Program Description

Degree Awarded: MS Exercise and Wellness

The MS program in exercise and wellness offers unique opportunities for those interested in becoming scholarly professionals with advanced training in fitness and wellness, strength and conditioning, exercise and physical activity health promotion, or exercise and chronic disease prevention. The degree program is appropriate for those who wish to pursue careers in commercial fitness and wellness, strength and conditioning, worksite or corporate fitness, community physical activity health promotion, personal training for health and performance or life coaching; for professionals in education, counseling, nutrition, or other health related fields who wish to expand their knowledge and skill for working with fitness, exercise and physical activity behavior; and for those who wish to pursue further graduate study in fields such as exercise physiology, public health or physical therapy.

At a Glance

- **College/School:** College of Health Solutions
- **Location:** Downtown Phoenix campus

Accelerated Degrees

This program allows students to obtain both a bachelor's and master's degree in as little as five years. It is offered as an **accelerated bachelor's and master's degree** with:

Exercise and Wellness, BS

Acceptance to the graduate program requires a separate application. During their junior year, eligible students will be advised by their academic departments to apply.
Degree Requirements

36 credit hours and a applied project, or
36 credit hours and a thesis, or
36 credit hours and a written comprehensive exam

Required Core (9 credit hours)
EXW 501 Research Statistics (3)
EXW 536 Physiological Aspects of Physical Activity and Chronic Disease (3)
EXW 542 Health Promotion (3)

Research (6 credit hours)
EXW 500 Research Methods (3)
EXW 591 Exercise and Wellness Seminar (1)
EXW 592 Research (2)

Electives (15-21 credit hours)

Culminating Experience (0-6 credit hours)
EXW 599 Thesis (6) or
EXW 593 Applied Project (6) or
written comprehensive exam (0)

Additional Curriculum Information
All students must focus their plan of study in one of two areas: health promotion and physical activity or fitness and conditioning. The focus will determine the choice of electives available to students. For a list of approved elective courses, students should see the academic unit.

All students are admitted to the nonthesis option but may apply to the thesis option.

The nonthesis option requires an applied project or a written comprehensive exam as the culminating experience. The nonthesis option is an appropriate choice for those students who cannot devote full-time to their research endeavors or for students who are seeking to continue their education, advance their skill level as practitioners or advance their current careers. Students who take the written comprehensive exam are required to take six additional elective courses in the focus area.

In the thesis option, the thesis is considered the final integrative experience of the degree; it involves conducting research that is guided by a recognized research paradigm (e.g., scientific, interpretive) and producing a scholarly report of the process and results. The thesis option is a good choice for students who are interested in pursuing more advanced graduate study in the field.
Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the College of Health Solutions.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree in a related field from a regionally accredited institution. Students are expected to have the coursework and undergraduate credit for the basic courses required for a BS degree in exercise and wellness. Students who do not have these course competencies can be admitted with deficiencies. Deficiencies are determined upon admission, and these courses must be completed, usually by the end of the first year of study. These courses are not considered part of the graduate plan of study. A graduate course may be substituted for a deficiency but will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of a student's first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. GRE scores
4. statement of career or research interests
5. three professional letters of recommendation
6. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information
An applicant whose native language is not English (regardless of current residency) must submit proof of English proficiency.

BIO 201 and BIO 202 must be completed prior to admission to the master's degree. Other deficiency courses may be taken prior to or during the master's degree program. The corresponding ASU course can be found in parentheses:

Human Anatomy and Laboratory (BIO 201 Human Anatomy and Physiology I)
Human Physiology and Laboratory (BIO 202 Human Anatomy and Physiology II)
Human Nutrition (NTR 241 Human Nutrition)
Exercise Physiology and Laboratory (EXW 315 Physiological Foundations of Movement)
Kinesiology and Laboratory (EXW 330 Kinesiological Foundations of Movement)
Exercise Testing and Laboratory (EXW 420 Exercise Testing)
Exercise Prescription (EXW 425 Exercise Prescription)

An undergraduate course in statistics is strongly recommended.
Students should see the program website for application deadlines.

Application Deadlines

Fall

Contact Information

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