

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES: HEALTH AND DISABILITY STUDIES (PH.D.)

<https://www.unh.edu/program/doctor-philosophy/health-human-services-health-disability-studies>

Description

The PhD Option in Health and Disability Studies imparts knowledge and skillsets to advance a broad spectrum of research aimed at examining, understanding, and addressing system-level issues surrounding health and disability. The program will combine the strengths of individual departments with the collaboration and innovation of clinical and translational work demanded by today's complex problems in the Health and Human Service sector. It aims to promote a culture of high-quality clinical and translational research essential to the development, implementation, and assessment of prevention and intervention efforts in community, healthcare, and educational environments. It also leverages UNH's Institute on Disability and Institute for Health Policy and Practice to more systematically link grant writing, research, and graduate education at the University.

The foundational core of the program in year one introduces students in all options to the key theoretical tenets and basic sciences in health and human services and establishes fundamental knowledge of research methods, data gathering and analytical techniques. Students then progress into their enrolled Option with a documented degree plan for years two through four.

The Option in Health and Disabilities Studies will bring an interdisciplinary focus in exposing students to contemporary cultural, economic, and social constructs of health and disability. The focus will be on advancing clinical and translational research to address health inequities and promote inclusive education and employment opportunities, and ensuring access to healthcare services and community supports for individuals with disabilities including those with visible disabilities and invisible conditions such as mental health conditions and chronic illnesses.

Requirements

Degree Requirements

The PhD program Options in Health and Human Services have the following requirements:

- A minimum of 40-50 credits are required to complete the program.
- Students must maintain an overall GPA of 3.0 and earn a minimum of B- in all courses.
- Students must create a documented Individualized Degree Plan in consultation with their program mentor by the end of first year that outlines a systematic plan for completion of their PhD within four to five years.
- Students must pass a comprehensive exam specific to their enrolled Option at the end of year two.

- Students will be assigned individualized yearly milestones by the mentorship committee pertinent to securing academic support grants, career advancement and dissemination of research.

Code	Title	Credits
Requirements		
<i>Foundational Course</i>		
HHS 902	Philosophy of Science and Theory Development in Health and Human Services	3
<i>Research Methods</i>		
Select one course from the following:		3-4
SOC 902	Sociological Methods II: Research Design	
OT 882	Research Methods and Application	
RMP 992	Research Methods in Recreation Management and Policy	
<i>Statistics and Quantitative Analysis</i>		
Select one course from the following:		3-4
PHP 903	Biostatistics	
MATH 835	Statistical Methods for Research (Introduction to Qualitative Research)	
<i>Scientific Writing & Grantsmanship</i>		
NR 905	Grant Writing	2
<i>Qualitative Research</i>		
HDS 806	Qualitative Inquiry in Health Outcomes Research	3
<i>Professional Seminar Series</i>		
HHS 901	Seminar Series in Health and Human Services	6
HHS 903	Foundations in Health and Disability	3
Select one course from the following:		4
SOC 903	Sociological Methods III: Advanced Social Statistics	
HDS 805	Applied Machine Learning in Healthcare	
HDS 823	Advanced Statistics in Healthcare	
MATH 836	Advanced Statistical Modeling	
MATH 838	Data Mining and Predictive Analytics	
MATH 839	Applied Regression Analysis	
MATH 840	Design of Experiments I	
MATH 841	Survival Analysis	
MATH 843	Time Series Analysis	
MATH 844	Design of Experiments II	
EDUC 982	Qualitative Fieldwork & Data Analysis	
<i>Research Practicum</i>		
HHS 905	Graduate Research Practicum	2
<i>Electives</i>		
Elective courses selected in consultation with mentor.		3-6
<i>Comprehensive Exam</i>		
HHS 906	Graduate Teaching Practicum	2
Students must pass an option-focused comprehensive exam.		
<i>Dissertation</i>		
HHS 999	Doctoral Research	0
Total Credits		34-39

Student Learning Outcomes

Program Learning Outcomes

- Generate new knowledge that addresses significant gaps in healthcare, health promotion and disability management; and disseminate research findings in scholarly platforms;
- Establish a credible identity in the field of health and disability through impactful research, conducted with scientific rigor, ethics, and reproducibility;
- Apply conceptual frameworks of health equity, social justice and social determinants of health and well-being to address the needs of vulnerable populations with visible and invisible disabilities, including those experiencing mental health conditions and chronic illnesses;
- Assume future leadership roles in the health and disability sciences through clinical and translational research in academic, administrative, and policy settings;

- Use collaborative, interdisciplinary, and innovative approaches to knowledge generation in health and disability through core principles of team science.