Clinical Exercise Physiology, MS

NHCEPMS

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MS Clinical Exercise Physiology
The MS in clinical exercise physiology degree program prepares students for careers as clinical exercise physiologists.

Students learn how to use primary and secondary prevention strategies to improve, maintain or attenuate declines in fitness and health in populations ranging from children to older adults. They learn to collaborate with medical professionals to guide exercise and rehabilitation programs for at-risk clients and clients with chronic diseases.

The American College of Sports Medicine is the national association responsible for establishing guidelines and recommendations for exercise testing, prescription and evaluation of research for both healthy populations and those with chronic disease. The ACSM certification is deemed the organization's most prestigious credential for clinical professionals with a master's degree and 600 hours of hands-on clinical experience. This program provides the knowledge, clinical experience and skills needed by individuals preparing for successful completion of the registration examination for the registered clinical exercise physiologist certification.

At a Glance

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

Accelerated Program Options

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
Kinesiology, BS

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

Degree Requirements

35 credit hours and a written comprehensive exam, or
35 credit hours, a thesis, a written comprehensive exam and an oral comprehensive exam

Required Core (21 credit hours)
EXW 501 Research Statistics (3)
EXW 535 Advanced Exercise Assessment and Prescription (3)
EXW 542 Health Promotion (3)
EXW 560 Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation (3)
EXW 565 Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Physiology (3)
EXW 568 Management and Treatment of Chronic Disease for the Clinical Exercise Physiologist (3)
KIN 547 ECG Interpretation (3)

Electives (2 credit hours)
EXW 591 Seminar (2)

Other Requirement (3 or 9 credit hours)
EXW 500 Research Methods (3), or
EXW 515 Advanced Exercise Physiology (3) and EXW 584 Clinical Exercise Physiology Internship (6)

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

Additional Curriculum Information
Students take EXW 591 in two terms for one credit hour each.

This program has a thesis option or a non-thesis option. Students in the thesis option must take EXW 500 Research Methods. Students selecting the non-thesis option must complete a clinical internship of six credit hours EXW 584 Clinical Exercise Physiology and take EXW 515 Advanced Exercise Physiology.

All students must pass a written comprehensive exam. Thesis students must also pass an oral comprehensive exam.

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 exercise science, exercise physiology, kinesiology or a closely related field from a regionally accredited institution.

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, or 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
4. letter of intent
5. three letters of recommendation
6. proof of English proficiency

**Additional Application Information**
An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of English proficiency regardless of current residency.

A foreign language exam is not required.

One letter of recommendation must be submitted by an academic reference from major coursework. All qualified applicants are admitted providing they have met all requirements for admission. Admission is not limited to any target number of students unless enrollment exceeds the projected capacity of the program to provide an adequate, quality program. In the case of space limitations, applicants are prioritized based on GRE scores, GPA, letters of reference and letter of intent for admission to the program.

**Application Deadlines**

**Fall**

**Career Opportunities**

Clinical exercise physiology, in which exercise is used to help clients manage or reduce their risk of chronic disease, is a relatively new career field. It is an exciting and growing profession in the health care realm that has recently been organized on the national level, recognized by the federal government and defined as an occupation. The unique and vital profession will grow as certifications and licensures support the value of clinical exercise physiology.

Career opportunities are available in:
• hospital-based research facilities
• hospitals
• outpatient clinics
• physician offices
• university laboratories

Contact Information

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