

## Health Services Concentration – for those who matriculated prior to Fall 2023

The Health Services concentration seeks to develop scientists experienced in the use of state of the art experimental and non-experimental research methods for the purpose of advancing fundamental knowledge of issues central to the improvement of population health by focusing on organizational characteristics of health care delivery systems, providers, and economic forces that shape consumer and provider behavior, as well as the policy environment in which these relationships exist. The concentration explicitly seeks to train scientists to optimally contribute as part of multidisciplinary teams in academic posts, government agencies at the state, national and international levels, and in research arms of private sectors of health services delivery organizations. The concentration explicitly seeks to develop scientists skilled in the communication of scientific knowledge, equipped with leadership skills for the purpose of improving services and influencing health policy at the organizational, state, national, and international levels such that those policies lead to more equitable use of resources thus improving health outcomes. The competency-based curriculum provides students with a strong analytic foundation and general health services research orientation.

### Health Services Competencies

- Organize and present information drawn from multiple sources that characterize the economic, political and financial forces that shape the way in which the health care system interacts.
- Critically evaluate the relative strengths and weaknesses of evidence and research regarding the performance of components of the health care system.
- Design a primary data gathering instrument/protocol.
- Collect primary data to address a public health issue.
- Evaluate the strengths and limitations of primary data collection methods.
- Develop a performance measure.
- Develop a hypothetical run chart to assess whether an intervention to improve performance was successful.
- Develop a pay-for-performance scheme to enhance a quality improvement effort.

### Health Services Thesis

All in person students are required to complete a thesis. Students work with faculty advisors to design a thesis project appropriate to their interests and career path in health services.

### Health Services Concentration Courses

*Primary data gathering courses for those following the quantitative analytic core course sequence (PHP2507/2508 or PHP2510/2511)*

*Select one of the following:*

PHP2040, Survey Research Methods

PHP2060, Qualitative Research Methods

*Primary data gathering courses for those following the qualitative analytic core course sequence (PHP2506/PHP2060/PHP2061):*

PHP2061, Qualitative Analysis in Public Health Research, and it will count as the primary data gathering course

*Complete the following health systems course:*

PHP2400, The U.S. Health Care System: Case Studies in Financing, Delivery, Regulation

*Complete the following quality course:*

PHP2450, Measuring and Improving the Quality of Health Care

*Select one of the following health services methods design courses:*

PHP1480, Intro to PH Economics

PHP2030, Clinical Trials Methods

PHP2415, Introduction to Evidence-based Medicine

PHP2465A, Intro to Health Decision Analysis

*Health services methods analysis (Select one):*

PHP1560/2560, Statistical Programming with R

PHP2015, Foundations in Spatial Analysis in Public Health

PHP2260, Applied Epidemiologic Analysis Using SAS

PHP2410E, Medicare: A Data Based Policy Examination\*

PHP2411, Intro to Health Policy Analysis

PHP2440, Introduction to Pharmacoepidemiology

PHP2455A, Health Services Research Methods I

SOC2612, Geographic Information Systems and Spatial Analysis for the Social Sciences

SOC2960G, Spatial Data Analysis Techniques in the Social Sciences

\*PHP2410E will be taught in Fall 23 but is primarily for PhD students. Students who did not take the version of PHP2410E that was taught in Spring 23 (taught for masters students), should consider taking PHP2411 instead.

**Health Services Concentration Lead:**

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