



PhD in Health Systems and Services Research

Fay W. Boozman

College of Public Health
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Health Systems and Services Research

The Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health offers a program of instruction leading to the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree in Health Systems and Services Research. The program provides students with the theoretical and methodological foundations necessary to conduct creative and independent research on health systems, with the ultimate goal of identifying pathways to improve health system performance through evidence-based policy and management. The curriculum involves intensive and focused study in the theoretical perspectives and methodological strategies relevant to research on the organization, financing, and delivery of health services, including issues of quality, accessibility, efficiency, safety and equity within healthcare systems. Students develop scholarly expertise in these areas of study, advanced skills in quantitative research methods, confidence in their teaching, and a high standard of scientific integrity and professionalism.

Faculty

Program faculty represent several distinct disciplines including Health Policy, Health Economics, Health Services Research, Medical Sociology, Organizational Behavior, Health Care Finance and Health Systems. They publish in a wide spectrum of health services research journals. Research funding comes from grants and contracts with the NIH, CDC and state agencies.

Areas of Concentration

The program requires students to select one of three possible discipline areas in which to pursue concentrated study: (1) health economics; (2) quality and health outcomes research; or (3) comparative effectiveness research. The health economics concentration allows students to master the body of theory and methods for studying the economic behavior of health care providers, insurers and consumers and for evaluating the economic impact of health policies and health care interventions.

The concentration in quality and health outcomes research allows students to develop expertise in the theory and methods for evaluating healthcare quality and analyzing outcomes of alternative health systems, especially for disparities in health care and health outcomes.

The concentration in comparative effectiveness research allows students to develop expertise in the theory and methods of realistic evaluation to compare health care delivery systems and services in real world settings with an emphasis on patient-centered outcomes and stakeholder engagement.

Career Opportunities

Students in the Health Systems and Services PhD program can expect to find employment in academia, government agencies and non-profit institutions. Students have the opportunity to compete for grant support to fund their dissertation research projects and present research at national meetings.

Curriculum Components

Students take core courses in health services research theory and applications, statistical methodology including advanced econometrics, study design and research methodology, scholarship skills, and directed research, in addition to their area of concentration. The program includes 52 credit hours of coursework and 18 hours of dissertation credit for a total of 70 hours. Students can earn their PhD in three to four years with full-time study.

Prerequisites to the Degree Program

Students must have received an MPH or related graduate degree (MPA, MBA, MD, JD, MA) prior to entry into the proposed program. Additionally, applicants must receive a competitive score on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) taken within five years immediately before the requested semester of admission. Students will be required to complete coursework in statistics through basic linear regression and introduction to health economics (can be taken upon admission).

Stipends

Students may receive a stipend while pursuing their PhD that includes salary support of \$24,000 per year and tuition credit for up to 12 credit hours per semester and one credit hour in the summer. Stipends also cover most fees charged to graduate students.

Program Director

For information on the PhD program in Health Systems and Services Research, please contact the Program Director at (501) 526-6633, or download the application and eligibility requirements at

www.publichealth.uams.edu

International students must also submit a WES foreign transcript evaluation and score a minimum of 80 on the IBT TOEFL. International students with an undergraduate degree from a U.S.-accredited institution will be exempt from the TOEFL requirement.

For More Information

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UAMS
FAY W. BOOZMAN
COLLEGE OF
PUBLIC HEALTH
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES



About UAMS

UAMS is Arkansas' only academic health center and trains the majority of health care professionals in the state. Because UAMS Medical Center is a teaching hospital, the university stays at the forefront of knowledge and technology that benefit not only the citizens of Arkansas, but individuals from across the nation and world.

About Little Rock

Recently named by Kiplinger's Magazine as the most livable city with a population of 1 million or less, Little Rock is Arkansas' capital and a hub for commerce, health care and culture. Nestled between the Ouachita Mountains and the Arkansas River, the city has the amenities of a larger metro area, but with a relaxed pace. It offers many attractions including the Clinton Presidential Center and Central High (a landmark of the early Civil Rights Movement), as well as the 88-mile urban Arkansas River Trail System and nightlife in the vibrant River Market District.

Our Mission

The mission of the Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health is to improve the health and promote the well-being of individuals, families and communities in Arkansas through education, research and service.

