

# DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN HEALTH SCIENCES

Program Director

Ken Learman, PhD, PT

Director, PhD in Health Sciences

Professor, Physical Therapy

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## Mission:

To prepare the next generation of academics who are excellent researchers, instructors, and are prepared to serve Northeast Ohio and beyond.

## Vision:

We aspire to become the premier choice for doctoral preparation of healthcare professionals seeking to transition from the clinic to the classroom or research lab.

## Admissions requirements:

Adequacy of students

The Ph.D. in Health Sciences is designed to accept students who possess a bachelor's, master's or a clinical doctorate degree. The bachelor's and master's degrees considered should be health related, but will consider students with a basic science degree (ex. biology) if there is an established interest in healthcare. Additionally, there has been a track established for the current entry-level DPT students at YSU to enter a dual DPT/Ph.D. track at the end of their first year in the DPT program. All applicants to the program will be evaluated against the following admission criteria:

- Student with an interest in the Health Sciences and an interest in pursuing employment in academia, research, or clinical practice.
- Minimum overall 3.0 GPA from a bachelor's or master's degree.
- Exceptions will be considered on an individual basis for a GPA of 2.7-2.99. This will mandate a provisional admission.
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) will be required for applicants who currently have a bachelor's degree. Scores of 290 on parts 1 and 2, and 3.5 writing score are recommended.

All applicants applying with a current graduate degree will not be required to take the GRE but will be required to provide 1 example of academic writing and the committee reserves the right to request a second example at their discretion.

- If required by the field, a current license to practice.
- 3 letters of reference.
- Personal essay of why you are pursuing this degree and what area of research you are intending to pursue.
- A TOEFL score of at least 550 on a paper-based test, the equivalent score on a similar test, or an undergraduate degree from a university in the US.

Admissions will be completed by considering the student's individual research agenda as well as compatibility and availability of faculty to serve on dissertation committees.

## Graduate Faculty

**James A. Benedict**, PT, Ph.D., Associate Professor  
Healthcare policy; pro bono care; vulnerable populations

**Matthew Campbell**, Ph.D., ATC, Assistant Professor

Experiential learning in athletic training education; clinical education, youth sports, physical literacy/motor learning; social justice issues in athletic training and athletic training education

**Cara A. Carramusa**, Ed.D., PT, M.S., GCS, Assistant Professor  
PT education research: employability skills and professional dispositions/identity, teaching and learning, clinical education; older adults: fall risk management/prevention, active aging, population health/socialization of the physical therapy profession

**Chad Cook**  
Clinical examination and conservative or surgical treatment of orthopedics

**Richard Albert Deschenes, Jr.**, Ph.D., Assistant Professor  
Materials science; concrete durability and materials; applied mechanics

**Debbie Espy**  
Human movement science; neurological rehab; biomedical engineering

**David William Griswold**, D.P.T., Ph.D., Associate Professor  
Concussion management; vestibular rehabilitation; effects of manual therapy on pain and disability for orthopedic conditions; physiological and clinical effects from dry needling

**John M. Hazy**, Ph.D., Professor, Chair  
Community/behavioral health (drugs and crime); methodology and assessment; life course and cultural issues; teaching effectiveness

**Nancy Crum Landgraff**, PT, Ph.D., Professor, Chair  
Stroke rehabilitation and outcomes

**Kenneth Learman**, PT, Ph.D., Professor  
Physical therapy interventions for the spine; concussion management; chronic pain phenotyping; headache differentiation

**Linda Pax Lowes**  
Pediatric Physical Therapy; neurological rehab

**Rachael J. Pohle-Krauz**, Ph.D., Professor  
Nutrition

**Richard Lee Rogers**, Ph.D., Associate Professor  
Social problems and criminology; organizational and economic sociology; statistics and research methods; social history; Anglo-American religious movements; ecological analysis

**Annie Q. Tapp**, D.P.T., Assistant Professor

## Degree Requirements

Candidates that enroll with a bachelor's degree will complete all core courses (60 s.h.) and an additional 30 s.h. as approved by the Program Director. These courses can be an individualized plan using existing master's courses in the College of Health and Human Services, the Gerontology program, other master's courses, or Concentration Course Electives in the Ph.D. program.

COURSE	TITLE	S.H.
HRS 8921	Evidence Based Practice in Health Sciences	3
HRS 8935	Epidemiology in Health Sciences	3
HRS 8941	Psychosocial and Cultural Aspects of Healthcare	3
HRS 8942	Mental and Behavioral Aspects of Healthcare	3
HRS 8960	Higher Education in Health Sciences	3
HRS 8961	Classroom Management & Teaching Strategies in Health Sciences	3
HRS 8962	Mentored Instruction	3
HRS 8970	Scientific Writing in Health Sciences	3
HRS 8990	Graduate Research in Health Sciences	12
HRS 8995	Dissertation in Health Sciences	18

CRJS 6940	Statistical Techniques in Health and Human Services	3
CRJS 6945	Research Methods in Health and Human Services	3
<b>Total Semester Hours</b>		<b>60</b>

## Learning Outcomes

By graduation from the Doctor of Philosophy in Health Sciences program, students will:

1. Propose a research study utilizing appropriate statistical or assessment techniques to answer a question based on an identified gap in the literature.
2. Apply scientific evidence to specific patient/client cases in their fields.
3. Explain how psychosocial and mental & behavioral factors impact healthcare outcomes of various disease processes relate to their area of research.
4. Design a study to answer an original research question regarding the teaching andragogy in Health Sciences education.
5. Communicate their original research both verbally and through manuscripts submitted for publication in academic journals.
6. Apply interdisciplinary research skills to solve current and future problems as professionals in Health Sciences.

COURSE	TITLE	S.H.
PHYT 8921	Evidence Based Practice in Health Sciences	3
PHYT 8935	Epidemiology in Health Sciences	3
PHYT 8940	Interdisciplinary Health Care Delivery	3
PHYT 8941	Psychosocial & Cultural Aspects of Healthcare	3
PHYT 8942	Mental and Behavioral Aspects of Healthcare	3
PHYT 8970	Scientific Writing in Health Sciences	3
PHYT 8990	Graduate Research in Health Sciences	1-6
PHYT 8995	Dissertation in Health Science	1-9
TCED 6936	Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction to Improve Learning	3
CRJS 6940	Statistical Techniques in Health and Human Services	3
CRJS 6945	Research Methods in Health and Human Services	3