

College of Health Care Sciences

# Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Health Science

Online Program

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY  
HEALTH PROFESSIONS DIVISION  
ENTERING CLASS 2018



# Doctor of Philosophy in Health Science

The Doctor of Philosophy [Ph.D.] in Health Science is a postprofessional, distance-based research doctoral program designed for master's and professional doctoral degree-prepared clinical health professionals, public health practitioners, and senior-level health care administrators. Our students demonstrate expert practice of a recognized health occupation at a professional level or five years of administrative experience in a health care organization with progressively increasing responsibilities during that time. The focus of the Ph.D. in Health Science is to educate and graduate research practitioners with the skills and knowledge necessary to conduct research in a complex society and environment while they focus globally within the framework of health policy.

## THE DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN HEALTH SCIENCE IS DESIGNED TO

- provide a means of Ph.D. completion for working health care professionals currently at the master's and professional doctoral degree levels
- increase opportunities for health practitioners to earn terminal degrees in the field of health science with a core focus in research
- prepare graduates to function both independently and interdependently within the clinical and nonclinical research environment
- prepare graduates for advanced development of new knowledge in their fields of expertise

This brochure is for information purposes only and does not represent a contract. Information contained herein is subject to change at any time by administrative decision on the direction of the board of trustees. Updated information can be found at the website [<http://healthsciences.nova.edu/healthsciences/phd/index.html>].

The Ph.D. in Health Science program challenges students to examine the current state of health care; apply sophisticated knowledge of research design, biostatistics, and epidemiology to the literature of their core disciplines; and initiate the design and follow-up mechanisms for research in health care. Its professor-driven, student-centered, online course delivery is coupled with a research practicum; a minimum of two one-week, on-campus institutes; a comprehensive examination; and a dissertation with an oral defense.



# Admissions Requirements

The Ph.D. program will admit health care professionals with diverse graduate education, professional-level health care work history, and life experiences who have demonstrated capacity to pursue a rigorous course of graduate study and increasingly responsible positions in health care.

The Ph.D. Committee on Admissions will recommend prospective students for admission by considering the overall qualities of the applicant through Graduate Record Examination [GRE] scores, statement of intent, writing samples, letters of recommendation, and the personal interview.

1. All applicants must hold a master's or professional doctoral degree [e.g., Au.D., D.P.T., O.T.D.] degree from a regionally accredited college or university, prior to matriculation into the program.



2. Applicants must demonstrate a minimum cumulative master's or professional doctoral degree GPA of 3.0 or better on a 4.0 scale.
3. Applicants must have official Graduate Record Examination (GRE) recommended scores of 150 (verbal), 149 (quantitative) and 4 (analytical writing). GRE scores must be less than five years old at the time of the applicant's matriculation into the Ph.D. program.
4. Prior health care or health research experience is required and is strongly considered in the admissions process. Applicants must submit a copy of their current state license and/or professional certification or verifiable documentation regarding this experience to the Office of Admissions.



# Admissions Requirements [Continued]

The successful applicant's health profession may emphasize delivery of services to individual clients (e.g., Au.D., PA, PT, OT, R.N., LCSW) or be population-based (e.g., M.P.H., M.H.A.). An appropriate level of professional practice is generally recognized by health professions licensure (e.g., Au.D., R.N., PT, OT, RDH), a national certification or registration (e.g., PA-C, RVT, RRT, CRNA, FACHE), a recognized academic credential (e.g., M.P.H., M.S.N., M.S.W., M.H.A., M.B.A., J.D., M.A. or M.S. in Audiology, D.P.T., O.T.D.), or a combination of the above. The successful administrative applicant will demonstrate at least five years of professional experience with increasing levels of responsibility in a health care setting. Professional experience will be documented by an organizational chart demonstrating the applicant's position within the organization and a letter of recommendation from a supervisor attesting to the applicant's level of responsibility within the organization. Health care administrators will also need to submit a statement concerning their career and professional goals within the health care environment. Fellowship or certification by a recognized health certifying body (e.g., FACHE) is desirable. All questions regarding the appropriateness of an applicant's qualifications for admission can be discussed with the department chair or program director on an informal basis, but the official recommendations are made by the Committee on Admissions to the dean of the College of Health Care Sciences, who makes the final determination.

5. Applicant must have a personal interview with the Ph.D. Interview Committee [telephonic or Skype interview is accepted based on the applicant's needs].

Applicants must also provide

- two letters of recommendation supporting the applicant's aptitude and determination to complete this course of study [The letters should originate from professional colleagues/supervisors or from course instructors at the last school attended.]
- one writing sample that reflects master's or doctoral degree-level original work
- a written statement describing the applicant's interest in pursuing a Ph.D. in Health Science, research interests, and career goals
- a resume or curriculum vitae
- a completed application for admission along with official transcripts from all graduate study
- evidence of computer skills through coursework or self-study prior to the end of the first semester [Students may obtain instruction through the NSU Student Microcomputer Laboratory, the Health Science Online Orientation, or other training facilities.]

Admissions information and applications may be obtained from the

Nova Southeastern University  
Health Professions Division  
Office of Admissions  
3200 South University Drive  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33328-2018

For more information, please visit  
**[healthsciences.nova.edu](http://healthsciences.nova.edu)** or call (954) 262-1101.

# Application Procedures

The Ph.D. Office of Admissions admits students for the fall and winter semesters. All final documentation must be received at least 30 days prior to tentative enrollment.

Before the applicant can be reviewed for possible admission, the following must be submitted:

1. a completed application form and a \$50, nonrefundable application fee
2. official GRE scores, sent directly from the Educational Testing Service [ETS]
3. official transcripts, sent directly from all previously attended professional and graduate institutions

Send all official documents (including GRE scores and transcripts) to

Nova Southeastern University  
Enrollment Processing Services  
College of Health Care Sciences Admissions  
3301 College Avenue, P.O. Box 299000  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33329-9905

4. an evaluation for U.S. institutional equivalence for all coursework from international institution(s), if applicant attended or is a graduate of any international institution(s)

Coursework taken at a foreign institution must be evaluated for U.S. institution equivalence by an approved National Association of Credential Evaluation Services [NACES] organization. A listing of appropriate foreign evaluation services can be found on our website [[nova.edu/internationalstudents/prospective/credentialservices.html](http://nova.edu/internationalstudents/prospective/credentialservices.html)].

It is the applicant's responsibility to have this coursework evaluated. An official course-by-course evaluation with a cumulative grade point average



must be sent directly from the evaluation service to Nova Southeastern University's Enrollment Processing Services, at the address above.

5. a complete resume or CV
6. copies of state, national, and professional certifications or licenses recognized by certifying bodies
7. two letters of recommendation stating that the applicant possesses the aptitude and determination to complete this course of study [The letters should originate from professional colleagues/supervisors or from course instructors at the last school attended.]
8. one writing sample that reflects master's- or doctoral-level original work
9. a written statement describing the applicant's interest in pursuing a Ph.D. in Health Science, research interests, and career goals

Applicant must also have a personal interview with the Ph.D. Interview Committee. [A telephone or Skype interview is accepted, based on the applicant's needs.]

Nonclinical applicants [health administrators] must also include a letter of recommendation from a supervisor describing their position in the organization and the scope and duration of their responsibility, a personal statement describing their career goals, and an organizational chart.

The Ph.D. Committee on Admission will not consider an application until all required fees, credentials, exam scores, transcripts, and documents are received by the committee.

# Program Facts

- online delivery with on-campus institutes
- 68 credits for completion
- successful completion of comprehensive exam required before moving to dissertation stage
- dissertation with on-campus, oral final defense
- up to seven years to complete the program

## TRANSFER CREDITS

Students matriculated in the Ph.D. program may petition for a transfer of credits into the program. These credits can be transferred from doctoral courses taken at regionally accredited colleges or universities. All courses to be transferred must be substantially equivalent to courses taught in the program, as determined by the program director and appropriate faculty members. A student who wishes to have a course taken at another institution reviewed for transfer credit must submit a copy of the course syllabus to the program office. Each petition for transfer credit will be reviewed on an individual basis.

## COMPUTER REQUIREMENTS

It is highly recommended that the student have access to a desktop or laptop consistent with a recent generation of Microsoft Windows (7 or 8), or Apple OS (10.8 or above), and compatible Microsoft Office software to include Word, PowerPoint, and Excel. Tablets and smartphones, while very useful, may not be sufficient for all program uses. The computing platform should include headphones, microphone, camera, and videoconferencing capabilities. Broadband access is essential. Surge protection and appropriate back-up options are strongly suggested. Upon admission, minimum computer requirements can be found at <https://www.nova.edu/publications/it-standards>.

# Course of Study



## DHS Core Courses—24 Credits

<b>COURSES</b>	<b>CREDITS</b>
DHS 8030 Community Health Promotion and Disease Prevention	4
DHS 8080 Conflict Resolution in Health Care [required summer institute course]	4
DHS 8090 Health Policy, Planning, and Management	4
DHS 8170 Leadership in Health Care [required summer institute course]	4
DHS 8810 Global Epidemiology	4
HSP 9006 Evidence-Based Medical Practice	4

# Course of Study

[Continued]

## HPD Research Courses—18 Credits

COURSES	CREDITS
HPH 7300 Biostatistics I	3
HPH 7310 Biostatistics II	3
HPH 7400 Research Design	3
HPH 7410 Qualitative Research Design	3
OR [ HPH 7500 Philosophy of Science	3
HPH 7600 Grant Writing	3
HPH 7700 Test and Measurements	3

## Health Science Research Core—26 Credits

COURSES	CREDITS
HSP 9001 Behavioral Theories in Health Science	3
HSP 9002 Survey Methodology	3
HSP 9004 Research Ethics	3
HSP 9007 Research Practicum [required winter institute]	4
HSP 9010 Research Practicum Continued	2*

\*continuing service charge

## HSP 9008 Comprehensive Exam—1 Credit

The comprehensive examination is a written examination that will assess students' integrative and analytical skills with regard to the core doctoral curriculum courses. Students will take and pass the three questions on the comprehensive examination after the completion of all the required coursework and before beginning the dissertation phase of the Ph.D. program. Successful completion of the comprehensive examination is required for students to move to advanced standing and begin dissertation research. The comprehensive examination is offered two times per academic year, taking place during the summer and

winter semesters, on the Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus of Nova Southeastern University in Florida.

### **HSP 9011, 9012, 9013, 9014, 9015, and 9016 Dissertation—12 Credits**

The dissertation is scheduled as six courses taken over two years. This includes the Dissertation Preparation Seminar, Proposal, Dissertation, and Oral Defense. Each student will conduct original research in an area of his or her expertise or concentration, as approved by the program chair and dissertation committee, with verification of a presentation or publication. The dissertation will culminate with an oral final defense, which will occur in person at the summer or winter institute, or on the Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus. The oral defense must be arranged at least 45 days in advance. Process and requirements are detailed in the ***Health Professions Division College of Health Care Sciences Dissertation Guide***.

### **HSP 9017 Dissertation Continuation—2 Credits**

For any additional semester after the initial six dissertation courses, students will register for the dissertation continuation course with a continuing service charge to maintain the students' full-time enrollment. Students' progress through dissertation continuation may increase their total number of degree credits beyond the required 68.

### **On-Campus Institutes**

These one-week sessions are located either on the Health Professions Division complex on NSU's Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus or at the NSU campus in Tampa, both in Florida. Three institute courses are required to complete the Ph.D. degree.

# Requirements for Graduation

To be eligible to receive the Ph.D. in Health Science degree, students must

1. be of good moral character
2. successfully complete the minimum required coursework of 68 semester hours
3. successfully complete the research practicum
4. pass all three questions on the comprehensive exam
5. complete a dissertation based on original research in an area of the student's expertise or concentration, as approved by the program director and dissertation committee
6. defend the dissertation, as determined by the dissertation committee, with verification of presentation or publication



# Tuition, Fees, and Financial Aid

## TUITION AND FEES

Tuition for 2018–2019 will be posted on our website [<http://healthsciences.nova.edu/healthsciences/phd/tuition-fees.html>]. Additional expenses and fees may be incurred. Examples include, but are not limited to, travel to and from campus, graduation fees, and books. Students are responsible for purchasing any required textbooks and/or classroom materials. An NSU student services fee of \$1,050 is also required annually. Additionally, each semester, students must pay a registration fee of \$25 or a deferment fee of \$75 if a payment plan is selected. All tuition and fees are subject to change by the board of trustees without notice.

## FINANCIAL AID

The Office of Student Financial Assistance at NSU is there to help as many qualified students as possible to complete their health professions education. Various loans, scholarships, and grants are available to qualified students to help ease the high cost of a health professions education. These financial assistance programs are described on our website [[nova.edu/financialaid](http://nova.edu/financialaid)].

For information on financial assistance, contact

Nova Southeastern University  
Office of Student Financial Assistance  
3301 College Avenue  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33314-7796  
[954] 262-3380

Nova Southeastern University admits students of any race, color, sexual orientation, and national or ethnic origin. • Nova Southeastern University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate's, baccalaureate, master's, educational specialist, doctorate, and professional degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Nova Southeastern University. 01-071-17MCP



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UNIVERSITY**

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***nova.edu***