

**Oklahoma State University  
School of Applied Health and Educational Psychology**

**Ph.D. in Health, Leisure, and Human Performance**

**A. Curriculum**

The purpose and focus of this Doctor of Philosophy program in the College of Education is the preparation of excellent entry-level research scholars for formal and informal learning organizations. They may serve in such roles as faculty members at colleges and universities and scholar practitioners in the workplace. The options included in the degree program help students to develop experiences that will allow them to meet career needs and goals through (1) interactive, collaborative research, (2) teaching experience, (3) university and professional service, and (4) outreach and extension appropriate to a land-grant university. The options presented in this doctoral program have been designed to permit flexibility within the disciplines encompassed by the degree while assuring that all students in the program are provided the opportunity to develop research skills, which facilitate functioning as future faculty member or scholar practitioners.

Total number of hours required for degree	<u>60 hours post-masters degree</u>
Number of hours of research	<u>9 credit hours minimum</u>
Number of hours of common core	<u>9</u>
Number of option hours	<u>27</u>
Number of dissertation hours	<u>15</u>

(Minimum of 15 dissertation hours used on plan of study; additional hours are in excess of degree requirements, permitting continuous enrollment to comply with OSU policy.)

The Doctor of Philosophy in Health, Leisure and Human Performance is built upon a minimum of 16 hours in research and inquiry, of which 7 hours are common for all students in the degree program. The six-hour requirement in research design and statistics is designed to provide both qualitative and quantitative focus and methods encouraging integrated inquiry within the discipline. In addition, each option requires the doctoral student to participate in a collaborative colloquy, across the degree, with the intent of developing competence in designing, articulating and evaluating research.

The Doctor of Philosophy in Health, Leisure and Human Performance requires the student to complete an additional nine hours from among the following courses, strengthening competency in research. This selection of courses is intended to develop the depth and range of research tools desired in the doctoral student. The doctoral Advisory Committee will work with the individual student to select the most appropriate course sequence.

**Research Design and Statistics (Inquiry): (9 credit hours)**

REMS 6003	Analysis of Variance
REMS 6013	Multiple Regression Analysis
REMS 6663	Applied Multivariate Research
STAT 5033	Nonparametric Methods
STAT 5043	Sample Survey Designs
SCFD 6123	Qualitative Research: Interviewing & Fieldwork
SCFD 6190	Qualitative Research: Selected Methods
SCFD 6193	Qualitative Research: Data Analysis

In addition, all students in the program share a common core designed to achieve the goals established for the degree program. This common core of nine credit hours across the degree is defined as (1) Development of Curricula, (2) Organization/Leadership, and (3) Professional Ethics. First, the graduate from this Ph.D. program must understand the learning process for college age and adult learners, with appropriate curricular development to meet academic standards. Further, the graduate must demonstrate competence in teaching and research. Second, the graduate from this Ph.D. program must understand the operation and development of organizations pertinent to the delivery of knowledge within the discipline. This may include academic institutions, but must also include learning through other organizations. Third, the graduate from this Ph.D. program must demonstrate knowledge, understanding and ability to work ethically within educational systems and processes present in society.

**Common Core: (9 credit hours)**

3 hours	Development of Curricula HHP 6723 – Curricular Design in Health, Leisure and Human Performance
3 hours	Organization/Leadership LEIS 6763 – Management in Health, Leisure and Human Performance Settings
3 hours	Professional Ethics HHP 6043 – Ethical Issues in Health, Leisure and Human Performance

Beyond the inquiry core, the extended inquiry, and the common core, the doctoral student completes the degree requirements within the respective option. The two options are (1) Health and Human Performance, and (2) Leisure Studies. Details relative to the degree of interest are attached to this material.

**B. Academic Standards**ADMISSION TO PROGRAM

Minimum requirements for full admission to the doctoral program are:

1. A minimum graduate grade point average of 3.50 on a 4.00 scale from a prior masters' degree program is recommended. If the applicant has not completed the masters' degree prior to admission, the applicant must complete all masters' level prerequisites in addition to the doctoral requirements.

2. The recommended Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is a composite score of 950. The preferred sub-scale minimum scores are 500 on the verbal scale, 450 on the quantitative scale.
3. Three professional recommendations are required including references from the major advisor and faculty for any graduate work completed. These references should include statements relating to a) the applicant's success in professional settings or commitment to professionals allied with the disciplines in the College of Education, b) the applicant's prior academics record as a reflection of ability to succeed in a doctoral program, and c) the applicant's potential for success in research, writing, and course work at the doctoral level. If such references are not available, the applicant should submit references from one or more faculty members familiar with the applicant's academic career. Other references should be from individuals capable of addressing the applicant's ability to complete successfully a doctoral program.
4. A two-page written document articulating professional goals is required. The candidate should submit a written document clearly stating professional goals, academic and professional accomplishments, and academic focus within the doctoral program.
5. A scholarly writing sample is required. The candidate should submit an academic or scholarly paper he/she has produced within the last ten years.

**If the admissions committee determines that additional information is needed or if a candidate is deficient in one of the numerical requirements above, the committee may request the following of the candidate before a final decision is rendered regarding admission status:**

1. A faculty-supervised, on-campus or proctored writing exercise will be administered. The candidate will be provided with a scholarly article two weeks prior to the writing exercise. The candidate will be given two hours to produce a written response to a question regarding the article.
2. The candidate will participate in an on-campus interview with members of the admissions committee.

#### REVIEW PROCESS FOR ADMISSION

The Office of the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies manages all processes and records pertinent to admission. Each option within the Ph.D. program will convene an admissions committee consisting of at least three faculty members from among the graduate faculty serving that option. The admission process is ongoing with admission decisions rendered by a committee of the graduate faculty within the individual program option. The graduate admissions committee will meet as needed for appropriate notification to applicants in a timely manner. Notification of decisions pertaining to admission status will be made in writing.

Admission decisions will be based on appropriate academic, scholarly and research alliances among the student, the faculty and the focus of the Ph.D. program. Available resources and current enrollment within the program or within the option may play a significant role in the admission decision.

## PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

### Advisory Committee

Once a candidate has been admitted into the program, the admissions committee will assign a temporary advisor. Within the first 30 hours of the doctoral program, the student should form an Advisory Committee that may or may not include the temporary advisor. The role of the Advisory Committee is to guide students in selection of course work and a plan of study, and to prepare them for qualifying exams. The Chair of the Advisory Committee must hold full graduate faculty status. The Advisory Committee is composed of a minimum of four faculty members holding associate or full graduate faculty standing at Oklahoma State University. One member of the Advisory Committee must meet the Graduate College definition of an “outside member” of the committee, being a graduate faculty member from a department or program outside the student’s major field of study (option within the Ph.D.).

### Qualifying Examinations

At or near the end of the student’s course work, per Graduate College requirements, the Advisory Committee will administer a qualifying examination pertinent to the student’s plan of study and research interests. The student must have an approved plan of study and an outline of the dissertation proposal or the complete dissertation proposal on file in the Graduate College, and have the approval of the Advisory Committee to write the qualifying examination. The intent of the qualifying examination is to ascertain the student’s preparedness to initiate the dissertation phase of the doctoral program. The Advisory Committee establishes dates and times for the examination. This qualifying examination will include two major components: (1) research design and methods, and (2) theory appropriate to the student’s discipline.

### Dissertation Research

Following successful completion of the qualifying examination, final approval of the Advisory Committee, and with Institutional Review Board Approval (if required), the student will be permitted to begin research leading to the eventual completion of the dissertation.

The dissertation for the Doctor of Philosophy degree in Health, Leisure and Human Performance must achieve three standards: (1) original research relevant to the degree and the candidate’s plan of study, (2) professional growth for the candidate, and (3) contribution to scholarship within the option represented by the candidate.

Persons wishing to become candidates for the Ph.D. degree in Health, Leisure and Human Performance with an option in Leisure Studies should first complete a Graduate College application and send two official transcripts of all coursework completed to:

Dean of Graduate College  
202 Whitehurst Hall  
Oklahoma State University  
Stillwater, OK 74078  
405-744-6368

All other materials (e.g., test scores, letters of reference, professional goal statement, and scholarly writing sample) should be sent to:

Graduate Studies—COE  
325V Willard Hall  
Oklahoma State University  
Stillwater, OK 74078  
405-744-9483  
[coe.grad.studies@okstate.edu](mailto:coe.grad.studies@okstate.edu)