several weeks to process these letters. Final approval of the Committee must be obtained before a proposal defense is scheduled, so it is imperative that the needed information is submitted as soon as possible.

You are encouraged to meet with faculty members as you select a committee of members who will mentor you throughout this process. You will work with the Dissertation Committee, and especially with the Chair throughout the process of preparing for the initial Dissertation Proposal defense. The final oral defense of the dissertation must be completed within 4 years of entering candidacy (passing the Qualifying Exam). Additional Dissertation Guidelines can be found at <https://graduate.louisville.edu/Programs/theses-dissertations/>

### *Dissertation Proposal Defense*

Once you have satisfactorily completed your qualifying exam and have entered into candidacy, you must work closely with your Chair and committee members to develop your dissertation proposal. You must defend your proposal when your committee is satisfied that it has met the requirements for a formal presentation. The dissertation proposal demonstrates scientific and academic standards of research procedures, demarcates the scope of the research within the literature, and provides theoretical substantiation and evidence of a full grasp of the field of research related to the dissertation topic. Given the many schedules that must be coordinated among committee members, the defense should be scheduled at least 6-8 weeks ahead of time. Committee members must receive the final proposal for review no less than two weeks prior to the oral examination. Approval of the proposal means you can now complete work on your dissertation to answer the research question(s). The dissertation proposal is outlined in a poster

format which is displayed in the department. The template and associated printing costs will be provided by the department.

### *Final Dissertation Defense*

Once you have completed work on the dissertation, you will schedule a date with his/her Dissertation Committee for the final oral examination during which you will defend the dissertation. Students must allow at least 2 weeks before the oral examination for review of the final report by members of the committee... Two weeks before the oral examination, the Program must also complete a form on the School of Interdisciplinary and Graduate Studies website: [https://louisville.edu/graduate/forms/request-to-schedule-thesis-dissertation-final-oral-examination/fg\\_base\\_view\\_p3](https://louisville.edu/graduate/forms/request-to-schedule-thesis-dissertation-final-oral-examination/fg_base_view_p3). Given the many schedules that must be coordinated among committee members, the defense should be scheduled at least 6-8 weeks ahead of time. Once the oral examination is complete and the dissertation is approved by the committee the first page must be signed by the Chair and members of the committee. The approved dissertation is then submitted to the School of Interdisciplinary and Graduate Studies.

### *Dissertation Submission*

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 School of Interdisciplinary and Graduate Studies before graduation. The dissertation copy must follow the guidelines of the School of Interdisciplinary and Graduate Studies <http://louisville.edu/graduatecatalog/degree-requirements>.

A printed copy of your final dissertation submitted to SIGS must be provided to your Chair, and an electronic copy must be submitted to [kathie.sacksteder@louisville.edu](mailto:kathie.sacksteder@louisville.edu). This will serve as the Department's copy.

## **What do I do to graduate?**

1. Complete the degree application via ULink by the deadline published on the SIGS website.
2. Register in the semester in which you intend to graduate; candidacy can be used for this if you have completed all other requirements
3. Make an appointment with SIGS to have the Dissertation reviewed prior to the deadline published on the SIGS website.

SIGS has the final responsibility for ensuring that all the requirements for graduation are met and conducts a final degree audit before degrees will be conferred.

Enjoy your program! If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact the PhD Program Director, faculty or the Department's Administrative Assistant.