

# PhD Hlth Equi Sci

## Doctor of Philosophy in Health Equity Sciences

Under Review | Fall 2025

### Proposal Information

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#### Status

Active

#### Workflow Status

In Progress

#### Faculty Senate Approval, Faculty Senate

expand ▲

Waiting for Approval | Faculty Senate Approval

Nancy Middlebrook

Theresa Sherman

#### Changes

- Admissions Requirements
- Requirements
- participants
- Proposed Effective Term and Year
- Program Justification

Show All ▼

### Proposal Information

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#### Sponsoring faculty/staff member

Pamela Sedillo

#### Sponsoring faculty/staff email

psedill1@salud.unm.edu

#### College

College of Population Health

#### Department

Population Health

#### Campus

Health Sciences Center  
(Albuquerque)

## Effective Term and Year

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Proposed

**Proposed Effective Term and Year**

Fall 2025

Existing

**Proposed Effective Term and Year**

Spring 2024

## Justification

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Proposed

**Program Justification**

Updating the catalog and program courses so they are easy to understand what is required for the PhD degree

Existing

**Program Justification**

Updating PhD program information. There were issues from the 2022-2023 catalog transfer to the 2023-2024 catalog and items were not transferred correctly.

**Graduate program revision**

No

## Program Category and Level

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**Program Category**

Program

**Program Level**

Graduate

**Degree, Minor, or Certificate Name**

Doctor of Philosophy in Health Equity  
Sciences

**Degree Type**

Doctor of Philosophy

**Degree/Certificate Level**

Doctoral

**Is this program also offered online?**

No

## Associated Forms

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Proposed

Select any associated program forms that exist

**Select any associated course forms that exist**

PH 625 - Social Epidemiology Public Health (3) | **Under Review**

PH 655 - Doctoral Mixed Methods Research (3) | **Under Review**

PH 654 - Introduction to Qualitative Methods (3) | **Under Review**

PH 622 - Causal Inference Methods in Epidemiology (3) | **Under Review**

PH 652 - Culture, Meaning and Power in Health Equity (3) | **Under Review**

PH 651 - Critical Methodologies and Social Justice Interventions (3)

PH 653 - Theory-Based Intervention Research (3) | **Under Review**

Existing

**Select any associated course forms that exist**

## Shared Credit and Dual Degree information

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**Interdepartmental Program**

No

# Catalog Information

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## Program Description

The Ph.D. in HES is a 66-credit hour program of study broken down into core and concentration coursework and dissertation hours.

The core features classes in advanced epidemiology and biostatistics that emphasize rigorous quantitative and qualitative research methods, as well as classes in prevention, intervention, and health policy research. Training will be based in translational, participatory, theory-driven, and culture-centered designs for diverse populations. Skill-building courses include data analysis software packages (SAS, STATA, AtlasTi, etc), among others. Doctoral seminars will be student-driven journal clubs and employ diverse case studies (drawing from our rural/frontier, tribal, & U.S.-Mexico border partners). After 48 credit hour requirements, students will take a comprehensive exam after which (if completed successfully), they will begin work toward their dissertation. The comprehensive examinations will be similar for the core material. The dissertation committee chair will be a faculty member from the degree-granting institution; however, students may select a co-chair who serves as an additional mentor for their chosen path. At least two committee members (chair and one other) will be from the degree-granting institution. An oral defense will follow the written dissertation. The expected length of time is four years to complete, during which students will hold graduate assistantships and be involved in research and teaching. Students will have the opportunity to apply for a variety of graduate assistantships, including research assistantships.

Proposed

### Admissions Requirements

Students must apply through the SOPHAS application system. The admission criteria include the following:

1. Applicants must hold a graduate master's degree. However, in some instances, students with a bachelor's level degree may be considered for admittance.
2. Documented experience in the form of research, job experience, completion of a master's thesis, and/or other similar experience including work in non-governmental agencies (NGOs).
3. GPA of 3.0 in upper division courses in their undergraduate degree.
4. One graduate-level coursework in statistics or biostatistics with a GPA of 3.0 or higher.
5. Two-page Statement of Interest describing professional experience, research interests, career aspirations, and experiences that have prepared the applicant for doctoral work.
6. Three letters of recommendation from professional and/or academic contacts.
7. Writing sample such as a thesis or professional paper during their master's coursework, published paper, policy brief or a completed, comparable extended project or publication (not to exceed 10 pages).

Existing

### Admissions Requirements

Students must apply through the SOPHAS application system. The admission criteria include the following: 1) Applicants must hold a graduate master's degree. However, in some instances, students with a bachelor's level degree may be considered for admittance. 2) Documented experience in the form of research, job experience, completion of a master's thesis, and/or other similar experience including work in non-governmental agencies (NGOs). 3) GPA of 3.0 in upper division courses in their undergraduate degree. 4) One graduate-level coursework in statistics or biostatistics with a GPA of 3.0 or higher. 5) Two-page Statement of Interest describing professional experience, research interests, career aspirations, and experiences that have prepared the applicant for doctoral work. 6) Three letters of recommendation from professional and/or academic contacts. 7) Writing sample such as a thesis or professional paper during their master's coursework, published paper, policy brief or a completed, comparable extended project or publication (not to exceed 10 pages).

Graduation Requirements

## Professional Credential/Licensure Program Information

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License/Certification associated with program

No

# Degree Information

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Degree Hours

66

Minimum Major Hours

Professional Accrediting Bodies

## Degree Requirements

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### Requirements

- Complete all of the following
  - Earn 18 credit hours in Advanced Research Methods Courses (6 hours must be quantitative methods). See specific concentration for detailed course information.
  - Earn at least 18 credits from the following:
    - PH539 - Advanced Biostatistics (3)
    - PH556 - Community Participatory-Based Research (2 - 3)
    - PH558 - Intervention Research with Marginalized Populations (3)
    - PH660 - Doctoral Special Topics (1 - 6)
    - PH621 - Special Topics in Advanced Epidemiology (1 - 6)
    - STAT572 - Sampling Theory and Practice (3)
    - EDPY603 - Applied Statistical Design and Analysis (3)
    - STAT556 - Advanced Statistical Inference I (3)
    - STAT576 - Multivariate Analysis (3)
    - EDPY515 - Survey and Questionnaire Design and Analysis (3)
    - PH537 - Advanced Epidemiology Methods (3)
    - PH625 - Social Epidemiology Public Health (3)
    - PH651 - Critical Methodologies and Social Justice Interventions (3)
    - PH652 - Culture, Meaning and Power in Health Equity (3)
    - PH654 - Introduction to Qualitative Methods (3)
    - PH622 - Causal Inference Methods in Epidemiology (3)
    - PH655 - Doctoral Mixed Methods Research (3)
  - Earn 3 credit hours in Doctoral Seminar Courses. See specific concentration for detailed course information.
  - Earn at least 3 credits from the following:
    - PH690 - Doctoral Seminar (1 - 3)
  - Earn 2 credit hours in Skill Building Courses. See specific concentration for detailed course information.
  - Earn at least 2 credits from the following:
    - OILS583 - Graduate Teaching I (1 - 3)
    - PH593 - Independent Studies (1 - 3)
  - Earn 12 credit hours in Concentration Required Courses. See specific concentration for detailed course information.
  - Earn at least 12 credits from the following types of courses:  
See concentration for required courses.
  - Earn 13 credits from transfer credits and electives. See specific concentration for detailed course information.
  - Complete the following:
    - PH501 - Determinants and Equity in Public Health (4)

- PH502 - Epidemiology and Biostatistics I (4)
- PH538 - Epidemiology and Biostatistics Lab (2)
- PH552 - Interventions for Health Equity (3)
- Earn 18 credit hours of Doctoral Dissertation hours. See specific concentration for detailed course information.
- Earn at least 18 credits from the following types of courses:  
Dissertation credits.

**Grand Total Credits: 66**

## Concentrations

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### Program Concentrations

Code	Title
CON Bio Stat	Biostatistics
CON Cmty Based Rsrch	Community Based Participatory Research
CON Epidem PHD HES	Epidemiology
CON Glob Hlth Eqty Poly	Global Health Equity and Policy
CON Cmty Hlth Educ	Community Health Education

### Concentration Required

Yes

## Emphases

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### Emphasis required

No

### Emphasis Hours

### Emphasis Rules

No Rules

# Program Learning Outcomes

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## Learning Outcomes

### **Biostatistics (Shared UNM and NMSU)**

This shared concentration will provide instruction on using advanced statistical concepts and procedures to measure health-related constructs and analyze data sets ranging from small-scale research project outputs to large population-scale epidemiological databases.

### **Community Based Participatory Research Concentration (UNM only)**

The concentration in Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR), alternatively called community engaged research (CEnR), is based on a philosophical foundation of community capacity building, empowerment, and participatory approaches to research to promote social justice and equity in health. The concentration emphasizes a full range of research methods, including indigenous, decolonizing, and critical methodologies. Students will complete course work in the conceptual and theoretical foundations of CBPR; in rigorous quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods research; in challenges to traditional power inequities in research design and implementation, in bidirectional participatory intervention development based on psychosocial-structural theories and evaluation, and special topics of their choosing. Local, national, tribal, and global research opportunities are available for doctoral students with faculty and community partners, across the life course, across geographic and social identity diversities, and across distinct health issues and social-political contexts.

### **Community Health Education Concentration (in collaboration with UNM College of Education Program in Health Education)**

The concentration in Community Health Education emphasizes a strong foundation in psycho-social theory and methods so that students establish a specialty focus on community health intervention and health education research, and critical thinking in advancing health equity built on the science of cultural alignment, community methodologies, social determinant pathways to health, geographic and regional diversity, and evidence-based practices and practice-based approaches. The concentration provides students with a unique research skill-set that builds on capacity to maximize the communities' research potential as well the students' by building bi-directional research and leadership skills anchored in the principles of social justice, health equity and generational sustainability grounded in local epistemologies with communities. Some courses are shared with the CBPR concentration.

### **Epidemiology Concentration (UNM only)**

The concentration in epidemiology provides rigorous training in epidemiologic methods and educates students to become independent, productive, and creative research scientists in the field of epidemiology. Graduates of this program will be prepared to assume prominent positions in research, teaching, or health administration and are trained to address some of the most urgent public health issues facing us today.

### **Global Health Equity and Policy Concentration (UNM only)**

The concentration in Global Health Equity (GHEP) prepares students in multi-disciplinary research competencies and skills to tackle complex global public health issues that can be applied to their research, practice and policy careers. Based in deep roots in the communities we serve and in principles of social justice and human rights, we encourage transdisciplinary course work in a wide variety of global health-related areas such as: trauma related migration, international drug and sex trafficking, political and economic determinants of health, comparative primary care systems, design and evaluation of prevention strategies from a social justice approach (HIV/AIDS, obesity, vaccines, maternal and child health), community resiliency interventions to tackle violence, causes of diseases and health conditions including poverty, colonialism and neoliberalism. Students will also engage in virtual and/or place-based observatories for conducting independent and mentored research, in support of effective and evidence-based health policy, planning, decision-making and action in public health and health systems.