

HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH, PHD

Banner Code: PH-PHD-HSR

Academic Advising

Website: <https://publichealth.gmu.edu/students/academic-advising>
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The purpose of the PhD program in Health Services Research is to prepare graduates to be scholars, educators, researchers, and leaders in higher education, health care and service organizations, health care consulting firms, government and nonprofit organizations, and private businesses that support or regulate the health service industry. The degree has the following two specialized programs of study (concentrations):

- Knowledge Discovery and Health Informatics
- Health Systems and Policy

Admissions & Policies

Admissions

Requirements

Students must have a master's degree or other advanced degree (i.e., MD, JD, PhD or equivalent) from an institution of higher education accredited by a Mason-recognized U.S. institutional accrediting agency or international equivalent before being admitted to the 72-credit PhD program.

Applicants must meet the admission standards and application requirements specified in Graduate Admissions (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate-policies/>) and must apply using the online Application for Graduate Admission (<https://www2.gmu.edu/admissions-aid/apply-now/>). For application deadlines and detailed application requirements, refer to the College of Public Health Admissions website (<https://publichealth.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/standards-requirements-and-deadlines/>).

Policies

Reduction of Credit

Students who enter with a master's or other advanced degree may have the credit requirement reduced by up to 30 credits for previous coursework that closely corresponds with doctoral program requirements. The credit reduction decision will be made by the doctoral advisor and requires approval of the doctoral program director. Requests for reduction of credit are reviewed only after acceptance to the doctoral program.

Time Requirements

Students must complete all requirements for the PhD in Health Services Research within 9 calendar years from the time of first enrollment as a doctoral student in the program. PhD students are expected to progress steadily toward their degree and to complete all coursework and comprehensive and field exams in order to advance to candidacy within no more than 6 years.

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Total credits: 72

Core Courses

Code	Title	Credits
GCH 700	Social and Ecological Determinants of Health	3
HAP 671	Health Care Databases	3
HAP 761	Philosophy of Science and Research Methods	3
HAP 780	Data Mining in Health Care	3
HAP 819	Advanced Statistics in Health Services Research II	3
HAP 824	Social Determinants of Health: A Multilevel Evidence-Based Approach	3
HAP 835	Causal Inference in Health Services Research	3
HAP 846	Advanced Health Economics	3
HAP 850	Health Informatics Research	3
HAP 865	Health Services Research Seminar	3
Total Credits		30

Concentration and Electives

Students take additional courses in one of two concentration domains: Knowledge Discovery and Health Informatics or Health Systems and Policy. Doctoral-level electives outside of the College of Public Health or concentration-related content areas may be taken as approved by the student's academic advisor. A maximum of 6 credits of 600-level courses may be applied to the degree.

Concentration in Knowledge Discovery and Health Informatics (KDHI)

Code	Title	Credits
Select 30 credits from the following:		30
HAP 618	Computational Tools in Health Informatics	
HAP 672	Health Data: Vocabulary and Standards	
HAP 719	Advanced Statistics in Health Services Research I	
HAP 720	Health Data Integration	
HAP 730	Health Care Decision Analysis	
HAP 745	Health Care Security Policy	
HAP 770	Medical Decision Making and Decision Support Systems	
HAP 774	Artificial Intelligence in Health	
HAP 797	Radiology Informatics	
HAP 823	Comparative Effectiveness Analysis using Observational Data	
HAP 880	Advanced Health Data Mining	

HAP 925	Advanced Methods in Qualitative Research for Health Care	
HAP 940	Advanced Independent Study	
GCH 807	Measurement Theories and Applications in Public Health Research	
STAT 663	Statistical Graphics and Data Visualization	
STAT 763	Statistical Graphics and Data Exploration II	
CSI 873	Computational Learning and Discovery	
PH 850	Teaching Practicum in Public and Population Health	
Other course(s) supporting the student's subject matter or research methods, as approved by the advisor		
Total Credits		30

Concentration in Health Systems and Policy (HSYP)

Code	Title	Credits
HAP 661	Policy Development and Analysis for Community Health Programs	3
HAP 719	Advanced Statistics in Health Services Research I	3
HAP 742	Health Policy Development and Analysis	3
HAP 925	Advanced Methods in Qualitative Research for Health Care	3
Select 18 credits from the following:		18
HAP 645	Introduction to Health Services Research	
HAP 704	Contemporary Issues in Health Systems Management	
HAP 745	Health Care Security Policy	
HAP 746	Health Policy Leadership	
HAP 823	Comparative Effectiveness Analysis using Observational Data	
HAP 940	Advanced Independent Study	
GCH 807	Measurement Theories and Applications in Public Health Research	
PH 850	Teaching Practicum in Public and Population Health	
Other course(s) supporting the student's subject matter or research methods, as approved by the advisor		
Total Credits		30

Comprehensive Exams

Two comprehensive examinations will determine whether the student has the necessary knowledge and skills to undertake dissertation work. These examinations must be taken within one year of completion of all coursework (except for dissertation sequence courses).

Advancement to Candidacy

Students who complete all core and concentration course requirements, pass the comprehensive exams, and successfully defend the dissertation proposal can advance to candidacy. A student must advance to candidacy status before taking the dissertation credits.

Dissertation Sequence Courses

Code	Title	Credits
Complete at least 12 credits:		12
HAP 998	Doctoral Dissertation Proposal	
HAP 999	Doctoral Dissertation (at least 6 credits)	
Total Credits		12

Dissertation

After advancement to candidacy, the HSR PhD student must complete an approved dissertation. The student must seek and obtain the approval of the HSR PhD Program Director on the selection of his/her Dissertation Chair and committee members. The committee must have at least three members, each of which must be a full-time member of the graduate faculty. The Chair must hold an appointment in the Department of Health Administration and Policy (HAP) and be approved by the Program Director. The second member of the dissertation committee may be a member of either the HAP Department or the College of Public Health, and the third member of the committee may be from the College of Public Health, other academic unit at George Mason University, or from outside of Mason. A fourth member of the committee may be appointed, from another academic unit or from outside Mason, with the approval of the Program Director.

Within twelve months of passing the comprehensive examinations, the student must submit a draft of the dissertation proposal to the Dissertation Chair and committee. The proposal shall describe the proposed research as directed by the Chair and Committee. The proposal must provide a detailed literature review that provides the context and rationale for the research objectives, state the dissertation objective(s), and describe the proposed study design and analytic methods. An oral proposal defense must be scheduled with dissertation committee members who have agreed to serve. During the oral proposal defense, the student will describe their proposed research and address questions by the committee members. At the oral defense, the Dissertation Committee determines approval or disapproval of the proposal. Committee disapproval is accompanied by written recommendations for improving the proposed research with expectations for resubmission.