Program Overview
The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Health Sciences Program prepares practicing health care professionals to assume leadership roles in health-related research, academic and/or clinical settings. To that end, the Program emphasizes the rigorous application of research and scholarship as the basis for identifying and addressing the many issues and questions arising in our complex health care delivery and education systems. The Program is an interdisciplinary and interprofessional program with students from many health-related disciplines. The Program requires a minimum of sixty (60) credits beyond the master’s degree.

Program description
The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Health Sciences program is coordinated by the Rutgers, School of Health-Related Professions (SHRP), Department of Interdisciplinary Studies (IDST) in collaboration with other SHRP departments and other units of the University. The SHRP departments most involved in this collaboration are the: Department of Nutritional Sciences, Department of Rehabilitation and Movement Sciences, and the Department of Psychiatric Rehabilitation and Counseling Professions.

The Program emphasizes independent/directed study and research under the guidance of a faculty advisor. The distribution of required courses versus elective courses within the sixty (60) credit requirement varies by track. There are currently four major tracks within the Ph.D. in Health Sciences program: 1) Nutritional Sciences Track (Track Coordinator: Dr. Riva Touger-Decker, decker@shrp.rutgers.edu); 2) Rehabilitation and Movement Sciences Track (Track Coordinator: Dr. Sandra Kaplan, kaplansa@shrp.rutgers.edu); 3) Psychiatric Rehabilitation and Counseling Professions Track (Track Coordinator: Dr. Carlos Pratt, pratt@shrp.rutgers.edu); and 4) the Interdisciplinary Track (Track Coordinator: Dr. Bob Denmark, denmarrm@shrp.rutgers.edu).
In collaboration with and the approval of the student's advisor, a student can select the elective courses of the Program to meet individual research goals and career aspirations, as well as the number of credits distributed between specialization/elective courses and dissertation courses. In addition, the Program provides several options for meeting course requirements, including independent study, pre-approved registration at other colleges or universities (including online courses), and portfolio assessment.

Complementing the Program’s flexibility is its innovative delivery approach and practical research and residency requirements. Most courses are web-based providing students with significant control over when and where their learning takes place. With advisor approval, research can often be conducted off-campus and students fulfill their residency requirement by defending their dissertation in-person (during IDST8424: Dissertation Seminar IV) and meeting any additional residency requirements specified by the track.

Students can normally pursue a specialization/focus area in any area supported by an available full-time SHRP faculty research advisor having the applicable expertise (the student’s Dissertation Chairperson must be a full-time faculty member in SHRP). The student’s faculty research advisor is usually the student’s Dissertation Chairperson. Ph.D. research advisement is most commonly available in the following general areas:

- **Nutritional Sciences** – Research advisement in this area is provided by faculty in the Department of Nutritional Sciences and is available only to those students who hold the Registered Dietitian (RD) certification.

- **Rehabilitation and Movement Sciences** – Research advisement in this area is provided by faculty in the Department of Rehabilitation and Movement Sciences.

- **Psychiatric Rehabilitation and Counseling Professions** – Research advisement in this area is provided by faculty in the Department of Psychiatric Rehabilitation and Counseling Services.

- **Interdisciplinary Studies** – Research advisement in this area is provided primarily by faculty in the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies. This department is best able to support research in the following areas:
  - Aging
  - Cardiopulmonary Sciences (in collaboration with the Department of Primary Care)
  - Clinical Systems/Practice Management
  - Health Leadership
  - Health Management and Administration
  - Health Professions Education
- Integrative Health and Wellness (in collaboration with the Department of Primary Care)

More detailed information about the department is available online.

**Description Of The Profession**
Health Sciences is the discipline that uses scientific knowledge to produce interdisciplinary and interprofessional solutions in the problem domain of human health, the healthcare delivery system, and the health-related workforce education system.

**Full-time and Part-time status**
The Program can be pursued on either a full or part-time basis, with up to ten (10) years allowed for completion. To maintain matriculation status, students must register for coursework (to include dissertation seminar/advisement or pre-approved external courses) during each regular semester. Should a student choose not to register for a course during a fall or spring semester, the student must complete a Change in Student Status form indicating Matriculation Continued and submit the form to Enrollment Services. Failure to do so may result in dismissal from the program.

**Department Faculty**
Please see the department faculty under Interdisciplinary Studies department/all campus.

**Primary Campus Location**
The program is web based. Because the Program makes extensive use of information technologies, all matriculants are required to have and maintain remote (off-campus) access to Internet services, to include at least Web browsing capability and an e-mail client. The University does not provide these services, but does provide all matriculants with an e-mail address and access to its network, including the Rutgers Virtual Library with full-text research databases and the student Banner Web system.

**Curriculum**
See database for program requirements and course descriptions and select your program.
Mission/Goals/Objectives
The mission of the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies is to enhance the preparation and experiences of health care professionals and educators by utilizing interdisciplinary models of education. Integral to this mission is the development and maintenance of an interprofessional learning environment that fosters enhanced communication, cooperation and collaboration among the health related professions.

Expected Outcomes and Objectives
The Program promotes the general outcomes established for doctorally-prepared graduates of SHRP. Specific objectives targeted by the Program include graduates’ abilities to:
- Function in a leadership role in the research, academic, and/or clinical setting;
- Plan, conduct and defend original research that creates or tests new concepts, hypotheses, models and/or theories;
- Apply research findings in the design and/or evaluation of new methods or approaches to diagnostic or treatment services, healthcare delivery systems, or patient or health professions education;
- Work collaboratively with others to advance the scientific bases of knowledge in the health professions via ongoing research and scholarship;
- Critically review, appraise and synthesize the health sciences literature;
- Demonstrate competency in oral, written, and electronic modes of communication, using both scholarly and technical formats;
- Apply computer and information technologies to address both theoretical and practical problems, enhance communication and disseminate knowledge;
- Integrate basic principles of ethics and cultural sensitivity within all interpersonal and professional activities.

Admissions
Eligibility: The Program is designed for health related professionals with training or experience in the application of scientific knowledge or methods in the delivery of health care or related services.
In addition, applicants must have earned at least a master’s degree with an overall GPA of at least 3.0, and, where applicable, be licensed or certified to practice in their field.

Applications:
The deadline for receipt of all admissions materials is March 1 each year, for Summer or Fall matriculation (applicants may take up to 12 credits as a non-matriculant, which can be applied to fulfill the program requirements upon admission). All applications will be reviewed for completeness. Only complete applications are forwarded to the Admissions Committee. A Complete application must include the following:
- Completed Rutgers–SHRP application + all applicable fees
- official transcript of highest degree
- Graduate Record Examination General test scores forwarded by ETS (institutional code: R3116). Notes: (a) according to ETS policy, GRE scores are only reportable for 5 years; and (b) because the GRE is one of many factors in the admission decision, we do not apply or set any minimum score or cut-off for either the test as a whole or its components
- three recommendations, preferably from professional colleagues/supervisors or from course instructors (using forms provided by and returned separately to the Office of Enrollment Services). Letters from relatives, friends or peers are not acceptable.
- statement of research interests
- resume or curriculum vita
- a copy of one’s current state license and/or professional certification, if applicable (please note that some courses or activities may require that students in licensed professions hold a valid NJ license).

International students must comply with the applicable University and School guidelines, which include the following: (1) achieving a score of 550 or higher on the written Test of English as a Foreign Language (or 213 on the computer-based version), and (2) providing an external evaluation of all foreign transcripts from an agency approved by the Office of Enrollment Services that verifies US baccalaureate equivalency.

**SELECTION:**
Admission to the program involves the following three stages:

1. The Admissions Committee reviews all complete applications and recommends the best qualified candidates for a general interview.
2. The best qualified candidates are interviewed by a team of faculty.
3. Candidates recommended for further consideration by the interview team normally are invited to schedule a one-on-one meeting with a faculty member identified as potential research advisor. Candidates who obtain the support of a faculty member willing to serve as their research advisor receive an offer of admission.

Matriculation as a student in the Program is contingent on return and receipt of all required materials, including the signed acceptance of admission, immunization and insurance forms, approval for background check, and any requisite fees.

**For more information**
For more information contact the Office of Enrollment Services at (973) 972-5336 or via e-mail at. Additional programmatic information is available at the program website. Click on Educational Programs, then Graduate Programs.
For more specific information contact the program at:
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RBHS - School of Health Related Professions
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