

# PhD Hlth Equi Sci

## Doctor of Philosophy in Health Equity Sciences

Under Review | Fall 2023

### Proposal Information

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#### Status

Active

#### Workflow Status

In Progress

#### Faculty Senate Approval, Faculty Senate

expand ▲

Waiting for Approval | Faculty Senate Approval

Rick Holmes

Nancy Middlebrook

#### Changes

- Department
- Program Description
- Admissions Requirements
- Proposed Effective Term and Year
- Sponsoring faculty member

Show All ▼

### Proposal Information

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Proposed

#### Sponsoring faculty member ⓘ

Kristine Tollestrup

Proposed

#### Faculty email

ktollestrup@salud.unm.edu

Existing

#### Sponsoring faculty member ⓘ

Existing

#### Faculty email

#### College

College of Population Health

Proposed

#### Department

Population Health

#### Campus

Health Sciences Center  
(Albuquerque)

Existing

#### Department

College of Population Health

### Effective Term and Year

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Proposed  
**Proposed Effective Term and Year**  
Fall 2023

Existing  
**Proposed Effective Term and Year**  
Fall 2006

## Justification

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Proposed  
**Program Justification**  
Updated admissions requirements to reflect more realistic expectations for students.

Existing  
**Program Justification**

## Associated Forms

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Select any associated course forms that exist

Select any associated program forms that exist

## Program Category and Level

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<b>Program Category</b>	<b>Program Level</b>	<b>Degree, Minor, or Certificate Name</b>
Program	Graduate	Doctor of Philosophy in Health Equity Sciences
Proposed <b>New Graduate Program</b> No	<b>Dual Degree</b> No	Proposed <b>New Undergrad Degree/Certificate</b> No
Existing <b>New Graduate Program</b> --		Existing <b>New Undergrad Degree/Certificate</b> --

## Catalog Information

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Proposed

### **Program Description**

The Ph.D. in HES will be 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.

Existing

### **Program Description**

The Ph.D. in HES will be a 66-credit hour program of study broken down into core and concentration coursework and dissertation hours. It will be flexible and responsive to the needs of individual students with multiple concentration options to choose from at UNM, NMSU, or a jointly run concentration between the two institutions in Biostatistics. The core curriculum will be similar at both institutions and includes advanced research methods, applied research skills, a doctoral seminar, and concentration courses. 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). The admissions criteria (see below) will be the same across the two institutions to foster reciprocity through the use of the State's Cross Enrollment Agreement. Students will choose either NMSU or UNM as their degree-granting institution (their "home" institution) to which they will apply and complete core coursework predominantly at that institution. Participation in research projects will commence during the first year with mentorship provided by faculty at either institution. After 48 credit hour requirements, students will take a comprehensive exam at their home institution after which (if completed successfully), they will begin work toward their dissertation. The comprehensive examinations will be similar for the core material. However, since the two universities have different concentrations, the concentration portion of the examination will differ depending upon the concentration the student selects. The dissertation committee chair will be a faculty member from the degree-granting (home) institution; however, students may select a co-chair who serves as an additional mentor from the other institution if it makes sense for their chosen path. At least two committee members (chair and one other) will be from the degree-granting institution. Faculty at either institution may opt to have a joint appointment, but this is not required. 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. Many will be graduate assistantships supporting the undergraduate courses. Our BSPH student differential will be used to fund these graduate assistantships. We currently do not have enough master's level students to fill our needs for assistantships in all of our undergraduate and graduate courses. The doctoral students will have the needed training in more specialized topics such as epidemiology to assist with those classes at the master's level.

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**

The admissions criteria will be the same across the two institutions to foster reciprocity that allows students to enroll in courses at either university. Students will choose either NMSU or UNM as their degree-granting institution (their "home" institution, to which they will apply) and complete core coursework predominantly at that institution. The admission criteria include the following: 1) Applicants must hold a graduate master's degree, with preference given to applicants holding an MPH degree from a CEPH-accredited program or other health- or medical-related degree. However, in some instances, students with a bachelor's level degree will 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 or higher. 4) One graduate-level coursework in statistics or biostatistics. 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: one from a faculty member who has worked with the applicant in a research capacity, one from a faculty member who taught a class attended by the applicant, and one from an individual of the applicant's choosing. 7) Preference will be given to applicants who have submitted a thesis during their master's coursework or have completed a comparable extended project or publication.

Proposed

### **Graduation Requirements**

Existing

### **Graduation Requirements**

## **Program Information**

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### **Degree Type**

Doctor of Philosophy

### **Degree/Certificate Type**

Doctoral

### **CIP Code** ⓘ

### **CIP Title** ⓘ

## **Professional Credential/Licensure Program Information**

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Proposed  
**Licensure Information**  
Neither

Existing  
**Licensure Information**  
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## File Uploads

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Proposal File Upload

Executive Summary Upload

Associate Provost Memo

## 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
  - Complete the following:
    - PH539 - Advanced Biostatistics (3)
  - or NMSU's CEP 636 Advanced Statistics
  - Complete at least 1 of the following:
    - STAT574 - Biostatistical Methods: Survival Analysis and Logistic Regression (3)
    - PH537 - Advanced Epidemiology Methods (3)
    - NURS613 - Mixed Methods Research (3)
    - PH684 - Advanced Health Policy Analysis (3)
  - Earn at least 12 credits from the following types of courses:  
see concentrations for required or elective courses.
  - Earn at least 1 credits from the following types of courses:  
Dissertation proposal writing
  - Earn at least 2 credits from the following types of courses:  
see concentration for required or elective courses.
  - Earn at least 3 credits from the following:
    - PH690 - Doctoral Seminar (1 - 3)
  - Earn at least 18 credits from the following:
    - PH699 - Doctoral Dissertation Hours (3 - 12)
  - Earn at least 24 credits from the following types of courses:  
Coursework from: concentration, electives and M.A. transfer credit. See advisor for requirements.

**Grand Total Credits: 66**

## Concentrations

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### Program Concentrations

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

**Concentration Required**

Yes

## Emphases

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**Emphasis required** ⓘ

No

**Emphasis Hours**

**Emphasis Rules**

No Rules

## Program Learning Outcomes

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Proposed

## **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. Students successfully completing this program will be able to:

- (a) quantitatively address a novel or complex problem by developing an innovative statistical methodology or adapting existing methods to a new problem;
- (b) demonstrate mastery of advanced statistical theory and applications;
- (c) understand and implement innovative statistical approaches emerging in the literature to biomedical and public health or social issues;
- (d) communicate the results of statistical analyses to individuals with varying degrees of statistical knowledge;
- (e) recognize strengths and weaknesses of proposed approaches, including alternative designs, data sources, and analytic methods;
- (f) determine the data best suited to address public health or social issues, program planning, and program evaluation; and,
- (g) contribute to the body of knowledge in the field of biostatistics by submitting an article for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

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

The concentration in Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR), alternatively called community engaged research (CErR), 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. Some courses are shared with the Community Health Education Concentration.

### **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.

Existing

**Learning Outcomes**