PhD in HPE Competencies

Upon completion of the PhD in HPE, students will be able to:

SCHOLARSHIP AND RESEARCH

1. Critically analyze, evaluate and offer revisions to scholarship in the fields of health professions education (HPE), higher education, health systems, and/or other academic disciplines that can usefully inform educational inquiry;
2. Describe the relevance and apply the principles of systems to the scholarship of HPE (e.g., patient safety, quality, interprofessional collaboration, etc.);
3. Design and implement a program of educational research studies and disseminate results at meetings and in the peer-reviewed literature;

LEADERSHIP

4. Build and lead interdisciplinary and/or interprofessional groups;
5. Mentor and support the development of educational program leaders (e.g., course directors, clerkship directors, program directors, and/or fellowship directors) with an emphasis on the challenges facing Department of Defense (DoD) educational executives;
6. Direct program change, applying contemporary leadership theory to educational contexts;

TEACHING, LEARNING, AND ASSESSMENT

7. Defend a personal philosophy of learning and instruction with reference to theoretical and empirical evidence;
8. Apply relevant contemporary theories to specific educational contexts, evaluate outcomes, and disseminate findings;
9. Develop educational innovations based on the existing literature (e.g., instructional methods, assessment techniques, theoretical principles, etc.);
10. Significantly contribute to the vision for enhancing learning and instruction in DoD educational programs (this may include guidance for curriculum reform and accreditation); and

COMMUNICATION

11. Write and submit an intramural and/or extramural research grant.

HPE Core Faculty

Steven Durning, MD, PhD, Professor & Director
Anthony Artino, PhD, Professor & Deputy Director
Sebastian Uijtdehaage, PhD, Professor & Associate Director
Lara Varpio, PhD, Associate Professor & Associate Director
Dario Torre, MD, PhD, MPH, Associate Professor & Associate Director
Lauren Maggio, PhD, Associate Professor & Associate Director
Michelle Yoon, PhD, Assistant Professor & Assistant Dean
Alexis Battista, PhD, Assistant Professor
Holly Meyer, PhD, Assistant Professor
Ting Dong, PhD, Research Associate Professor
Katherine Picho, PhD, Research Assistant Professor
William Gilliland, MD, MHPE, Professor & Associate Dean
Louis Pangaro, MD, Professor & Chair of Medicine (MED)
Paul Hemmer, MD, MPH, Professor & Vice Chair of MED

HPE Program Web Pages

For more information about the PhD in HPE program:
https://www.usuhs.edu/hpe

To apply for the PhD in HPE program:
https://www.usuhs.edu/graded/application.html

Contact the HPE Program

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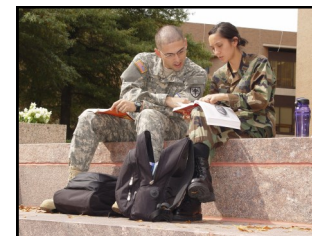4301 Jones Bridge Road
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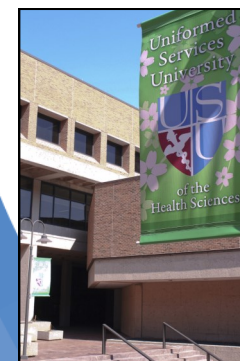steven.durning@usuhs.edu or
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Department of Medicine

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Health Professions Education (HPE)

Our Vision:
To be the premier provider of health professions education for the Military and Public Health Systems through leadership in teaching, research, and innovation.

UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY
of the Health Sciences

F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine

About the PhD in HPE Degree Program

In keeping with the Uniformed Services University's mission, the PhD in Health Professions Education (HPE) is designed to be the premier provider of advanced health professions education for the Military and Public Health Systems. Through leadership in teaching, research, and innovation, the PhD in HPE provides direct benefit to the uniformed services and other federal agencies by producing a cadre of leaders with advanced training in the field of health professions education.

The overarching goal of the graduate programs in HPE (both Masters and PhD) is to educate practitioners who will serve as academic leaders (e.g., deans, program directors, department heads) and will contribute to the continuous advancement of health professions education and research. Graduates of the HPE program are uniquely situated to take major leadership roles within the Military and Public Health Systems.

The PhD in HPE builds on the MHPE with advanced course offerings in theory, statistical techniques, quantitative and qualitative research methods, and leadership principles. As future leaders in the field of HPE, PhD students also write one or more grant applications, and thus grant writing and funding streams are emphasized. The PhD involves a substantial amount of independent research, with bimonthly instruction and mentoring provided by an advisor and other members of the HPE faculty. Because the goal of the PhD program is to produce expert researchers, teachers, and leaders, experiential learning is featured, as opposed to classroom-based instruction. PhD students are also expected to serve in leadership and teaching roles, with direct observation by and feedback from program faculty.

Throughout the PhD in HPE program, faculty place special emphasis on the theory, research, and practice of health professions education, and on theoretically grounded scholarship that is fit for dissemination in peer-reviewed outlets. To complete a PhD in HPE, students must show their ability to independently conduct and lead a rigorous program of research.

For further information, please visit:
http://www.usuhs.mil/hpe

Program Overview

The specific requirements for the PhD in HPE depend, in large part, on the incoming experience level of the particular student. In most cases, students earn the MHPE degree, or its equivalent (e.g., the MPH), in their first two years of graduate study and then advance to the PhD. The program of study listed below exemplifies the typical coursework and research experiences completed in the first two years of the PhD.

Year 1

Pre-Fall Courses

Doctoral Seminar in HPE
Doctoral Dissertation in HPE
Advanced Qualitative Research Methods

Fall Courses

Doctoral Seminar in HPE
Doctoral Dissertation in HPE
Advanced Quantitative Research Methods

Winter Courses

Doctoral Seminar in HPE
Doctoral Dissertation in HPE
Advanced Theories in HPE
Advanced Health Systems Seminar

Spring Courses

Doctoral Seminar in HPE
Biostatistics III
Advanced Instructional Methods and Curriculum
    Development in HPE
Advanced Measurement, Assessment, and Evaluation in
    HPE

Summer Courses

Doctoral Seminar in HPE
Doctoral Dissertation in HPE
Advanced Principles of Leadership
Advanced Online Learning and Instruction

Years 2-3

A portion of this phase is spent at a practicum site and emphasizes grant writing and leadership activities. During this time, PhD students also focus on writing their doctoral thesis, as well as preparing presentations and manuscripts for submission to peer-reviewed outlets.

Why Get a PhD in HPE?

There is a growing demand for educators who are formally trained in health professions education. Some of the most common reasons for this growing demand include:

1. Career tracks (e.g., clinical educator/scholar)
2. Institutional requirement for certain positions
3. Accreditation bodies
   - Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME; competencies)
   - Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME; review criteria)
4. Unique demand by health professions (depth and breadth of knowledge/skills required to educate)
5. Professionalization of health professions education

Who Would Typically Enroll?

It is projected that PhD students would include:

- Physician, nurse, and dental educators
- Senior healthcare executives
- Allied health professionals
- Research directors
- Graduate medical education directors

What Do Students Learn in the PhD?

Through coursework, the practicum, and the doctoral thesis, PhD students gain advanced knowledge and skills focused on the theory, research, and practice of education as it applies to the health professions. These knowledge and skills are often divided into the following five domains:

Teaching and Learning
- e.g., theories of learning, motivation, and emotion, feedback, simulation, small and large-group teaching methods, cultural differences

Curriculum Development
- e.g., needs assessments, course goals and learning objectives, blueprinting, curriculum evaluation, curriculum redesign

Evaluation and Assessment
- e.g., assessment methods, psychometrics, reliability and validity, standard setting, measurement theory, multi-level modeling, item response theory

Research Methods
- e.g., quantitative and qualitative methods, mixed-method designs, longitudinal designs, grant writing, types of scholarship

Leadership and Management
- e.g., leadership and management theory, organizational structures and culture, conflict resolution, health systems, quality improvement