Exercise and Nutritional Sciences, PhD

Are you interested in reducing the physical, social, and economic costs of poor nutrition and sedentary lifestyles to promote health and well-being? Learn to integrate multiple disciplines of health science, and develop and test effective physical activity and nutrition programs for all segments of society.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: PHD Exercise and Nutritional Sciences

In integrating disciplinary contexts, the PhD program in exercise and nutritional sciences is uniquely designed to train scholars to conduct high impact, transdisciplinary health promotion research that explores issues that contribute to health through chronic disease risk reduction, quality of life promotion and enhancement of well-being.

Students are actively engaged in research at every stage of the program through participation in research internships, independent research experiences, research seminars and colloquia, and dissertation research. They work collaboratively with an approved mentor from the beginning to the end of the doctoral program. A mentor is selected by mutual agreement between student and mentor based on mutually compatible research interests and funding availability.

Program graduates are prepared for research careers in research-intensive universities, governmental agencies and health-related research positions in private industry.

The program is four years of full-time study after earning a master's degree. The program accepts part-time students.

At a Glance

- **College/School**: [College of Health Solutions](#)
- **Location**: [Downtown Phoenix campus](#)

Degree Requirements
97 credit hours, a written comprehensive exam, an oral comprehensive exam, a prospectus and a dissertation

Required Core (6 credit hours)
EXW 640 Analysis of Variance for Exercise and Wellness (3)
EXW 643 Correlation/Regression/Multivariate Statistics (3)

Required Research (12 credit hours)

Elective Research (17 credit hours)

Professional Development (5 credit hours)

Area of Focus (theme) (15 credit hours)

Dissertation (12 credit hours)

Additional Curriculum Information
Students are to tailor a course of study in either: nutrition and health, or physical activity and health. Within these areas, students are expected to focus their study in a specific thematic area. There are eight thematic areas to choose from:

- behavioral aspects of nutrition and physical activity
- biomechanics, movement control and injury prevention
- chronic disease prevention
- energy balance, metabolism and physiology
- epidemiology, surveillance and measurement
- health information, communication and technology
- lifespan, aging and special populations
- public health, community and health policy

Courses in the focus or thematic area are determined by the student and supervisory committee. Up to three but not more than nine credit hours in the focus area may be taken from a program outside the nutrition, exercise science and health promotion programs.

When approved by the student's supervisory committee and Graduate College, 30 credit hours from a previously awarded master's degree are allowed to be used for this degree.

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 master's degree in any field, from a regionally accredited institution, and prefer that a data-based research thesis has been completed.

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, and applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (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 (verbal, quantitative and writing)
4. letter of intent
5. professional resume
6. three letters of recommendation
7. teaching or research assistantship application
8. writing sample (six to 10 pages)
9. an oral interview with program faculty (in person or via Skype) prior to acceptance
10. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information
An applicant whose native language is not English (regardless of current residency) must provide proof of English proficiency. Applicants must submit a TOEFL score unless the requirements for an exception have been met. Details are available at [https://admission.asu.edu/international/graduate/english-proficiency](https://admission.asu.edu/international/graduate/english-proficiency).

The letter of intent should indicate research or scholarly interest, primary program area, statement of career goals and name of a potential faculty mentor from the list of approved faculty mentors.

Prerequisites
All applicants must have taken a graduate level research methods and a graduate level research statistics course prior to admission. Students are expected to take a pretest in research methods and research statistics the summer prior to enrolling.

It is expected that students admitted to the program have documented academic training and a strong interest in exercise science, nutrition science or health promotion. Thus, depending on the student's academic training, background, scholarly interests and focus area, a student may be asked to take undergraduate courses as deficiencies prior to or concurrently with graduate course enrollment.

Pathways through program
Two pathways through the program are available to students depending on their funding source: full-time via TA/RA funding, or part-time self-funded. With both pathways, the intent is to involve and embed students in ongoing research as well as in class study throughout their stay.

Students should see the program website for application deadlines and admission terms.
Application Deadlines

Fall

Contact Information

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