

# HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH (PHHS)

Graduate Degree Program  
College: Public Health

## Abstract

The goal of the doctoral program in Health Services Research is to provide interdisciplinary training in research, practice, and policy analysis relevant to the planning, administration, management, and evaluation of health and public health programs. The degree program will prepare students to advance research, policy, and practice to order to improve access, cost, and quality of health services, with a particular emphasis on federal, state, and local health policy. The Ph.D. in Health Services Research requires a minimum of 50 credits organized in four modules. After module 1 (required core health services research courses), students select a cognate area or track. Potential tracks are: health economics, health policy, health equity/sociology of health, and an interdisciplinary track (developed with advisor's approval). Together with their advisor, students select 5 elective courses in the track of which 2 must be methods courses relevant to the cognate area. After completing the track coursework, students must pass a qualifying exam. All students must take an ethics course, a proposal development course and must pass an oral proposal defense to be admitted to candidacy. After candidacy, students take a graduate seminar, and dissertation credits which culminate in a doctoral dissertation and an oral dissertation defense. For further information go to <https://sph.umd.edu/academics/doctoral-degrees/phd-health-services-research> (<https://sph.umd.edu/academics/doctoral-degrees/phd-health-services-research/>).

## CONTACT

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**Website:** <https://sph.umd.edu/academics/doctoral-degrees/phd-health-services-research> (<https://sph.umd.edu/academics/doctoral-degrees/phd-health-services-research/>)

**Relationships:** Health Administration (HLSA) (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/health-administration-hlsa/>) Health Equity (HLEQ) (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/health-equity-hleq/>) Health Policy Analysis and Evaluation (HPAE) (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/health-policy-analysis-evaluation-hpae/>) Principles of Public Health (Z076) (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/principles-public-health-z076/>) Public Health Practice and Policy (PHPP) (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/public-health-practice-policy-phpp/>)

**Courses:** SPHL (<https://umd-curr.courseleaf.com/graduate/courses/sphl/>) HLSA (<https://umd-curr.courseleaf.com/graduate/courses/hlsa/>)

## Admissions

The Ph.D. in Health Services Research program has a two-step application process. Applicants first submit the SOPHAS application ([www.sophas.org](http://www.sophas.org) (<https://sophas.org/>)), the centralized application service for schools and programs of public health (Step 1). Once the SOPHAS application has been verified applicants will submit their UMD Supplemental application (Step 2). Applicants will receive an email from the SPH Admissions team with instructions for how to complete the UMD Supplemental Application. Applications will not be reviewed until both the SOPHAS and UMD Supplemental applications are completed.

## GENERAL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum 3.0 undergraduate GPA
- Transcripts from all previous coursework
- English proficiency test score (TOEFL, IELTS or PTE) (international applicants (<https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/english-language-proficiency-requirements/>))
- Statement of purpose and objectives including career and educational goals, professional experience, and research areas of interest

## PROGRAM SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

- SOPHAS application (Step 1) & UMD Supplemental application (Step 2)
- Masters degree and course work in public health or related areas
- Three letters of recommendation
- Resume or curriculum vitae
- Fit between applicant's goals, expectations and research interests and program competencies and faculty expertise
- Official GRE Test Score submission is **required**. GRE taken within the past 5 years should be in the 50th percentile or higher. Please have ETS send scores to SOPHAS (code 0485) and UMD (code 5814)

For detailed instructions on how to submit your application, please visit the School of Public Health Website: <https://sph.umd.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/graduate-application-process> (<https://sph.umd.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/graduate-application-process/>).

## APPLICATION DEADLINES

Type of Applicant	Fall Deadline
<b>Domestic Applicants</b>	
US Citizens and Permanent Residents	SOPHAS - Priority: 12 Nov / Final: 11 Feb
	Supplemental - Priority: Dec 10 / Final: Mar 11
<b>International Applicants</b>	
F (student) or J (exchange visitor) visas; A,E,G,H,I and L visas and immigrants	SOPHAS - Priority: 12 Nov / Final: 11 Feb
	Supplemental - Priority: Dec 10 / Final: Mar 11

## RESOURCES AND LINKS

**Program Website:** <https://sph.umd.edu/academics/doctoral-degrees/phd-health-services-research> (<https://sph.umd.edu/academics/doctoral-degrees/phd-health-services-research/>)

**Application Process:** <https://sph.umd.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/graduate-application-process> (<https://sph.umd.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/graduate-application-process/>)

**Admissions FAQ:** <https://sph.umd.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/graduate-application-faqs> (<https://sph.umd.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/graduate-application-faqs/>)

## Requirements

- Health Services Research, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/health-services-phhs/health-services-phd/>)