Fay W. Boozman

College of Public Health
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

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

Program Description
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, 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.

Curriculum Components
The program includes 52 credit hours of coursework and a minimum of 18 hours of dissertation credit, for a total of 70 hours.

Health Services Research Theory and Applications (18 hours)
Research Methods (13 hours)
Selective coursework (15 hours)
  Health Economics  Qualitative Research
  Statistical Methods  Bioinformatics
Scholarship skills (6 hours)
Doctoral candidate examination
Dissertation (18 hours)
Admission Requirements

• Students must have received an M.P.H. or related graduate degree (e.g. M.P.A., M.B.A., M.D., J.D.) prior to entry into the program, along with relevant experience in health policy or health services. Students without an MPH degree from an accredited School of Public Health must complete the Introduction to Public Health course at UAMS. This can be taken upon admission—concurrently with PhD program courses—but do not count toward degree hours.

• Students must have completed coursework in statistics through basic linear regression, epidemiology, and introduction to health economics.


• Complete the on-line UAMS COPH supplemental application at https://oaa.uams.edu.

• Documents needed with application:
  • Official transcripts of all academic work;
  • Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores dated within 5 years of application;
  • Curriculum Vitae or Resume;
  • Statement of Experience, Purpose, and Objectives (500-700 words);
  • Professional writing sample
  • Three (3) letters of recommendation

• International applicants, visit this website for further requirements: http://publichealth.uams.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2012/06/Doctoral-application-requirements-international-03.pdf

Research Assistantships and Opportunities

A limited number of research assistantships may be available for qualified students to cover tuition up to $24,000 per year for up to three years in stipends.

Students have the opportunity to compete for grant support to fund their dissertation research projects and present research at local and national meetings.
The professors who teach work hard to guide students through research projects that best align with the students’ research interests and career goals.

My favorite thing about the program is that it has taught me the skills I need to be an independent HSR researcher. We have courses dedicated to learning about the unique features of the healthcare system as well as courses that teach how to rigorously analyze various types of healthcare data.

Links:
http://publichealth.uams.edu/
https://studentfinancialservices.uams.edu/
Find us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/uamscoph

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.

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