



2026-2027 Curriculum Guide for PhD degree program with a specialization in HEALTH SERVICES MANAGEMENT & POLICY

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree requires a significant program of study and research that qualifies the recipient to work independently and contribute to the advancement of the field of knowledge. The emphasis is on mastery of the field and particularly on the acquisition of research skills as a basis for original work. Students pursuing the PhD degree complete didactic and research courses. In addition, PhD students must successfully complete and pass a PhD Qualifying Exam, a PhD Candidacy Exam, Dissertation and Final Examination. Due to the expanded depth and scope of content and research, it typically takes a minimum of four years to complete the program requirements to earn the PhD degree. Graduates are prepared for teaching/research faculty positions in higher education and other positions in various public and private sectors.

Students admitted to the PhD degree program are assigned faculty advisors who will provide guidance throughout the program. Students are encouraged to get to know their advisor and meet with them at least once each semester. This document serves as a resource to be used by the student and the advisor in planning the program of study with a specialization in Health Services Management & Policy (HSMP). All students are expected to be familiar with the College of Public Health (CPH) *Graduate Student Handbook*:

<http://cph.osu.edu/students/graduate/handbooks>, the *Graduate School Handbook*:

<https://gradsch.osu.edu/handbook> and CPH competencies: <http://go.osu.edu/cphcompetencies>.

PROGRAM OF STUDY

The PhD in HSMP requires a minimum of 50 credit hours beyond a master's degree for a total of 80 credit hours. With approval of the student's advisor, up to 30 credit hours of appropriate master's level course work can be counted toward the PhD. Additional requirements for courses and distribution of credit hours are provided below. Students should work closely with their advisor to develop a tentative curriculum plan during the first semester of their enrollment. In collaboration with their advisor, students are encouraged to form their Candidacy Examination Committee by the end of their second year. A final curriculum plan should be approved by their advisor the fifth semester in the program.

Major Field

Required Foundation Courses:

PUBHTLH 6010⁺ Essentials of Public Health

3 credit hours

PUBHBIO 6211 Applied Biostatistics II or equivalent

Credit hours count in Research Methods

PUBHEPI 6410 Principles of Epidemiology

Credit hours count in Research Methods

⁺ Not required for students with a CEPH accredited MPH

Required Specialization Courses: **

PUBHHMP 6611 Health and Health Care Services in the U.S.

3+1* credit hours

PUBHHMP 7602 Health Insurance and Payment Policy

3+1* credit hours

PUBHHMP 7605 Introduction to Health Policy

3+1* credit hours

PUBHHMP 7615 Health Services Organization Management

3+1* credit hours

PUBHHMP 7678 Approaches to Health Services Research I

3 credit hours

PUBHHMP 7688 Approaches to Health Services Research II

3 credit hours

PUBHHMP 8899 Doctoral Seminar (4 semesters x 1 credit)

4 credit hours

PUBHHMP 8672 Advanced Topics in Health Policy

4 credit hours

**For the four required PUBHHMP 6000 and 7000 level courses, doctoral students will complete an additional, PhD level one credit directed study (+1 credit above) under the supervision of the course instructor. These one-credit courses will be registered as PUBHHMP 7699, Seminar in HSMP.*

**If any of these required specialization courses are not offered during the first two years of the student's PhD program enrollment, a substitute may be approved by the student's advisor and PhD Program Director.*

** First and second year students are required to enroll in PUBHHMP 8899, and students in all other years are strongly encouraged to be enrolled in a doctoral seminar each semester.*

Research Methods (24 credit hours)

Research methods courses must be selected with the approval of the advisor and concurrence of the PhD program director and should include the following:

- A course in epidemiology (e.g., PUBHEPI 6410: Principles of Epidemiology, or equivalent) 3 credit hours
- A course in research design (e.g., PUBHEPI 6431: Design & Implementation of Health Surveys, or equivalent) 2-3 credit hours
- Appropriate sequence of statistics courses (e.g., PUBHBIO 6211: Applied Biostatistics II, or equivalent and at least 2 additional advanced statistics courses) 9 credit hours
- 9 credit hours of research courses to complement the student's major, minor, and research interests (e.g., PUBHHMP 7686: Qualitative Methods for Health Research, SOCIOL 8632: Analysis of Longitudinal Data, or other advanced method classes) 9-10 credit hours

Minor Cognate Field (15 credit hours)

The minor cognate field provides sufficient methodological depth to serve as a useful complement and foundation for doctoral level study and research. Typical fields include health economics, epidemiology, health management, public policy and management, health politics, etc.

Electives (5 credit hours)

Select electives from courses within the division or elsewhere in the university with advisor approval and concurrence of the PhD program director.

Dissertation (6-17 credit hours)

PUBHLTH 8998/8999 Pre and Post-Candidacy Dissertation Credit hours 6-17 credit hours

Grade Policy:

In addition to the general Graduate School requirements of a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher, students must meet specific college grade policies. Students should familiarize themselves with Section 12 of the College of Public Health Graduate Student Handbook.

Office of Academic Programs and Student Services (OAPSS)

OAPSS staff are available to provide assistance with College, Graduate School and University policies and procedures. Students can make an appointment with a staff member in OAPSS by calling (614) 292-8350. OAPSS address: 100 Cunz Hall/1841 Neil Ave/Columbus, Ohio/ 43210/cph.osu.edu