



**University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey
School of Health Related Professions
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Health Sciences**

Program Description

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Health Sciences Program is coordinated by the UMNDJ-School of Health Related Professions (SHRP) Department of Interdisciplinary Studies in collaboration with other SHRP Departments and other units of the University. The Program prepares practicing health care professionals to assume leadership roles in the research, academic and/or clinical settings. To that end, the Program emphasizes the rigorous application of research and scholarship as the basis for identifying and addressing the many issues and questions arising in our complex health care delivery and education systems. The Program requires a minimum of 60 credits beyond the master's degree.

The Program emphasizes independent/directed study and research under the guidance of a faculty advisor. Of the 60 credits needed for the degree, only about a third represent required courses. In collaboration with the advisor, a student can tailor the remainder of the Program to meet individual research goals and career aspirations, including the number of credits devoted to specialization courses and dissertation study. In addition, the Program provides several options for meeting course requirements, including independent study, pre-approved registration at other colleges or universities (including online courses), portfolio assessment and credit by examination (for selected courses).

Complementing the Program's flexible credit options are its innovative delivery approach and practical research and residency requirements. *Most courses are Web-based*, providing students with significant control over when and where their learning takes place. With advisor approval, project or dissertation research can be conducted off-campus and students can fulfill their residency requirements by attending one 2-day on-campus seminar (to include providing a scholarly presentation) and defending their dissertation in-person. This allows students in most specializations to complete essentially all their Program requirements at remote locations, necessitating only two campus visits.

Students can pursue a specialization in any area supported by an available faculty research advisor having the applicable expertise. Currently, PhD research advisement is available in the following areas:

Cardiopulmonary Sciences	Physical Therapy/Movement Science
Clinical Laboratory Sciences	Nutrition
Interdisciplinary Studies	Tailored Specialization

Current information on the PhD in Health Sciences specialization tracks, including eligibility and course requirements is available online at www.umdj.edu/idsweb/documents/phd_specializations.htm

Program Outcomes and Objectives

Expected Outcomes and Objectives

The Program promotes the general outcomes established for doctorally-prepared graduates of the School of Health Related Professions (see SHRP catalog). Specific objectives targeted by the Program include graduates' abilities to:

- Function in a leadership role in the research, academic and/or clinical setting;
- Plan, conduct and defend original research that creates or tests new concepts, hypotheses, models and/or theories;
- Apply research findings in the design and/or evaluation of new methods or approaches to diagnostic or treatment services, health care delivery systems or patient or health professions education
- Work collaboratively with others to advance the scientific bases of knowledge in the health professions via ongoing research and scholarship
- Critically review, appraise and synthesize the health sciences literature;
- Demonstrate competency in oral, written and electronic modes of communication, using both scholarly and technical formats;
- Apply computer and information technologies to address both theoretical and practical problems, enhance communication and disseminate knowledge;
- Integrate basic principles of ethics and cultural sensitivity within all interpersonal and professional activities.

Admissions

Eligibility

The Program is designed for **health related professionals** with training or experience in the application of scientific knowledge or methods in the delivery of health care or related services. This includes but is not limited to the following areas: communication disorders sciences; community health services; dentistry and allied dental services; dietetic services and nutrition science; diagnostic imaging; emergency medical and acute care/life support technologies; epidemiology; health care informatics; health services and health research management and administration; health and medical assisting; medical laboratory technologies; medicine; mental health services; nursing; optometry; pharmacy; public health; physical, vocational and psychosocial rehabilitation therapies; speech language pathology; and veterinary medicine. In addition, applicants must have earned at least a master's degree with an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher, and, where applicable, be licensed or certified to practice in their field. UMDNJ places no restrictions on prospective applicants because of their color, creed, race, sex, age, marital status, or national origin. Admission of disabled students is governed by the University Policy regarding disabled persons.

Requirements

The deadline for receipt of all admissions materials is March 1 each year for Fall matriculation (applicants may take up to 12 credits as a nonmatriculant, which can be applied to fulfill the program requirements upon admission). All applications will be reviewed for completeness. Only complete applications are forwarded to the Admissions Committee. A complete application must include the following:

1. completed UMDNJ–SHRP application + all applicable fees
2. official transcript of highest degree
3. Graduate Record Examination General test scores forwarded by ETS to UMDNJ-SHRP (institutional code: R3116). Notes: (a) according to ETS policy, GRE scores are only reportable for 5 years; (b) applicants should take the GRE early enough to ensure that their scores are received by the submission deadline; (c) because the GRE is one of many factors in the admission decision, we do not apply or set any minimum score or cut-off for either the test as a whole or its components.
4. three recommendations, preferably from professional colleagues/supervisors or from course instructors (form is online at: www.umdnj.edu/idsweb/documents/recommendation_form.pdf)
5. statement of research interests
6. resume or curriculum vita
7. a copy of one's current state license and/or professional certification, if applicable (please note that some courses or activities may require that students in licensed professions hold a valid NJ license).

International students must comply with the applicable University and School guidelines, which include the following: (1) achieving a score of 550 or higher on the written Test of English as a Foreign Language (or 213 on the computer-based version), and (2) providing an external evaluation of all foreign transcripts from an agency approved by the Office of Enrollment Services that verifies US baccalaureate equivalency.

Admission Process

Admission to the program involves the following three stages:

1. The Admissions Committee reviews complete applications and recommends the best candidates for interview.
2. The best-qualified candidates undergo a general interview by a team of faculty. Candidates recommended for further consideration by the interview team normally are invited to schedule a one-on-one meeting with a faculty member identified as potential research advisor.
3. Candidates who obtain the support of a faculty member willing to serve as their research advisor receive an offer of admission.

Applicants will be notified of their application status by mail; those accepted into the Program will be mailed an official notification of admission, including all required admissions materials. Matriculation as a student in the Program is contingent on return and receipt of all required materials, including the signed acceptance of admission and any requisite fees. Because the Program makes extensive use of information technologies, *all matriculants are required to have and maintain remote (off-campus) access to Internet services, to include at least Web browsing capability and an e-mail client.* The University does not provide these services, but does provide all matriculants with an e-mail address and access to its network, including the UMDNJ Library journal and full-text research databases.

Curriculum Requirements

Course #	Course Title	Credits
Core - 9 credits		
IDST5000	Information Management and Communications Technology	3
IDST5140	Teaching in the Health Professions	3
IDST7000	Doctoral Seminar	3
<i>Students must enroll at least three times in IDST7000, for a total of at least 3 credits. Students may choose which semesters to enroll; however, this requirement normally must be completed before starting dissertation phase</i>		
Research Methods – 12 credits (1 course in each of the following categories):		
IDST6000	Research Methods for the Health Sciences	3
IDST6121	Data Analysis & Interpretation I*	3
IDST6122	Data Analysis & Interpretation II	3
IDST6400	Critical Literature Review and Scientific Writing	3
Specialization/Electives – 12-24 credits+#		
IDST7100	Current Literature	3
IDST6980	Graduate Project	3-6
	Other Specialization/Electives (advisor approval)	6-15
Candidacy – 3 credits		
IDST8000	Candidacy	3
Dissertation – 12-24 credits#		
IDST8121	Dissertation Seminar I	3-6
IDST8222	Dissertation Seminar II	3-6
IDST8323	Dissertation Seminar III	3-6
IDST8424	Dissertation Seminar IV	3-6
Curriculum Total[^]		60

Notes:

* Students who have completed a graduate statistics course within the last 5 years may challenge this requirement via examination or portfolio assessment.

+The Specialization/Electives category can include up to 9 credits of independent study. Any/all of the ‘other’ specialization/elective courses can be taken by pre-approval at any regionally accredited US college or university (including online). Alternatively, portfolio assessment or credit by examination is available for selected courses.

#The distribution of dissertation and specialization credits vary according to the student’s program plan, but must together total 36 credits, with a minimum of 12 credits in each category.

[^]Normally, no more than 18 credits of prior graduate coursework may be considered for transfer and only courses in which the student received a grade of "B" or higher; credits previously approved to fulfill a first Master’s degree are not normally acceptable for transfer; to be considered for transfer, all prior coursework must first meet the standards of currency and rigor, as evaluated by the applicable UMDNJ faculty, whose decision is final; transfer credit normally is not granted for entry-level professional coursework; transfer credits cannot be applied to any dissertation phase courses and normally are not considered in structuring the Candidacy examination.

Residency, Project and Research Requirements

All PhD students must (1) attend at least one on-campus IDST7000 Doctoral Seminar Research Symposium (1-1/2 to 2 days); (2) provide an in-person scholarly presentation on a pre-approved topic at a Research Symposium (can be the same as the one attended); and (3) publicly defend their dissertation on a pre-arranged date on a UMDNJ campus.

By arrangement, all PhD students conducting project or research activities have access to all University facilities. If prospectively approved by their advisor, students may pursue project or research activities off-campus. In these cases, the student assumes primary responsibility for identifying the institution, agency or facility to be used and gaining its administrative approval. For project activity, a separate joint letter of agreement covering liability issues will be secured by the Program. For human subjects research, students must seek and secure IRB approval from both the off-campus site and UMDNJ prior to collecting any data.

Typical PhD Course Sequences
Based on 24 Credit Specialization/12 Credit Dissertation

<i>Typical Full-Time Sequence</i>	Course Credits	<i>Typical Part-Time Sequence</i>	Course Credits
Fall I		Fall I	
Information Mgmt & Comm Tech	3	Information Mgmt & Comm Tech	3
Data Analysis & Interpretation I	3	Data Analysis & Interpretation I	3
Research Methods	3		
Specialization or Elective	3	Spring I	
		Data Analysis & Interpretation II	3
		Specialization or Elective	3
Spring I		Fall II	
Critical Lit Review and Sci Writing	3	Research Methods	3
Data Analysis & Interpretation II	3	Specialization or Elective	3
Specialization or Elective	3		
		Spring II	
Summer I		Critical Lit Review and Sci Writing	3
Specialization, Elective, Ind Study	3	Specialization or Elective	3
Specialization or Elective	3		
		Summer II	
Fall II		Specialization or Elective	3
Teaching Health Professions	3		
Specialization or Elective	3	Fall III	
Current Literature Hlth Sciences	3	Teaching Health Professions	3
Doctoral Seminar	1	Doctoral Seminar	1
Spring II		Spring III	
Specialization, Elective, Ind Study	3	Specialization, Elective, Ind Study	3
Project	3	Project	3
Candidacy	3		
		Summer III	
Summer II		Current Literature Hlth Sciences	3
Dissertation Seminar I	3		
		Fall IV	
Fall III		Specialization, Elective, Ind Study	3
Dissertation Seminar II	3	Candidacy	3
Doctoral Seminar	1		
		Spring IV	
Spring III		Dissertation Seminar I	3
Dissertation Seminar III	3	Doctoral Seminar	1
Doctoral Seminar	1		
		Summer IV	
Summer III or Fall IV		Dissertation Seminar II	3
Dissertation Seminar IV	3		
		Fall V	
		Dissertation Seminar III	3
		Doctoral Seminar	1
		Spring V	
		Dissertation Seminar IV	3
TOTAL	60	TOTAL	60

Note: the above are typical sequences for a program with 24 credits of specialization and 12 credits of dissertation seminar/advisement and are provided as examples only. Your program may vary from these examples. These examples do not represent either actual course schedules or a commitment to a particular schedule. For up-to-date scheduling information, always consult the applicable schedule, as regularly published by the School of Health Related Professions.

For more information on the Program contact:

Director, MS & PhD Programs in Health Sciences
65 Bergen Street Room 311
Newark, NJ 07107-1709
973-972- 8576
E-mail: MS-PhD-HS@umdnj.edu

To request an Application for Admission contact:

UMDNJ-School of Health Related Professions
Office of Enrollment Services
65 Bergen Street Room 101
Newark, NJ 07107-1709
(973) 972-5454
E-mail: shrpadm@umdnj.edu