
Doctor of Philosophy in Public Health Sciences Concentration in Health Management

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Introduction

The Ph.D. concentration in health management in the Department of Health Management and Systems Sciences is in the Ph.D. program in Public Health Sciences in the University of Louisville's School of Public Health and Information Sciences.

The concentration in health management is designed to prepare graduates for careers as researchers, teachers and practitioners, involved in the efforts to protect and promote the health and well-being of communities and populations. It provides graduates with the knowledge and skills necessary to attain academic positions involving scholarly research and instruction in the disciplines of public health management and key policy and management positions in governmental as well as private and voluntary organizations. In addition to an in depth understanding of the infrastructure and context of public health management, graduates of this concentration are expected to be able to identify issues and questions of importance with regard to the management of the resources of public health and to design and carry out a program of research designed to address these issues and questions. Graduates should be able to demonstrate abilities as an independent investigator as well as a team collaborator.

Competencies

To graduate, a student in the Ph.D. concentration in health management must demonstrate the following competencies:

- 1) In depth knowledge of the history of public health management
- 2) Mastery of experimental research study designs, including qualitative as well as quantitative, and the ability to identify optimal designs for specific hypotheses.
- 3) Ability to critically evaluate published research related to health management.
- 4) Expertise in one or more health management specialties such as information systems, planning and evaluation, human resource management, health policy analysis, development and implementation, budgeting and financial management, health economics, system dynamics, network science and social network analysis.
- 5) Practical knowledge of issues in research management including:
 - a) Formation and leadership of multidisciplinary teams.
 - b) Staffing, budgeting, tracking.
 - c) Data quality control and data safety management.
 - d) Funding mechanisms and grantsmanship.
 - e) Research ethics and regulations.

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- 6) Professional quality peer-review, oral and poster presentation, report, grant, and manuscript writing.
- 7) Mentoring of junior peers.

Demonstration of Competency 1 is achieved by passing the doctoral qualifying examination and by successful completion and defense of the dissertation. Demonstration of Competencies 2 through 6, inclusive, is achieved by successful development, conduct, completion, and defense of the dissertation. Demonstration of Competency 7 is achieved by successful completion of assignments to work with master's students on the latter's research, theses, presentations, and posters.

Admission

An applicant who has satisfactorily completed a master of public health degree, or another relevant master degree or a health professional degree is considered for admission to the health management concentration. Applicants already holding an advanced degree are evaluated on the basis of appropriateness of previous coursework, training and experience. The graduate work by such applicants is reviewed on a case-by-case basis, and the applicant, if admitted, may be required to take additional course work prior to completing the minimum 48 credit-hours required for post-master's doctoral work.

The minimum required documentation for full admission must include:

- Official transcript for each degree
- Official GRE score
 - If applicant has no degree from accredited US institution, then only the GRE is acceptable
 - Requirement is waived if applicant has doctoral degree.
- Three (3) letters of recommendation from individuals who have direct knowledge and experience with the applicant's academic or professional work experience.
- Official TOEFL score if applicant's native language is not English and applicant has no degree from accredited U.S. institution.
- Foreign credential evaluation for each degree not from an accredited U.S. institution

The following are recommended criteria for admission:

- Undergraduate and graduate GPA each ≥ 3.0 on 4.0 scale
- GRE performance in 50th percentile or above for verbal and quantitative scores (Comparable scores on the MCAT or DAT are considered.)
- If applicable, Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score in 60th percentile or above

Curriculum

Each doctoral student, in consultation with his or her academic advisor, program director, and department chair, plans a course of study that uniquely fits the student's career goals. The design

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of a doctoral program of study that reflects each student's professional skills and research interest is the primary organizing principle of the proposed program.

The emphasis in doctoral training goes beyond accumulating course credit. Completion of the coursework is the prelude to sitting for the qualifying examination. Successful passage of this qualifying examination allows the student to enter candidacy. A doctoral candidate must then successfully develop and defend a dissertation proposal that describes an original and independent research project. Upon successful defense of the proposal, a student then proceeds to dissertation research. Upon successful completion of the research, defense of the dissertation, and demonstration of the required competencies listed below, a student is awarded the Ph.D. degree.

The Ph.D. concentration in health management is designed as a 48 credit-hour program (minimum beyond a master's degree) and the dissertation. Depending on the student's previous educational experience, additional hours may be needed for completion of the concentration program.

Faculty Advisor

Upon admission to the Ph.D. concentration, each student is assigned a faculty advisor who works with the student to develop a program of study.

Program of Study

The program of study incorporates a foundation of core courses intricate to health management as well as addresses its multidisciplinary nature. At the Ph.D. level, this requires the selection of courses directly relevant to health management, such as organizational theory, management and administrative processes, health policy, leadership, systems and network sciences, and another area of study related to providing in depth knowledge related to effectively managing the resources necessary to carrying out the mission of protecting and improving public health. The importance of understanding the contributions of the emerging field of complexity and network sciences, as it relates to public health management, is a focal point of emphasis within the Ph.D. concentration.

Degree Requirements

The emphasis in doctoral training goes beyond accumulating course credit. Completion of the coursework is the prelude to sitting for the qualifying examination. Successful passage of the qualifying examination allows the student to enter doctoral candidacy. A doctoral candidate must then successfully develop and defend a dissertation proposal that describes an original and independent research project. Upon successful defense of the proposal, a student may then proceed to dissertation research. Upon successful completion of the research, defense of the dissertation, and demonstration of the required competencies listed below, a student is awarded the Ph.D. degree.

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Coursework

48 total credit-hours

30 credit-hours of required coursework

6 credit-hours of elective coursework

3 credit-hours of public health management seminars

9 credit-hours of dissertation research

| <i>Required Coursework</i> | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|--|---------------------|----|
| <i>Semester</i> | <i>Course #</i> | <i>Course Title</i> | <i>Credit-Hours</i> | |
| Fall I | PHMS-606 | Complexity in Health Care Organization and Leadership | 3 | |
| | UPA-621 | Policy Analysis and Program Evaluation | 3 | |
| | UPA-661 | Public Administration and Organizational Theory | 3 | |
| | PHMS-751 | Seminar 1 in Public Health Management | 1 | |
| | Semester Total | | | 10 |
| Spring I | PHMS-616 | Complexity and Health Systems | 3 | |
| | PHMS-608 | Managing Community Health with Policy Development | 3 | |
| | PHEP-602 | Epidemiology Methods | 3 | |
| | PHMS-752 | Seminar 2 in Public Health Management | 1 | |
| | Semester Total | | | 10 |
| Summer I | PHMS-777 | Dissertation Research | 9 | |
| | Semester Total | | | 9 |
| Fall II | ECON-644 | Health Economics | 3 | |
| | PHMS-604 | Advanced Topics of Legal, Ethical, and Policy Aspects of the Health System | 3 | |
| | | Elective course | 3 | |
| | PHMS-753 | Seminar 3 in Public Health Management | 1 | |
| | Semester Total | | | 10 |
| Spring II | PADM-602 or PHPB-655 | Applied Research Methods or Systems Thinking and Dynamic Modeling in Public Health | 3 | |
| | MBA-610 | Organizational Behavior and Human Resource Management | 3 | |
| | | Elective | 3 | |
| | Semester Total | | | 9 |
| | Degree Total | | | 48 |

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Seminars in Public Health Management

A student in the Ph.D. concentration in health management is required to complete at least three credit-hours of seminars in Public Health Management (PHMS-751, -752, -753). These group courses are jointly taught by the faculty of the department and are designed to provide a collegial experience that provides an opportunity to integrate learning from other courses, discuss hot topics, brain-storm about research ideas, and acquire professional skills in scientific manuscript and grant writing, oral and poster presentations, grantsmanship, and peer review.

Electives

As a part of the approved program of study, a student is able to select six credit-hours of elective coursework. Courses directly relevant to health management are preferred including, but not limited to, biostatistics, bioinformatics, epidemiology, medical geography, molecular or population genetics, toxicology, microbiology, health services research, outcomes research, health knowledge and behavior. Courses may be selected from those offered within the school, other schools or colleges within the university, or from sources outside the university with permission and acceptance of credit by the school and university.

A student may petition to take courses not on this list with approval of the course instructor, the student's advisor, program director, and chair of the department. The student must provide a written rationale for the choices of elective coursework in his or her program of study.

| <i>Approved Electives</i> | | |
|---|---|---------------------|
| <i>Course #</i> | <i>Course Title</i> | <i>Credit-Hours</i> |
| <i>School of Public Health and Information Sciences</i> | | |
| <i>Health Management and Systems Sciences</i> | | |
| PHMS-702 | Methods in Health Services and Outcomes Research | 3 |
| <i>Epidemiology and Population Health</i> | | |
| PHEP-501 | Introduction to Epidemiology | 3 |
| PHEP-602 | Epidemiology Methods | 3 |
| PHEP-604 | Epidemiology Infectious Disease | 2 |
| PHEP-605 | Research in Infectious Disease (Laboratory for PHEP-604) | 1 |
| PHEP-606 | Genetic and Molecular Epidemiology | 3 |
| PHEP-611 | Nutritional Epidemiology | 3 |
| PHEP-612 | Epidemiology and Bioterrorism | 3 |
| PHEP-613 | Epidemiology of Aging | 3 |
| PHEP-615 | Epidemiology of Maternal and Child Health | 3 |
| PHEP-616 | Disease Surveillance | 3 |
| PHEP-617 | Field Epidemiology | 3 |
| PHEP-618 | Epidemiologic Methods II | 3 |
| PHEP-619 | Biology of Disease in Populations | 3 |
| <i>Bioinformatics and Biostatistics</i> | | |
| PHST-500 | Introduction to Biostatistics | 3 |
| PHST-610 | Statistical Computing and Data Management for Public Health | 3 |

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| <i>Approved Electives</i> | | |
|---|--|---------------------|
| <i>Course #</i> | <i>Course Title</i> | <i>Credit-Hours</i> |
| PHST-620 | Introduction to Statistical Computing | 3 |
| PHST-640 | Statistical Methods for Research Design in Health Sciences | 3 |
| PHDA-601 | Introduction to Medical Decision Analysis | 3 |
| PHDA-663 | Decision Analysis | 3 |
| PHDA-690 | Utility Theory and Assessment | 3 |
| PHDA-701 | Advanced Medical Decision Making | 3 |
| <i>Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences</i> | | |
| PHEH-500 | Introduction to Environmental and Occupational Health | 3 |
| PHEH-610 | Occupational Health and Safety | 3 |
| PHEH-620 | Global Issues of Environmental and Occupational Health | 3 |
| <i>Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences</i> | | |
| PHPB-501 | Introduction to Health Behavior | 3 |
| PHPB-604 | Health Decision and Risk Analysis | 3 |
| PHPB-607 | Population Health Management | 3 |
| PHPB-608 | Public Health Program Evaluation | 3 |
| PHPB-612 | Health Communications Campaigns | 3 |
| <i>Public Health</i> | | |
| PHPH-614 | Critical Thinking and Program Evaluation | 3 |
| <i>College of Business</i> | | |
| MBA-625 | Managerial Accounting | 3 |
| MBA-635 | Managerial Finance | 3 |
| MBA-645 | Leadership and Ethics | 3 |
| MBA-655 | Strategic Management | 3 |
| ACCT-615 | Advanced Financial and Governmental Accounting | 3 |
| <i>School of Urban and Public Affairs</i> | | |
| PADM-601 | Statistics for Public Affairs | 3 |
| PADM-604 | Public Budgeting and Finance | 3 |
| PADM-605 | Strategic Management and Planning | 3 |
| PADM-606 | Public Policy | 3 |
| PADM-607 | Planning Theory | 3 |
| PADM-608 | e-Government | 3 |
| PADM-610 | Administrative Law and Process | 3 |
| PADM-611 | Financial Management for Public Administration | 3 |
| PADM-620 | Intergovernmental Relations | 3 |
| PADM-630 | Environmental Policy and Natural Hazards | 3 |
| PLAN-611 | Human Resources Management | 3 |
| PLAN-612 | Mediation and Dispute Resolutions | 3 |

Qualifying Examination

Upon completion of the required coursework for the Ph.D., the student is eligible to sit for the qualifying examination. The components of the qualifying exam focus on the subject matter drawn from foundation courses, the student-selected minor area of study, as well as research methods and problem analysis. The timing and eligibility for the qualifying exams are determined by the student's faculty advisor, program director, and department chair. Successful completion of the exam admits the student to doctoral candidacy. A student who does not successfully complete the exam may be required to take additional or remedial coursework and is allowed one opportunity to retake the exam.

Dissertation

A dissertation is required of a candidate for the degree of doctor of philosophy in public health sciences with a concentration in health management. It is to be a scholarly achievement in research, and should demonstrate a thorough understanding of research techniques in health management and the ability to conduct independent research.

Dissertation Committee

The dissertation shall be read by a reading committee, chaired by the student's faculty advisor, and appointed by the dean of the school upon the advice of the program director and chair of the department. This committee shall consist of at least four members and must include one representative of an allied department. The dissertation must be approved by the committee and the chair of the department.

Dissertation Proposal

A candidate must submit a written dissertation proposal to all members of the dissertation committee. The candidate is then orally examined on the dissertation proposal.

Dissertation Preparation

The dissertation is to be prepared in format and binding according to the guidelines of the School of Interdisciplinary and Graduate Studies.

Dissertation Approval

The dissertation is to be submitted in completed form to the chair of the department at least thirty days before the end of the term in which the candidate expects to be graduated, and the candidate is not eligible for final examination until the dissertation has been accepted by the committee and chair.

The dissertation committee schedules an oral defense by the candidate. The time and place for the defense is published to the general academic community, members of which are free to

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attend the defense. The dissertation is approved by a majority vote of the committee and the concurrence of the department chair.

Dissertation Distribution

One unbound copy of the dissertation, signed by dissertation committee, must be deposited with the School of Interdisciplinary and Graduate Studies before graduation.

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Program Data

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-1: 07/18/07: prefix PHKC changed to PHPB.
-2: 07/20/07: reformatted and reorganized to match template;
expanded dissertation section.
-3: 02/16/09: program director and assistant changed.
-4: 07/29/09: editorial change to “qualifying exam(ination)” throughout.
-5: 08/10/09: editorial changes re SIGS, styleguide, and policies.
-6: 08/12/09: addition of PHMS-702 as elective.
Data updated: 08/12/09