Demonstration of Competency 1 is achieved by passing the doctoral qualifying examination and by successful completion and defense of the dissertation. Demonstration of Competencies 2 through 6, inclusive, is achieved by successful development, conduct, completion, and defense of the dissertation.

Program of Study
The program of study incorporates a foundation of courses intricate to health services research and healthcare management as well as addressing its multidisciplinary nature. At the PhD level, this requires that students take health management and theoretical foundation, health management research methods, and HMSS PhD seminar courses, and an emphasis area related to providing in-depth knowledge related to effectively managing the resources necessary to carry out the mission of improving access, cost, and quality within the healthcare system.

The student works with his or her faculty advisor to develop a specific program of study for the student's coursework based on the required coursework and emphasis area (see Degree Requirements tab). The student's individualized program of study must be approved by the student, faculty advisor, and the HMSS PhD Committee.

Faculty Advisor
Upon admission to the PhD specialization, each student is assigned a faculty advisor who works with the student to develop a program of study.

HMSS PhD Committee
The purpose of the HMSS PhD Committee is to oversee the overall quality of doctoral education within HMSS. The committee will:

1. Annually review the progress of PhD students within the curriculum,
2. Manage the qualifying exam process,
3. Approve the composition of the dissertation committee,
4. Approve preliminary dissertation proposals to move to the proposal defense stage, and
5. Make curriculum quality improvement recommendations to the HMSS faculty for their approval.

Admission Requirements
An applicant who has satisfactorily completed a Master of Public Health degree, or another relevant master degree or a health professional degree is considered for admission to the Public Health Management and Policy specialization. Applicants already holding an advanced degree are evaluated on the basis of appropriateness of previous coursework, training and experience. The graduate work by such applicants is reviewed on a case-by-case basis, and the applicant, if admitted, may be required to take additional course work prior to completing the minimum 51 credit hours required for post-master's doctoral work.

Application materials must be submitted to the School of Interdisciplinary and Graduate Studies, Graduate Admissions (http://louisville.edu/graduate/apply).

The minimum required documentation for full admission must include:

- Resume or curriculum vitae
- A personal statement that is a clear, substantive one-page description of your professional and research experience as it relates to your goals in public health and the Ph.D. program.
- Official transcript for each degree
Proposal-defense procedure is the last step in the doctoral process before the student can proceed to the dissertation. Upon successful defense of the proposal, the student may schedule the proposal defense. The proposal is the part of the dissertation that describes the student's research plan, including the research questions, methodology, and expected outcomes. The proposal must be approved by the HMSS PhD Committee before the student can proceed to the dissertation stage.

The following are recommended criteria for admission:

- Undergraduate and graduate GPA each ≥ 3.0 on 4.0 scale
- GRE performance recommended in 50th percentile or above for verbal and quantitative scores (Comparable scores on the MCAT or DAT are considered.)
- If applicable, Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score in 60th percentile or above

Program Requirements

Fifty-one (51) total credit hours:

- 33 credit hours of required coursework,
- 3 credit hours of public health management seminars, and
- 15 credit hours within an emphasis area.

Some required or emphasis area courses may require additional credit hours in prerequisite courses not already taken by the student. The specific coursework for a student is established with the student’s individualized program of study. The design of a doctoral program of study that reflects each student’s professional skills and research interest is the primary organizing principle of the proposed program.

The emphasis in doctoral training goes beyond accumulating course credit. Completion of the coursework is the prelude to sitting for the qualifying examination. Successful passage of the qualifying examination allows the student to enter doctoral candidacy. A doctoral candidate must then successfully develop and present to the HMSS PhD Committee a preliminary dissertation proposal (PDP) that describes the dissertation committee, what the student wishes to accomplish with the dissertation, and an original and independent research project in the prescribed format. Once the PDP is approved by the HMSS PhD Committee, the student may schedule the proposal defense. Upon successful defense of the proposal, a student may then proceed to dissertation research.

Upon successful completion of the research, defense of the dissertation, and demonstration of the required competencies listed below, a student is awarded the PhD degree.

### Coursework

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHPH 523</td>
<td>Public Health in the United States ¹</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ PHPH 523 fulfills the accreditation requirement that all graduates from the School of Public Health and Information Science receive foundational instruction in public health. The two credit hours for PHPH 523 do not accrue toward the 51 hours required for PhD degree completion. Students with a prior degree and/or coursework from a CEPH accredited school or program of public health may be relieved of this requirement, per approval of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHPH 523</td>
<td>Public Health in the United States ¹</td>
<td>2</td>
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</table>

### Required Coursework

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHPH 523</td>
<td>Public Health in the United States ¹</td>
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### Theoretical Foundations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHPH 523</td>
<td>Public Health in the United States ¹</td>
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</table>

### Health Management Research Methods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHPH 523</td>
<td>Public Health in the United States ¹</td>
<td>2</td>
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</table>

### Seminars

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHPH 523</td>
<td>Public Health in the United States ¹</td>
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</table>

### Specialization/Emphasis Area (see below)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHPH 523</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHPH 523</td>
<td>Public Health in the United States ¹</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### HMSS PhD Seminars

A student in the PhD specialization in Health Management and Policy is required to complete at least three (3) credit hours in the HMSS PhD Seminar (PHMS 751, PHMS 752, PHMS 753). These group courses are jointly taught by the faculty of the department and are designed to provide a collegial experience that provides an opportunity to integrate learning from other courses, discuss hot topics, brainstorm about research ideas, and acquire professional skills in scientific manuscript and grant writing, oral and poster presentations, grantsmanship, and peer review.

### Emphasis Area

As a part of the approved program of study, a student is able to select 15 credit hours of elective coursework that is structured around a specific area within public health. For example, students could choose to do an emphasis area in long-term care policy, population health, global health,
et. Courses may be selected from those offered within the school, other
schools or colleges within the university, or from sources outside the
university with permission and acceptance of credit by the school and
university.

Emphasis areas need to be submitted by each student by the end of
the second semester in the Program. Because some courses are only
offered every other year, the student and the faculty advisor must plan the
emphasis area sequence as soon as reasonably possible.

All emphasis areas need to be first approved by a student’s advisor and
then presented to the HMSS PhD Committee for approval. The HMSS
PhD Committee will review the chosen courses and confirm that they
contribute to an overall expertise within the emphasis area designated by
the student. The student must provide a written rationale for the choices
of elective coursework in his or her emphasis area. These can be tweaked
and changed while the student is in the program. However, these changes
must also be approved by the HMSS PhD Committee.

**Emphasis Area Examples**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PADM 600</td>
<td>Foundations of Public Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHMS 615</td>
<td>Introduction to Health Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHMS 655</td>
<td>Systems Thinking and Dynamic Modeling in Public Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHMS 605</td>
<td>Governance and Management of Healthcare Organizations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 725</td>
<td>Organizational Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHMS 725</td>
<td>Economic Evaluation in Health Care (“Economic Evaluation in Health Care” course approval pending)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHST 704</td>
<td>Mixed Effect Models and Longitudinal Data Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHST 785</td>
<td>Nonlinear Regression</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW 773</td>
<td>Measurement and Theoretical Model Test</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 740</td>
<td>Social Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHPB 705</td>
<td>Policy to Advance Health Equity</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 725</td>
<td>Leadership and Health Policy for the Doctorally Prepared Nurse</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 606</td>
<td>Urban Policy and Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHMS 610</td>
<td>Health Policy and Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Qualifying Examination**

Upon completion of the required coursework (a minimum of 30 credit
hours not including 15 credit hours of emphasis area coursework) and
public health management seminars (three (3) credit hours total) for the
PhD, the student is eligible to sit for the qualifying examination. The
components of the qualifying exam focus on the subject matter drawn
from foundation courses and health management research methods.
The timing and eligibility for the qualifying exams are determined by the
student’s faculty advisor and the HMSS PhD Committee. Successful
completion of the exam admits the student to doctoral candidacy. A
student who does not successfully complete the exam may be required
to take additional or remedial coursework and is allowed one opportunity
to retake the exam. After admission into candidacy, the student will still
be responsible for completing the additional 15 credit hours of required
emphasis area coursework.

**Dissertation**

A dissertation is required of a candidate for the degree of Doctor of
Philosophy in Public Health Sciences with a specialization in Public
Health Management and Policy. It is to be a scholarly achievement in
research and should demonstrate a thorough understanding of research
techniques in health management and the ability to conduct independent
research. All dissertations use a three-paper format.

**Dissertation Committee**

The dissertation shall be read by a reading committee, chaired by the
student’s faculty advisor, and appointed by the dean of the school upon
the advice of HMSS PhD Committee. This committee shall consist of at
least four members and must include one representative of an external
department. The dissertation must be approved by the committee and the
chair of the department.

The composition of the dissertation committee must be reviewed and
approved by the HMSS PhD Committee. This is done as part of the
preliminary dissertation proposal (PDP) process.

**Preliminary Dissertation Proposal**

The Preliminary Dissertation Proposal (PDP) process involves a student
(1) forming the dissertation committee; (2) writing a preliminary
dissertation proposal using the PDP format; (3) submitting the PDP to
an outside reviewer for comment (the HMSS PhD Committee will identify
the outside reviewer); (4) the dissertation chair will present the PDP to
the HMSS PhD Committee; and (5) the HMSS PhD Committee will provide
feedback and approve the PDP to move to the proposal defense stage.
Students may not move to the proposal defense stage without HMSS
PhD Committee approval of the PDP.

The PDP uses the AHRQ (NIH) research proposal format. This is the
general outline students should follow when constructing a PDP.

**Sections**

1. Coversheet and Student Letter (three pages, single-spaced, or six
   pages, double-spaced)
   a. Project Title
   b. Student’s Name
   c. Chair of committee, committee members, and GSR — provide
each member’s area of expertise related to the dissertation. Put
line next to each name for signature of approval.
   d. Areas of knowledge — identify areas of knowledge (content and
   methods) necessary for successful completion of a dissertation.
   Discuss how these have been met or will be met through courses,
independent study, etc.
   e. Student letter – should discuss career goals, background, and
   interest in health services research, and the anticipated manner
   in which the proposed dissertation will contribute to career goals.
   List source of funding for research.

2. Specific Aims (one page, single spaced, or two pages, double-spaced)
   – Also list specific hypotheses for each aim. If desired, the overall
   purpose of this line of investigation may be mentioned in order to
   indicate the long-term importance of the specific aim being sought
   through this study.
Students will write a three-paper dissertation. The dissertation will include a brief introduction to the three papers and how they fit together (roughly ten pages). The research questions submitted and approved within the dissertation proposal will define the subject matter for each of the papers in the dissertation.

Prior to the dissertation defense, at least one of the three papers in the dissertation must be submitted for review to a reputable peer-reviewed journal that is agreed upon by the doctoral candidate’s dissertation committee. The remaining two papers must be of high enough quality that the dissertation committee feels that they can be submitted to a reputable journal, although they do not need to be submitted prior to the dissertation defense.

Each paper must report on original scholarship and address the research questions in the dissertation proposal. One of the papers may consist of a literature synthesis which leads to specification of a conceptual framework for addressing a research question or questions.

Prior to the dissertation defense, the student must specify a target peer-reviewed journal for each and format each according to the chosen journal’s formatting rules. Each paper is expected to conform to the length requirements for the chosen peer-reviewed journal (typically 25-30 pages in length). Co-authors for each paper should be acknowledged in a “Statement of Contributors” but not included as authors in the dissertation itself. They can be listed as authors when the papers are submitted for publication, but not as authors in the dissertation itself.

The following information is in the current guidelines, please review and advise if you have additional questions or concerns. The information is as follows:

**Published Work**

With the approval of your adviser and your thesis or dissertation committee, you may include part or all of the content of manuscripts published in or accepted for publication by scholarly journals and proceedings as chapters in your thesis or dissertation. If you choose this option, you must:

1. Be a primary author—i.e., lead author—of the articles (i.e., a person principally involved in the data selection or collection, the data analysis or interpretation, and the writing of the paper).
2. Obtain the needed copyright clearance from the publisher—i.e., a letter granting permission to include the journal article in your thesis or dissertation.
3. Include a proper citation to the work, either a footnote or a citation in the reference section of the thesis or dissertation.
4. Format the work so that it conforms to the requirements as specified in “Guidelines for the Preparation and Processing of Theses and Dissertations” (The Guidelines). In other words, the journal publication cannot simply be pasted into the thesis or dissertation in its published format.

The content and format of each paper included may be similar to or the same as what you submit to the journal/proceedings, except the content must comply with the formatting requirements as outlined in The Guidelines. The bibliography or reference section of each article must become part of the final Reference Section in the thesis or dissertation, as stipulated in The Guidelines. There should be only one abstract and one list of acknowledgments for the thesis or dissertation.

If the publisher grants permission for the publication to be used, the publisher will give instructions on how the approval should be documented in the thesis/dissertation. The publisher’s official notice of approval must be formatted accordingly and added as an Appendix. Permission to use previously published material in a thesis or dissertation doesn’t necessarily give the student permission to sell...
that material. The student may need to put a restriction on the sale and availability of his/her work according to the publisher's guidelines.

**Dissertation Approval**

The dissertation is to be submitted in completed form to the chair of the department at least thirty days before the end of the term in which the candidate expects to be graduated, and the candidate is not eligible for final defense until the dissertation has been accepted by the committee and chair.

The doctoral candidate will prepare a dissertation document that will include:

1. An introduction of at least ten pages that summarizes the three papers.
2. The papers themselves (refer to Published Work above).
3. A synthesis section at the end that addresses the implications for practice and research, in non-technical terms, to the extent not addressed in the separate papers.
4. Any additional material, as appendices, that would not usually be part of a journal article (e.g. a survey instrument) but which the dissertation committee deems relevant.
5. Statement of contributions: a statement specifying his/her role and those of others in selecting study questions, designing analyses, identifying appropriate methods, analyzing the data, and writing and reviewing the papers. This statement will be signed by each contributor named.
6. Dissemination plan: this will specify the target peer-reviewed journal for each of the three papers. For each paper that has not been submitted for publication, the student is required to obtain a signature from a faculty member with experience publishing or reviewing for the target journal (or similar ones). The faculty member will sign a statement to the effect that in his/her opinion, the paper is potentially publishable in the journal selected (these signatures will be required by the conclusion of the dissertation defense).

The oral defense is scheduled by the dissertation committee and doctoral candidate. The time and place for the defense is published to the general academic community, members of which are free to attend the defense. The dissertation is approved by a majority vote of the committee and the concurrence of the department chair.

**Evaluation by Dissertation Committee**

Dissertations will be evaluated by the dissertation committee using the following criteria:

- **Extent of the student’s contribution:** The committee should be persuaded that the student played the primary role in the formulation and write-up of the research for all three papers. For example, if a faculty member provided the data, selected the methodology and directed the analyses, the student's role may not meet the required standard of independence.

- **Eventual publication of the three papers:** The committee should only approve the dissertation if it feels that the three papers are potentially publishable, that is, ready for submission to peer-reviewed journals. Faculty endorsement of the Dissemination Plan will be relevant for this.

- **Papers published before the final defense are acceptable as described below:** In some cases, one or more of the papers may have already been accepted or published by a peer-reviewed journal at the time of the defense. While this satisfies the publication criterion, the committee will still need to evaluate the paper(s) in light of the other criteria, and the paper(s) will need to be reformatted to meet the Graduate School requirements.

**Dissertation Distribution**

The following steps must be taken to submit the final copy of the dissertation electronically after oral defense and approval of the committee:

1. Final document must be converted to a PDF (following the guidelines as noted above) and sent to the Graduate School.

For questions regarding preparation and submission of dissertations to the Graduate School, contact the Coordinator of Academic Services.