GLOBAL COMMUNITY HEALTH SCIENCE & BEHAVIOR, PHD

The purpose of the PhD program in Global Community Health & Behavioral Science is to train experts who will advance the field of global community health through research, development and application of theory, and teaching. The PhD is a highly specialized training program, integrating theory and research in a focused substantive area of global importance. Graduates will have in-depth expertise necessary for a research career, and are expected to develop careers in universities, medical schools, and other higher institutions of learning as faculty members or in research organizations globally.

Program Competencies

Students who graduate from this degree program can expect to develop the following competencies as they successfully meet and complete the program degree requirements.

- Analyze major social and behavioral sciences theories for application to evidence-based research.
- Analyze qualitative and/or quantitative data in order to answer significant research questions in social and behavioral sciences.
- Synthesize the interdisciplinary perspectives within public health.
- Design, implement and evaluate independent theory-based scientific research in an academic or practice setting.
- Translate and disseminate knowledge of global community health problems in a specific area.
- Adapt a well-rounded persona with a clear research focus including demonstrating ethical conduct, cultural sensitivity, and a sense of academic integrity.

Admission Requirements

Admission requirements for all PhD degrees in the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine:

1. Prior Degree Requirements: Completion of a master’s degree or 30 graduate-level credits in a field related to the doctoral area of study is preferred. Exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis for outstanding students holding only baccalaureate degrees.
2. A grade point average (GPA) of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale for graduate coursework is preferred.
3. Official GRE scores are required for doctoral applicants. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores in the upper percentiles are preferred for the verbal and quantitative tests.
4. For applicants from non-English speaking nations, a minimum Test Of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score of 89 for the internet-based test (IBT), 230 for the computer-based test (CBT) or 570 for the paper-based test (PBT) is required. Applicants may also submit scores from the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). Applicants should have a score of 7 or above for doctoral applications.

Applicants must meet the school’s admission requirements, submit the application through SOPHAS and include in their application three letters of reference from individuals who are familiar with their academic and/or professional performance. Practical experience in public health is preferred. Complete applications must be received by the priority deadline of December 1 to be considered for fellowships and other student funding. To be considered for admission to GCHB doctoral programs without funding, the completed application must be received by January 15.

A complete application includes all required documentation –career statements, letters of recommendation and verified transcripts and GRE scores. We recommend applications and required documentation be submitted in sufficient time for SOPHAS to receive and verify transcripts and GRE scores to meet the respective deadlines.

For further details regarding admissions requirements to the school, see the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine “Policies and Procedures for Doctoral Programs (https://tulane.app.box.com/v/doc-handbook-102015/” guide.

Requirements

The PhD degree in Global Community Health & Behavior requires a total of 72 post-baccalaureate degree credits with at least 30 credits of doctoral study at Tulane SPHTM. Up to 42 credits may be applied from the MPH or equivalent master’s degree. These credits will be reviewed and those that do not fulfill the PhD competencies may not be accepted. If a prerequisite course or equivalent has not been fulfilled, the student must take the course in addition to the 30 credits of advanced doctoral study but may count toward the total 72 credits.

The advisor works with the students in identifying the course of study in the doctoral program. If the doctoral student does not have a prior public health degree, they must obtain a grounding in public health. See PhD handbook (https://sph.tulane.edu/doctoral-students/).

Prerequisite Coursework (from prior master’s degree)

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<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPHL 6020</td>
<td>Foundations in Public Health (or equivalent)</td>
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<td>GCHB 6030</td>
<td>Soc &amp; Beh Aspects of Glo Hl (or equivalent)</td>
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<td>M&amp;E of Global Health Programs (or equivalent) 3</td>
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<td>SPHL 6050</td>
<td>Biostatistics for Public Health (or equivalent) 3</td>
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<td>SPHL 6060</td>
<td>Epidemiology for Public Health (or equivalent) 3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Statistical Software Course or Skills ^1</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPHL 6080</td>
<td>Design Strategies in PH Prgrms                 3</td>
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^1 e.g., SPSS, SAS, STATA. GIS - TBD by Student & Advisor

Electives

Select 12 credits 2

Total Credit Hours 30

1 TBD by advisor/student
2 Additional credits may be needed to obtain a total of 72 credits. Electives may be selected from courses offered within the department, school, or university in consultation with an academic advisor. No more than 12 credits of special (independent) studies may be applied toward the doctoral degree.

Research Ethics

Students are required to take online research ethics training via CITI or another equivalent training program in research ethics. This certification must remain current throughout the program duration.

Comprehensive Exam

On completion of the coursework listed above, students will be required to pass a comprehensive examination (https://tulane.app.box.com/v/gchb-comprehensive-july2018/) to demonstrate doctoral program competencies as well as knowledge related to their content area of expertise.

Dissertation

PhD students must complete a dissertation that has a strong basic social science or natural science research focus, and make a unique and original contribution to the scientific literature. The dissertation should help the student prepare for a career in research through demonstrated excellence in the research methods that are used. Consistent with the purpose of the PhD program, dissertations should go beyond basic descriptive analyses of existing data sets (through novel theoretical or methodological applications are acceptable); and have greater innovation and significance than just monitoring and evaluation of an existing project.