

# DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN HEALTH STUDIES

**Web Site:** <https://twu.edu/health-studies/graduate-programs/phd-in-health-studies/>

The School of Health Promotion and Kinesiology (SHPK) offers a Ph.D. in Health Studies designed to prepare students to conduct research in health promotion and health education. All Health Studies doctoral students are expected to work with faculty to acquire and develop the skills required to become independent, ethical, and skilled researchers.

The Ph.D. requires a minimum total of 96 semester credit hours (SCH) in which students must select one focal area: Higher Education, Population Health, or Communication Sciences. Graduates are eligible to take the MCHES® Exam to become Master Certified Health Education Specialists.

Leveling Requirement: Earned degree in Health Education, Health Promotion, Health Behavior, Community Health, or Public Health; or HS 5413.

## Marketable Skills

Defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's 60x30 Strategic Plan (<https://reportcenter.highered.texas.gov/agency-publication/miscellaneous/the60x30-strategic-plan/>) as, "Those skills valued by employers that can be applied in a variety of work settings, including interpersonal, cognitive, and applied skills areas. These skills can be either primary or complementary to a major and are acquired by students through education, including curricular, co-curricular, and extracurricular activities."

1. Successfully design and implement a health education/promotion research study.
2. Successfully design a health education/promotion grant proposal.
3. Successfully demonstrate written and oral communication skills through professional presentations and peer-reviewed publications.

## Admissions

All students must meet the University requirements as outlined in the Admission to the TWU Graduate School (<https://catalog.twu.edu/graduate/graduate-school/admission-graduate-school/>) section of the catalog.

The academic program may have additional admission criteria that must also be completed as outlined on the program's website.

## Degree Requirements

### Prerequisites

1. A degree in health education, health promotion, public health, or community health or HS 5413;
2. Three semester credit hours of graduate-level research methods; and
3. New doctoral program students will be required to successfully complete an orientation within the first year.

### Total Semester Credit Hours Required

96-98 semester credit hours, including semester credit hours from master's level work and 6 semester credit hours for dissertation.

Code	Title	SCHs
<b>Appropriate and Related Work from Master's Degree</b>		<b>35</b>
<b>Health Studies Core</b>		
HS 6353	Social Epidemiology	3
HS 6443	Theoretical Foundations of Health Promotion	3
HS 5423	Ethnic and Cultural Factors in Health Decisions	3
HS 6563	Advocacy and Leadership in Health Promotion	3
HS 5383	Program Planning and Implementation in Health Promotion	3
HS 6453	Strategies in Health Promotion Planning and Delivery	3
HS 6483	Evaluation in Health Promotion	3
HS 6073	Seminar in Health Education	3
HSC 6831	Integration of Theory and Research in Health Sciences	1
<b>Focal Area - Select one of the following</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>Higher Education</b>		
HS 6433	History of Medicine, Public Health, and Health Promotion	
HS 5103	Principles and Methods of Teaching for Health Professionals	
HS 5113	Curriculum Development for Health Professionals	
Select two electives from Health Studies in consultation with Advisory Committee		
<b>Population Health</b>		
HS 6423	Global Health	
HS 5053	Psychosocial Aspects of Health	
HS 5363	Population Health	
Select two electives from Health Studies in consultation with Advisory Committee		
<b>Communication Sciences</b>		
COMS 5113	Seminar in Communication Sciences (taken two times)	
COMS 5253	Research Application in Communication Sciences (taken two times)	
COMS 5383	Seminar in Pedagogy	
<b>Research Tools I</b>		<b>6-8</b>
Select one of the following		
HS 5703	Applied Statistics in Health Promotion	
PSY 5304	Advanced Psychological Statistics I	
KINS 5033	Applied Statistical Principles	
Select one of the following		
PSY 6204	Advanced Psychological Statistics II	
KINS 6043	Statistical Inference	
<b>Research Tools II</b>		
HS 5013	Data Collection and Analysis	3
HS 6043	Quantitative Research Methods in Health Promotion	3
<b>Practical Experience Requirement</b>		
HS 5003	Internship/Professional Affiliation in Health Promotion	3

<b>Dissertation</b>		
HS 6983	Dissertation	3
HS 6993	Dissertation	3
<b>Total SCHs</b>		<b>96-98</b>

their Advisory Committee for information on minors outside of Health Studies. Minors typically include 12 to 18 hours of coursework.

## **Interdisciplinary Studies and/or Transferred Semester Credit Hours**

Up to 35 semester credit hours from a closely related master's degree may be applied to the required 96 hours, as deemed appropriate by the Advisory Committee.

## **Component Required Curriculum**

25 semester credit hours of Health Studies core coursework.

## **Focal**

15 semester credit hours from one of three focal areas: higher education, population health, or communication sciences.

## **Research Tools**

6 semester credit hours of research methods and 6-8 semester credit hours of statistics. Students interested in conducting qualitative research must also take a qualitative research methods course in addition to these 6 semester credit hours.

## **Dissertation**

6 semester credit hours of dissertation work with the committee chair. The first 3 credit course focuses on the development and oral defense of the research proposal. The student enrolls in a second 3 credit course to conduct the dissertation study, analyze results, and present findings. Both courses may be repeated, but only three hours of credit count toward the degree for each course.

## **Qualifying Examination**

Candidates for the doctoral degree must pass a qualifying process and comprehensive examination ascertaining a student's:

1. breadth and depth of knowledge requisite to perform successfully within the profession,
2. understanding and application of a discipline's foundational literature, and
3. readiness to complete a dissertation

The exam is comprised of four written sections over selected areas of the student's emphases and an oral defense of written responses. May be repeated once. Students are eligible to begin the comprehensive exam process during their final semester of coursework and after completing all prerequisites (if admitted conditionally), all research tools, and all core courses. The exams may be repeated only once. A student who fails a second comprehensive exam attempt will be removed from the Health Studies doctoral program.

## **Final Examination**

Oral examination conducted by the Dissertation Committee over the candidate's research after the dissertation is completed. May be repeated at the discretion of the committee.

## **Minor (if sought by student)**

The hour and course requirements for a minor in Health Studies are flexible and are determined by major and minor committee members and the student's background and interests. Students should consult with