

Health Services Research and Health Policy



EMORY
LANEY
GRADUATE
SCHOOL



Emory's Health Services Research and Health Policy (HSRP) program trains students to undertake original research, relying on social science theory and using sophisticated empirical analyses, to evaluate current issues in health policy.

Our program combines a strongly interdisciplinary and policy oriented public health approach with rigorous social science training in either economics or political science. We train future researchers and policy analysts for positions in academia (particularly in schools of public health and medical schools), in industry (for example, pharmaceutical companies), for research and consulting organizations, in government, and for non-profits focused on health policy and health services research.

Research Opportunities

The HSRP program brings together academic knowledge with applied research aimed at improving the delivery and management of health care services.

The backgrounds of our faculty include economics, political science, management, epidemiology, and sociology, as well as the clinical health sciences, and their research agendas fully reflect this diversity. Major research areas include

- comparative health systems analysis and health reform initiatives in the United States, Europe, the republics of the former Soviet Union, and developing countries
- clinical economics of cardiovascular disease and cancer; outcomes and effectiveness research
- quality of life measures
- managed care for geriatric populations
- payment systems
- physician reimbursement and physician profiling
- mental health policy

Our program is closely aligned with Emory's Center on Health Outcomes and Quality. The Center was established in 2001, bringing together a team of experienced hands-on researchers formerly with Aetna with leading academic researchers at Emory, including a number of HSRP faculty members. The Center focuses on cutting edge issues relating to health outcomes studies and methodology.

DISCOVER

the unexpected

Students and faculty are also heavily involved in Emory's strategic initiatives in global health, predictive health, and a new policy institute. The policy institute, headed by Health Policy and Management chair Dr. Kenneth E. Thorpe, will initially focus on lessons for health care reform from abroad and will bring scholars from the around the U.S. and Europe to Emory to lead seminars and collaborate on research.

We are fortunate to be located in Atlanta, a vibrant nexus for health policy and public health. Immediately adjacent to the Emory campus is the headquarters of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Just a little farther away are the American Cancer Society, the Carter Center, CARE USA, and the Morehouse School of Medicine, as well as state and regional health care and health policy organizations.

A number of researchers from these organizations serve as adjunct or visiting faculty in our program and collaborate with HSRP faculty on research projects. HSRP faculty members also work with organizations ranging from Atlanta-based hospitals to global organizations like the World Health Organization and the World Bank.

These extensive research activities provide students with a rich variety of opportunities to participate in diverse research projects and to learn about healthy policy research at the highest levels. Students are encouraged to work with faculty members to identify opportunities for such involvement.

Curriculum

We anticipate that students will require a minimum of four years to complete their degrees.

Coursework

Students generally complete their coursework during the first two years. The curriculum is highly structured, and students specialize in either economics or political science.

- Students in the economics track take microeconomics, econometrics, and economics field courses offered by the Economics program.
- Students in the political science track take political theory, American national government, public opinion and voting behavior, and courses in comparative politics and other areas, depending on their interests.

All students in the program take a three semester long sequence of doctoral seminars.

- The Seminar in Health Services Research introduces students to the major tools of health services research. The course also highlights existing and emerging issues in health services research, policy and management.

- The Seminar in Health Economics teaches students advanced mathematical theoretical economics. Students learn basic models for describing physician and hospital behavior, and personal health decisions, and the functioning of insurance markets. Additional topics include competition in pharmaceutical markets, managed care, and reimbursement.
- The Seminar in Health Policy acquaints students with the major areas of health policy research, active areas of research in health policy and economics, and faculty from the Department of Health Policy and Management and elsewhere in the University who conduct health policy research. The course addresses a different topic every week.

Students take coursework during the first two years of the program, with a focus on economics or political science. During the summer between the first and second year students are encouraged to work with faculty members on research projects, possibly leading to a published article or a dissertation topic. After the second year, students take comprehensive examinations and then proceed to write and defend a dissertation.

Research

Collaborative research activity is expected to be a major source of doctoral training. Entering students will be assigned a faculty advisor based on their interests. The faculty advisor will be responsible for overseeing the student's progress and assisting the student in designing an appropriate program of study, including participation in research projects.

We also expect that students will work closely with faculty in the department and elsewhere at Emory on research projects. Typically, students begin research assistantships during the summer between the first and second years. At the end of the second year, we anticipate that the student will engage in original research that will result in a dissertation under the supervision of the faculty member.



Comprehensive Examinations

Students take comprehensive examinations based on the track they have chosen. Normally, these are administered at the end of the second year.

Dissertation

After passing the comprehensive examinations, the student will develop and present his/her dissertation prospectus, including a formal presentation developing the research hypotheses and analytic plan for the writing of the dissertation. After the successful defense of the prospectus, the student would advance to candidacy, complete the dissertation research, and ultimately defend his/her thesis to the Committee.

Because most scholarly communication in health policy is in the form of journal articles rather than books, our program encourages students to pursue the three paper option for dissertations. Briefly, a dissertation may consist of three publishable (but not yet published) journal-length articles on a related subject.



Faculty

The fulltime HSRP faculty members represent a range of disciplines focused on the study of health care systems, policy and finance: Economics, Sociology, Political Science and Epidemiology. They are complemented by faculty members sharing their interests in other departments of the Rollins School of Public Health such as Behavioral Sciences and Health Education, Epidemiology and Global Health. They are also joined by adjunct faculty members from affiliated organizations like the CDC. Faculty members share a commitment to research, teaching and the translation of their work into public health applications.

A complete list of faculty members, with information about research interests, publications, and more, is available on our website. Please visit www.sph.emory.edu/hpm/faculty.php.

Contact Information

Walter M. Burnett
Professor and Director of Graduate Studies
Department of Health Policy and Management
walter.burnett@emory.edu

Kent M. Tolleson
Program Administrator
ktolles@emory.edu

For more information, please visit our program's webpage:
www.sph.emory.edu/hpm

About the Rollins School of Public Health

At Emory's Rollins School of Public Health, students learn to identify, analyze, and intervene in today's most pressing public health issues. The school is located in Atlanta, Georgia, often referred to as the "Public Health Capital of the World"—the city is also home to the U.S Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; CARE; the American Cancer Society; The Carter Center; the Arthritis Foundation; numerous state and regional health agencies; and health-related research programs of Emory University's Woodruff Health Sciences Center. This setting is ideal for hands-on research, collaborations with the world's leading public health agencies, and interdisciplinary work with national and international organizations.

The school comprises six academic departments: behavioral sciences and health education, biostatistics, environmental and occupational health, epidemiology, health policy and management, global health, and hosts over 20 interdisciplinary centers as well as a distance learning program.

In addition to four doctoral programs offered through the Emory Graduate School, the Rollins School of Public Health offers Master of Public Health, Master of Science in Public Health, Master of Science in Clinical Research (jointly with the Emory School of Medicine), and dual degree MPH programs with the schools of business, law, medicine, physician assistant, and nursing.

Visit www.sph.emory.edu.



EMORY
LANEY
GRADUATE
SCHOOL

Requests for Additional Information:

RECRUITMENT AND ADMISSIONS

Ph.D. Program
Department of Health Policy and Management
Rollins School of Public Health
Emory University
1518 Clifton Rd., NE
Atlanta, GA 30322

800-727-6028 (domestic only)
(ask for the Health Services Research
and Health Policy program)

404-727-3211 (direct line)

ktolles@sph.emory.edu

<http://www.graduateschool.emory.edu>
<http://www.sph.emory.edu/hpm>