Behavioral Health, DBH

ASU is not currently accepting applications for this program. Applicants interested in the Doctor of Behavioral Health program should apply directly to the clinical or management concentrations.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: DBH Behavioral Health

The DBH is an innovative and interdisciplinary applied program designed to upgrade master's degree-level professionals to become experts in the emerging field of integrated behavioral care. Integrated care is the holistic treatment of both medical and behavioral conditions that are so common in primary care and other medical settings but often undetected and untreated. The results are poor clinical outcomes and increased medical costs related to overuse of medical services.

A key recommendation in health care reform is improved integration of medical and behavioral care in order to both improve health outcomes and decrease health care costs. The doctoral curriculum is explicitly focused on graduating experts who can both speak the language of evidence-based clinical interventions and the perform cost savings and return on investment analyses that will be in high demand in new models of accountable care delivery. Traditional doctoral training does not prepare clinicians or managers with the interdisciplinary knowledge required to meet these new demands in the health care marketplace. This program reflects a paradigm shift to a curriculum based on business entrepreneurship skills, such as business plans, marketing and returns on investment specific to health care; evidence-based behavioral interventions for primary care that are efficient and contribute to cost savings by reducing unnecessary medical care services and costs; health care systems policies, economics and finance that respond to emerging opportunities in health care reform; and medical literacy, to understand common medical conditions seen in primary care and consult effectively with the medical team.

The curriculum is unique in that it incorporates internship experience in primary care or similar medical settings, and it integrates clinical and professional affiliated faculty as well as faculty associates who are experts and are directly employed in health care environments in the area that they are teaching. It is a flexible, online degree program that enables students to select a program of study ranging from part-time to full-time attendance, and it is available through ASU Online as a distance-learning program. The program offers either a clinical track for licensed clinicians or a management track for health care managers and leaders, and it replaces the dissertation with a culminating research project that combines an applied research study with a business plan.
Internship experiences are arranged with local site liaisons, and students meet in small groups with a doctoral consultant who leads case reviews and studies. Rural health and experiences with disadvantaged and multicultural populations are encouraged. Graduates of the program will contribute to a societal transformation by leading to improved access to behavioral care, integration of a behavioral provider on the medical team, improved patient outcome and satisfaction, and decreased cost of care.

At a Glance

- **College/School:** College of Health Solutions
- **Location:** online

Degree Requirements

84 credit hours including the required applied project course (IBC 793)

**Required Core (12 credit hours)**
- IBC 712 Population Based Health Management (3)
- IBC 714 Quality and Performance Measurement, Improvement, and Incentives (3)
- IBC 718 Healthcare Systems: Organization, Delivery and Economics (3)
- IBC 720 Behavioral Health Entrepreneurship (3)

**Electives (33 credit hours)**

**Internship and Culminating Experience (9 credit hours)**

**Additional Curriculum Information**

previously awarded master's degree or other courses approved by the supervisory committee (30 credit hours)

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.
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 3.00 cumulative GPA (on a 4.00 scale) in the applicable master's degree.

All applicants must submit an online graduate admission application. Applicants should see specific concentrations for the items that must be submitted.

**Additional Application Information**

An applicant whose native language is not English (regardless of current residency) must meet university and degree program English proficiency requirements.

In order to use the 30 credits from a previous master's degree, applicants must possess a bachelor's degree and a master's degree from a regionally accredited postsecondary institution in the U.S. or an equivalent degree from a recognized international postsecondary institution.

**Attend Online**

ASU offers this program in an online format with multiple enrollment sessions throughout the year. Applicants may view the program description and request more information here.

**Contact Information**

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