



Twin Cities Campus

Health Services Research, Policy, and Administration Ph.D.

School of Public Health - Admin

School of Public Health

Link to a [list of faculty](#) for this program.

Contact Information:

School of Public Health, MMC 819, A395 Mayo Memorial Building, 420 Delaware Street, Minneapolis, MN 55455 (612-626-3500 OR 1-800-774-8636, Fax: 612-624-4498)

Email: sph-oasr@umn.edu

Website: <http://www.sph.umn.edu>

- Program Type: Doctorate
- Requirements for this program are current for Spring 2018
- Length of program in credits: 69 to 82
- This program does not require summer semesters for timely completion.
- Degree: Doctor of Philosophy

Along with the program-specific requirements listed below, please read the [General Information](#) section of the catalog website for requirements that apply to all major fields.

Health services research is a multidisciplinary field of study. Health services researchers examine how social factors, government policies, financing systems, organizational structures, and personal behaviors affect access to needed care, the quality of care provided, and the cost of care delivery. The focus of research is broad and includes individuals, families, providers, healthcare organizations, communities, and populations. The field of health services research is ultimately interested in both "health," understood as health status and well-being, as well as "health care," understood as the effective delivery of healthcare services.

The doctoral program in health services research, policy, and administration is primarily for students interested in academic careers or senior research positions in government or the private sector. The core curriculum is a multidisciplinary examination of the social, political, and economic forces that affect the organization, financing, and delivery of health care services. The emphasis is on theory, modeling, and quantitative methods. Coursework is complemented by the student's involvement with faculty on health services research projects, through weekly academic research seminars, doctoral colloquia, and conference presentations.

Students come from a variety of educational backgrounds, including decision sciences, economics, political science, sociology, business, engineering, and public affairs. Strong quantitative skills are essential.

Program Delivery

This program is available:

- via classroom (the majority of instruction is face-to-face)

Prerequisites for Admission

The preferred undergraduate GPA for admittance to the program is 3.00.

Other requirements to be completed before admission:

Preferred GRE scores from exams taken before August 1, 2012 are: Verbal: 600, Quantitative: 600, Analytical Writing: 5.0. Minimum GRE scores taken after Aug. 1, 2012 are: 300 (combined verbal and quantitative), and 4.0 Analytical Writing.

The PhD program requires prerequisites in calculus and statistics. Applicants who have not completed the prerequisites, but are otherwise qualified for admission, are required to take relevant courses at the University or another accredited institution before beginning the program.

Special Application Requirements:

Please visit www.sph.umn.edu for admission requirements

Applicants must submit their test score(s) from the following:

- GRE
 - General Test - Verbal Reasoning: 153
 - General Test - Quantitative Reasoning: 144
 - General Test - Analytical Writing: 5

International applicants must submit score(s) from one of the following tests:



- TOEFL
 - Internet Based - Total Score: 100
 - Paper Based - Total Score: 600
- IELTS
 - Total Score: 7
- MELAB
 - Final score: 80

The preferred English language test is Test of English as Foreign Language

Key to [test abbreviations](#) (GRE, TOEFL, IELTS, MELAB).

For an online application or for more information about graduate education admissions, see the [General Information](#) section of the catalog website.

Program Requirements

33 to 46 credits are required in the major.
12 credits are required outside the major.
24 thesis credits are required.

This program may be completed with a minor.

Use of 4xxx courses towards program requirements is not permitted.

A minimum GPA of 3.00 is required for students to remain in good standing.

At least 4 semesters must be completed before filing a Degree Program Form.

Required Coursework

Take all of the following core courses, including the biostatistics or econometrics series, for a total of 31 credits.

- [PUBH 8810](#) - Research Studies in Health Care (3.0 cr)
- [PUBH 8811](#) - Research Methods in Health Care (3.0 cr)
- [PUBH 8830](#) - Writing for Research (2.0 cr)
- [PUBH 8831](#) - Writing for Research (2.0 cr)
- [PUBH 6832](#) - Economics of the Health Care System (3.0 cr)
- [PUBH 6855](#) - Medical Sociology (3.0 cr)
- [PUBH 6742](#) - Ethics in Public Health: Research and Policy (1.0 cr)
- [PUBH 8801](#) - Health Services Policy Analysis: Theory (1.0 cr)
- [PUBH 8341](#) - Advanced Epidemiologic Methods: Concepts (3.0 cr)

Biostatistics and Econometrics Options

Complete the 31-credit core course requirement by taking the biostatistics or econometrics series.

Biostatistics

To complete the biostatistics series, take the following courses for 8 credits:

- [PUBH 7401](#) - Fundamentals of Biostatistical Inference (4.0 cr)
- [PUBH 7402](#) - Biostatistics Modeling and Methods (4.0 cr)

or Econometrics

To complete the econometrics series, take the following courses for 8 credits:

- [APEC 8211](#) - Econometric Analysis I (2.0 cr)
- [APEC 8212](#) - Econometric Analysis II (2.0 cr)

Thesis Credits

Take at least 24 doctoral thesis credits.

- [PUBH 8888](#) - Thesis Credit: Doctoral (1.0 - 24.0 cr)

Concentration Areas

Multidisciplinary Social Science

Required Concentration Coursework

- [PUBH 8805](#) - Sociological Theory in Health Services Research (3.0 cr)
- [APEC 5151](#) - Applied Microeconomics: Firm and Household (3.0 cr)

Required Theory Course

Choose a theory course from the list below, in consultation with your advisor.

- [PUBH 6862](#) - Cost-Effectiveness Analysis in Health Care (3.0 cr)



or [PUBH 8821](#) - Health Economics II (3.0 cr)
or [APEC 8203](#) - Applied Welfare Economics and Public Policy (3.0 cr)
or [SOC 8701](#) - Sociological Theory (4.0 cr)
or [SOC 8721](#) - Social Psychology: Micro-Sociological Approaches to Inequalities and Identities (3.0 cr)
or [PUBH 8804](#) - Advanced Quantitative Methods Seminar (3.0 cr)
or [PUBH 6717](#) - Decision Analysis for Health Care (2.0 cr)
or [PUBH 6809](#) - Advanced Methods in Health Decision Science (3.0 cr)

Supporting Program Requirement

Take at least 12 outside credits in consultation with the advisor and concentration faculty.

-OR-

Health Organizations and Management Science

Required Concentration Coursework

Take 6 - 8 credit(s) from the following:

- [MGMT 8301](#) ~~(Inactive)~~ (4.0 cr)
- [MGMT 8302](#) - Seminar in Organizational Theory (4.0 cr)
- [SCO 8745](#) ~~(Inactive)~~ (3.0 cr)
- [PUBH 8894](#) - Directed Research: Health Services Research, Policy, and Administration (1.0 - 8.0 cr)
- [HRIR 8802](#) - Core Seminar: Organizational Behavior (4.0 cr)
- [IDSC 8721](#) - Behavioral Decision Theory (3.0 cr)

Required Methods Foundation Course

Take one of the following methods foundations courses:

- [SOC 8412](#) - Social Network Analysis: Theory and Methods (3.0 cr)
or [EPSY 5247](#) - Qualitative Methods in Educational Psychology (3.0 cr)
or [HRIR 8812](#) - Core Seminar: Research Methods in Work and Organizations (4.0 cr)

Supporting Program Requirement

Take at least 12 outside credits in consultation with the advisor and concentration faculty.

-OR-

Health Decision Science

Required Concentration Coursework

- [PUBH 6717](#) - Decision Analysis for Health Care (2.0 cr)
[PUBH 6862](#) - Cost-Effectiveness Analysis in Health Care (3.0 cr)
[PUBH 6809](#) - Advanced Methods in Health Decision Science (3.0 cr)

Additional Coursework

Take 2 or more credit(s) from the following:

- [IDSC 8721](#) - Behavioral Decision Theory (3.0 cr)
- [IDSC 8511](#) - Conceptual Topics and Research Methods in Information and Decision Sciences (3.0 cr)

Supporting Program Requirement

Take at least 12 outside credits from the list below, or other outside coursework, in consultation with the advisor and concentration faculty.

- [IE 5112](#) ~~(Inactive)~~ (3.0 cr)
[PUBH 7450](#) - Survival Analysis (3.0 cr)
[PUBH 7420](#) - Clinical Trials: Design, Implementation, and Analysis (3.0 cr)
[PUBH 7440](#) - Introduction to Bayesian Analysis (3.0 cr)

-OR-

Sociology of Health and Illness

Required Concentration Coursework

Theoretical Foundations Courses

Take 6 or more credit(s) from the following:

- [PUBH 8805](#) - Sociological Theory in Health Services Research (3.0 cr)
- [SOC 8701](#) - Sociological Theory (4.0 cr)
- [SOC 8731](#) - Sociology of Knowledge (3.0 cr)
- [SOC 8211](#) - The Sociology of Race & Racialization (3.0 cr)
- [MGMT 8302](#) - Seminar in Organizational Theory (4.0 cr)

Supporting Program Requirements

Take at least 12 outside credits in consultation with the advisor and concentration faculty. At least 8 credits must be from an area of specialization, and at least 4 credits must be advanced methodology coursework.

Specialization Courses

Take at least 8 credits from the following list:

- [SOC 8735](#) - Sociology of Culture (3.0 cr)
[SOC 8590](#) - Topics in Life Course Sociology (3.0 cr)
[SOC 8390](#) - Topics in Political Sociology (3.0 cr)
[SOC 8101](#) - Sociology of Law (3.0 cr)



[SOC 8290](#) - Topics in Race, Class, Gender and other forms of Durable Inequality (3.0 cr)

[SOC 8501](#) - Sociology of the Family (3.0 cr)

[SOC 8221](#) - Sociology of Gender (3.0 cr)

Advanced Methodology Courses

Take at least 4 credits from the following list:

[PSY 8881](#) - Seminar: Quantitative and Psychometric Methods (3.0 cr)

[PUBH 8813](#) - Measurement of Health-Related Social Factors (3.0 cr)

[PUBH 6811](#) *(Inactive)* (2.0 cr)

[POL 8126](#) - Qualitative Methods (3.0 cr)

[PUBH 6845](#) - Using Demographic Data for Policy Analysis (3.0 cr)

[PUBH 8804](#) - Advanced Quantitative Methods Seminar (3.0 cr)

-OR-

Clinical Outcomes Research

Required Concentration Coursework

[PUBH 6342](#) - Epidemiologic Methods II (3.0 cr)

[PUBH 6343](#) - Epidemiologic Methods III (4.0 cr)

[PUBH 6864](#) - Conducting Health Outcomes Research (3.0 cr)

[PUBH 6863](#) - Understanding Health Care Quality (2.0 cr)

[PUBH 6803](#) - Conducting a Systematic Literature Review (3.0 cr)

Supporting Program Requirement

Take at least outside 12 credits in consultation with the advisor and area of concentration faculty.

Take 12 or more credit(s) from the following:

• [PUBH 6717](#) - Decision Analysis for Health Care (2.0 cr)

• [PUBH 6862](#) - Cost-Effectiveness Analysis in Health Care (3.0 cr)

• [PUBH 8813](#) - Measurement of Health-Related Social Factors (3.0 cr)

• [PUBH 7430](#) - Statistical Methods for Correlated Data (3.0 cr)

• [PUBH 6810](#) - Survey Research Methods (3.0 cr)

• [PUBH 7450](#) - Survival Analysis (3.0 cr)

-OR-

Health Policy and Analysis

The health policy and analysis concentration requires students to complete [PUBH 6724](#) or [PUBH 6556](#) by the end of the first year in the program. Consult with the advisor and concentration faculty to determine whether the required prerequisite can be satisfied by testing out, or substituting other coursework.

Required Concentration Coursework

[PUBH 8802](#) - Health Services Policy Analysis: Applications (2.0 cr)

Supporting Program Requirement

Take at least 12 outside credits in consultation with the advisor and concentration faculty. Students can choose to complete the supporting program requirement one of two ways: a methods focus or a topic-specific focus.

Methods Focus

Students choosing this option are strongly encouraged to take [PUBH 6845](#) and [PUBH 8804](#).

Take 12 or more credit(s) from the following:

• [PUBH 6717](#) - Decision Analysis for Health Care (2.0 cr)

• [PUBH 6810](#) - Survey Research Methods (3.0 cr)

• [PUBH 6862](#) - Cost-Effectiveness Analysis in Health Care (3.0 cr)

• [PUBH 8813](#) - Measurement of Health-Related Social Factors (3.0 cr)

• [PUBH 6811](#) *(Inactive)* (2.0 cr)

• [PUBH 6845](#) - Using Demographic Data for Policy Analysis (3.0 cr)

• [PUBH 8804](#) - Advanced Quantitative Methods Seminar (3.0 cr)

or Topic-specific Focus

Take courses in focus areas such as LTC, economics, health disparities, or ethics. Approval of the concentration faculty is required prior to taking the courses.

-OR-

Health Economics

The health economics concentration requires prerequisites in calculus, statistics, and microeconomics. Consult with the advisor and concentration faculty about satisfying this requirement.

Required Concentration Coursework

Take the following coursework, including one microeconomics series.

[PUBH 8821](#) - Health Economics II (3.0 cr)

Required Microeconomics Series

Applied Microeconomics

[APEC 8001](#) - Applied Microeconomic Analysis of Consumer Choice and Consumer Demand (2.0 cr)

[APEC 8002](#) - Applied Microeconomic Analysis of Production and Choice Under Uncertainty (2.0 cr)



[APEC 8003](#) - Applied Microeconomic Analysis of Game Theory and Information (2.0 cr)

[APEC 8004](#) - Applied Microeconomic Analysis of Social Choice and Welfare (2.0 cr)

or Microeconomic Analysis

[ECON 8001](#) *{Inactive}* (2.0 cr)

[ECON 8002](#) *{Inactive}* (2.0 cr)

[ECON 8003](#) - Microeconomic Analysis (2.0 cr)

[ECON 8004](#) - Microeconomic Analysis (2.0 cr)

or Microeconomic Theory

[ECON 8101](#) - Microeconomic Theory (2.0 cr)

[ECON 8102](#) - Microeconomic Theory (2.0 cr)

[ECON 8103](#) - Microeconomic Theory (2.0 cr)

[ECON 8104](#) - Microeconomic Theory (2.0 cr)

Supporting Program Requirement

Take at least 12 outside credits in consultation with the advisor and concentration faculty. At least 8 of the 12 credits must be from the methods coursework list.

Take 12 or more credit(s) including 1 or more sub-requirements(s) from the following:

Methods Coursework

Choose at least two courses from the options below. Multi-course sequences count as one course, e.g. [APEC 8211](#) must be taken with [8212](#). [ECON 8205](#), must also include [8206](#), [8207](#), and [8208](#). [ECON 8117](#) must also include [8118](#).

Take 2 or more course(s) totaling 8 or more credit(s) from the following:

•[APEC 8211](#) - Econometric Analysis I (2.0 cr)

•[APEC 8212](#) - Econometric Analysis II (2.0 cr)

•[ECON 8205](#) - Applied Econometrics (2.0 cr)

•[ECON 8206](#) - Applied Econometrics (2.0 cr)

•[ECON 8207](#) - Applied Econometrics (2.0 cr)

•[ECON 8208](#) - Applied Econometrics (2.0 cr)

•[HRIR 8812](#) - Core Seminar: Research Methods in Work and Organizations (4.0 cr)

•[ECON 8117](#) - Noncooperative Game Theory (2.0 cr)

•[ECON 8118](#) - Noncooperative Game Theory (2.0 cr)

•[APEC 8202](#) - Mathematical Optimization in Applied Economics (3.0 cr)

•[APEC 8206](#) - Dynamic Optimization: Applications in Economics and Management (3.0 cr)

•[PUBH 8804](#) - Advanced Quantitative Methods Seminar (3.0 cr)

•Additional Supporting Program Coursework

Take additional outside coursework as needed to complete the 12-credit supporting program requirement, in consultation with the advisor and concentration faculty.

Take 0 or more course(s) from the following:

•[ECON 8xxx](#)

•[APEC 8xxx](#)

•[PUBH 6862](#) - Cost-Effectiveness Analysis in Health Care (3.0 cr)

Joint- or Dual-degree Coursework: Joint Degree with Law & PhD in Health Services Research, Policy & Administration (JD/PhD) Student may take a total of 12 credits in common among the academic programs.