KINESIOLOGY: BIOMECHANICS, PH.D.

This is a named option in the Kinesiology, Ph.D. (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/kinesiology/kinesiology-phd/) For more information, please see our program website (https://kinesiology.education.wisc.edu/academics/grad-program/).

Biomechanics is the application of mechanics to biological systems. Within the broad field of biomechanics, specific areas of study at UW–Madison include: tissue mechanics, neuro-muscular control, human performance, sports performance, injury, rehabilitation, and limb dynamics. The program equips students to apply the tools of engineering analysis to biological systems from the cellular to the whole-body level with career objectives in academia, health care, and sports science. Elective coursework within the program allows students to pursue individual interests such as physiological adaptations to mechanical stimuli or computer modeling. Students generally have opportunity to teach during their training.

The Ph.D. degree is designed to prepare students for independent research and teaching. Formal training includes course work in some of the following areas: math, statistics, physiology, mechanics, biomechanics, motor control, injury biomechanics, and injury epidemiology. The wide range of courses offered at the UW–Madison allows the student to tailor a curriculum which fits their individual interests. Students conduct independent research throughout their training which will be summarized in their dissertation. Presentations are also expected to be made at national scientific meetings and in peer-reviewed journals. Graduates generally pursue additional training (post-doctoral training) and go on to establish careers in academia or industrial settings.

ADMISSIONS

Please consult the table below for key information about this degree program’s admissions requirements. The program may have more detailed admissions requirements, which can be found below the table or on the program’s website.

Graduate admissions is a two-step process between academic programs and the Graduate School. Applicants must meet the minimum requirements (https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/) of the Graduate School as well as the program(s). Once you have researched the graduate program(s) you are interested in, apply online (https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Detail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall Deadline</td>
<td>February 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Deadline</td>
<td>December 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Deadline</td>
<td>This program does not admit in the summer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRE (Graduate Record Examinations)</td>
<td>Not required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Proficiency Test</td>
<td>Every applicant whose native language is not English or whose undergraduate instruction was not in English must provide an English proficiency test score and meet the Graduate School minimum requirements (<a href="https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/#english-proficiency">https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/#english-proficiency</a>).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The application deadline is February 15, applications may be considered after this date.

For admission, the Graduate School requires, as does the Kinesiology department, a minimum 3.0 GPA (on a 4.0=A scale) on the last 60 semester hours (or equivalent) of undergraduate coursework. An applicant must submit academic transcripts from each institution attended and a statement of reasons for graduate study. The statement should provide specific details on why the applicant names this named option. If a professor in the area of specialization agrees to serve as the prospective student’s advisor, then the department’s graduate office recommends the applicant for admission to the Graduate School. Please consult the kinesiology website (https://kinesiology.education.wisc.edu/grad/about/) for further details of these requirements and procedures.

FUNDING

GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

Resources to help you afford graduate study might include assistantships, fellowships, traineeships, and financial aid. Further funding information (https://grad.wisc.edu/funding/) is available from the Graduate School. Be sure to check with your program for individual policies and restrictions related to funding.

REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Review the Graduate School minimum academic progress and degree requirements (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policiesandrequirementstext), in addition to the program requirements listed below.

NAMED OPTION REQUIREMENTS

Mode of Instruction Definitions

Accelerated: Accelerated programs are offered at a fast pace that condenses the time to completion. Students typically take enough credits aimed at completing the program in a year or two.

Evening/Weekend: Courses meet on the UW–Madison campus only in evenings and/or on weekends to accommodate typical business schedules. Students have the advantages of face-to-face courses with the flexibility to keep work and other life commitments.

Face-to-Face: Courses typically meet during weekdays on the UW-Madison Campus.
Hybrid: These programs combine face-to-face and online learning formats. Contact the program for more specific information.

Online: These programs are offered 100% online. Some programs may require an on-campus orientation or residency experience, but the courses will be facilitated in an online format.

**CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Detail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Credit Requirement</td>
<td>51 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Residence Credit Requirement</td>
<td>32 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement</td>
<td>26 credits. Must be graduate-level coursework. Details can be found in the Graduate School’s Minimum Graduate Coursework (50%) policy (<a href="https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244/">https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244</a>).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall Graduate GPA Requirement</td>
<td>3.00 GPA required. This program follows the Graduate School’s policy: <a href="https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203/">https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Grade Requirements</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessments and Examinations</td>
<td>Ph.D. students must:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. pass preliminary exams (<a href="http://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/#preliminaryexaminations">http://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/#preliminaryexaminations</a>) administered by a three member faculty committee; and 2. successfully propose and defend a dissertation before a five-member committee.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language Requirements</td>
<td>No language requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breadth Requirement</td>
<td>A doctoral minor or graduate/professional certificate is not required due to the broad areas of inquiry within Kinesiology. To ensure the breadth of study requirement is achieved, students are required to complete a minimum of 2 graduate level courses (at least 2 credits each) in Kinesiology, outside of their named option coursework.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REQUIRED COURSES</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KINES 618 Biomechanics</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KINES 951 Seminar-Biomechanics</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KINES 900 Seminar in Kinesiology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KINES 990 Research or Thesis</td>
<td>4+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistics</td>
<td>3-4 minimum</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Examples provided, but courses are chosen in consultation with advisor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STAT/F&amp;W ECOL/HORT 571</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 575 Statistical Methods for Spatial Data</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ED PSYCH 760 Statistical Methods Applied to Education I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ED PSYCH 761 Statistical Methods Applied to Education II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**General Field Requirement**

4-6

At least 2 graduate level courses of at least 2 credits each in Kinesiology, outside the Biomechanics area.

**Suggested Electives (chosen in consultation with advisor)**

Students take as many electives as needed to reach the total credit minimum.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KINES 614</td>
<td>Biological Factors Influencing Exercise Performance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KINES 721</td>
<td>Neural Basis for Movement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KINES 861</td>
<td>Principles of Motor Control and Learning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KINES 961</td>
<td>Seminar in Motor Control and Learning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Credits**

51

1

All Kinesiology M.S. and Ph.D. students are required to register for KINES 900 Seminar in Kinesiology for 1 credit each semester they are enrolled in the program, for a minimum of 4 credits.

2

Courses within the biomechanics area include KINES 618 Biomechanics and KINES 951 Seminar-Biomechanics

**POLICIES**

**GRADUATE SCHOOL POLICIES**

The Graduate School’s Academic Policies and Procedures ([https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/](https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/)) provide essential information regarding general university policies. Program authority to set degree policies beyond the minimum required by the Graduate School lies with the degree program faculty. Policies set by the academic degree program can be found below.

**NAMED OPTION-SPECIFIC POLICIES**

**PRIOR COURSEWORK**

**Graduate Work from Other Institutions**

With program approval, students are allowed to count no more than 18 credits of graduate coursework from other institutions. Coursework earned ten years or more prior to admission to a doctoral degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

**UW–Madison Undergraduate**

No credits from a UW–Madison undergraduate degree are allowed to count toward the degree.

**UW–Madison University Special**

This program follows the Graduate School’s policy for Transfer from UW-Madison University Special Student Career at UW-Madison. ([https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1216/](https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1216/))

**PROBATION**

This program follows the Graduate School’s Probation policy. ([https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1217/](https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1217/))
**ADVISOR / COMMITTEE**
This program follows the Graduate School’s Advisor policy (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1232/) and the Graduate School’s Committees policy (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1201/), except the dissertation committee must have a minimum of 5 members.

Ph.D. students work with two committees during their studies.

1. Preliminary exams Committee (three graduate faculty members)
2. Dissertation committee (five members)
   a. Proposal committee
   b. Defense committee

Ordinarily the proposal and defense committees have the same membership. Committee members are selected by the student in consultation with the faculty advisor.

**CREDITS PER TERM ALLOWED**
15 credits

**TIME LIMITS**
This program follows the Graduate School’s Time Limits policy. (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1221/)

Within the Department, completion of required courses and passing preliminary exams within three years of starting the Ph.D. program is considered satisfactory progress. See the Graduate Program Handbook link in Contact Information for more information.

**GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS**
These resources may be helpful in addressing your concerns:

- Bias or Hate Reporting (https://doso.students.wisc.edu/bias-or-hate-reporting/)
- Graduate Assistantship Policies and Procedures (https://hr.wisc.edu/policies/gappp/#grievance-procedure)
- Hostile and Intimidating Behavior Policies and Procedures (https://hr.wisc.edu/hib/)
  - Office of the Provost for Faculty and Staff Affairs (https://facstaff.provost.wisc.edu/)
  - Dean of Students Office (https://doso.students.wisc.edu/) (for all students to seek grievance assistance and support)
  - Employee Assistance (http://www.eao.wisc.edu/) (for personal counseling and workplace consultation around communication and conflict involving graduate assistants and other employees, post-doctoral students, faculty and staff)
- Employee Disability Resource Office (https://employeesdisabilities.wisc.edu/) (for qualified employees or applicants with disabilities to have equal employment opportunities)
- Graduate School (https://grad.wisc.edu/) (for informal advice at any level of review and for official appeals of program/departamental or school/college grievance decisions)
- Office of Compliance (https://compliance.wisc.edu/) (for class harassment and discrimination, including sexual harassment and sexual violence)
- Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (https://conduct.students.wisc.edu/) (for conflicts involving students)
- Ombuds Office for Faculty and Staff (http://www.ombuds.wisc.edu/) (for employed graduate students and post-docs, as well as faculty and staff)

- Title IX (https://compliance.wisc.edu/titleix/) (for concerns about discrimination)

**SCHOOL OF EDUCATION GRIEVANCE POLICY AND PROCEDURES**
The following School of Education Student Grievance Policy and associated procedures are designed for use in response to individual student grievances regarding faculty or staff in the School of Education.

Any individual student who feels they have been treated unfairly by a School of Education faculty or staff member has the right to file a grievance about the treatment and receive a timely response addressing their concerns. Any student, undergraduate or graduate, may use these grievance procedures, except employees whose complaints are covered under other campus policies. The grievance may concern classroom treatment, mentoring or advising, program admission or continuation, course grades (study abroad grade complaints are handled through International Academic Programs (https://studyabroad.wisc.edu/)), or issues not covered by other campus policies or grievance procedures.

For grievances regarding discrimination based on protected bases (https://compliance.wisc.edu/eo-complaint/) (i.e., race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, etc.), contact the Office of Compliance (https://compliance.wisc.edu/eo-complaint/).

For grievances or concerns regarding sexual harassment or sexual violence (including sexual assault, dating/domestic violence, stalking and sexual exploitation), contact the Sexual Misconduct Resource and Response Program (https://compliance.wisc.edu/titleix/) within the Office of Compliance.

For grievances that involve the behavior of a student, contact the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards in the Dean of Students Office at https://conduct.students.wisc.edu/).

For grievances about, or directed at, faculty or staff in a School of Education department, unit, or program, students should follow these steps:

1. Students are strongly encouraged to first talk with the person against whom the concern is directed. Many issues can be settled informally at this level. If students are unable to resolve concerns directly or without additional support, step 2 or 3 should be pursued.

2. If unresolved after taking or considering step 1:
   a. If the concern is directed against a teaching assistant (TA), and the student is not satisfied, the student should contact the TA’s supervisor, who is usually the course professor. The course professor will attempt to resolve the concern informally.
   b. If the concern involves a non-TA instructor, staff member, professor, academic department, or School of Education office or unit, the student should contact the chair of the department or the director of the office or unit, or their designee. The chair or director, or their designee, will attempt to resolve the concern informally. If the concern is about the department chair or office/unit director, the student should consult the School of Education Senior Associate Dean for guidance.

3. If the concern remains unresolved after step 2, the student may submit a formal grievance to the chair or director in writing within 30 business days of the alleged unfair treatment. To the fullest extent possible, a
formal written grievance shall contain a clear and concise statement of
the issue(s) involved and the relief sought.

4. On receipt of a written grievance, the chair or director will notify
the person at whom the grievance is directed with a copy of the written
grievance. The person at whom the complaint is directed may submit
a written response, which would be shared with the student.

5. On receipt of a written grievance, the chair or director will refer the
matter to a department, office, or unit committee comprised of at
least two members. The committee may be an existing committee or
one constituted for this purpose. The committee, or delegates from
the committee, may meet with the parties involved and/or review any
material either party shares with the committee.

6. The committee will provide a written description of the facts of the
grievance and communicate recommendations to the department
chair or office/unit head regarding how the grievance should be
handled.

7. The chair or director will offer to meet with the student who made
the grievance and also will provide a written decision to the student,
including a description of any related action taken by the committee,
within 30 business days of receiving the formal grievance.

For the purpose of this policy, business days refers to those days
when the University Offices are open and shall not include weekends,
university holidays, spring recess, or the period from the last day of
exams of fall semester instruction to the first day of spring semester
instruction. All time limits may be modified by mutual consent of the
parties involved.

If the grievance concerns an undergraduate course grade, the decision of
the department chair after reviewing the committee’s recommendations is
final.

Other types of grievances may be appealed using the following
procedures:

1. Both the student who filed the grievance or the person at whom
the grievance was directed, if unsatisfied with the decision of the
department, office or unit, have five (5) business days from receipt
of the decision to contact the Senior Associate Dean, indicating the
intention to appeal.

2. A written appeal must be filed with the Senior Associate Dean within
10 business days of the time the appealing party was notified of the
initial resolution of the complaint.

3. On receipt of a written appeal, the Senior Associate Dean will convene
a sub-committee of the School of Education’s Academic Planning
Council. This subcommittee may ask for additional information from
the parties involved and/or may hold a meeting at which both parties
will be asked to speak separately (i.e., not in the room at the same
time).

4. The subcommittee will then make a written recommendation to the
Dean of the School of Education, or their designee, who will render a
decision. The dean or designee’s written decision shall be made within
30 business days from the date when the written appeal was filed with
the Senior Associate Dean. For undergraduate students, the dean or
designee’s decision is final.

Further appealing a School of Education decision – graduate students only

Graduate students have the option to appeal decisions by the
School of Education dean or designee by using the process
detailed on the Graduate School’s website (https://grad.wisc.edu/
documents/grievances-and-appeals/).

Questions about these procedures can be directed to the School of
Education Dean’s Office, 377 Education Building, 1000 Bascom Mall,
608-262-1763.

RESOURCES

• Office of Compliance (https://compliance.wisc.edu/) (for
discrimination based on protected classes, including misconduct) 179A
Bascom Hall, 608-262-2378

• Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (https://
conduct.students.wisc.edu/) (for conflicts between students, or
academic integrity violations) 70 Bascom Hall, 608-263-5700

• Bias or Hate Reporting (https://doso.students.wisc.edu/bias-or-hate-
reporting/) (for students who experience or observe bias or hate
incidents) 70 Bascom Hall, 608-263-5700

• Graduate School (https://grad.wisc.edu/) (for graduate students
who need informal advice at any level of review; for official appeals
of program/departmental or school/college grievance decisions, see
Graduate Assistant Policies and Procedures (https://hr.wisc.edu/
policies/gapp/)) 217 Bascom Hall, 608-262-2433

• Ombuds Office for Faculty and Staff (http://www.ombs.wisc.edu/)
(for UW-Madison employees, including graduate students) 523-524
Lowell Center, 608-265-9992

• Employee Assistance (http://www.ear.wisc.edu/) (for conflicts
involving graduate assistants and other employees) 256 Lowell Hall,
608-263-2987

• Dean of Students Office (https://doso.students.wisc.edu/) (for any
students needing advice or support) 70 Bascom Hall, 608-263-5700

• Office of Human Resources (https://kb.wisc.edu/ohr/policies/
search.php?cat=4506) for policies and procedures to address
workplace conflict) 21 N Park Street Suite 5101, 608-265-2257

• School of Education, Office of Student Services (https://
education.wisc.edu/about/student-services/) (for students,
particularly undergraduates, in the School of Education) 139 Education
Building, 608-262-1651

• School of Education, Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (https://
education.wisc.edu/about/diversity-inclusion/) (OEDI) 145 Education
Building, 608-262-8427

OTHER
n/a

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

Take advantage of the Graduate School’s professional development
resources (https://grad.wisc.edu/pd/) to build skills, thrive academically,
and launch your career.

PEOPLE

Faculty mentors in Biomechanics include:

David Bell
Scott Crawford
Kreg Gruben
Kristen Pickett

Contact information (https://kinesiology.education.wisc.edu/people/) for faculty and lab information (https://kinesiology.education.wisc.edu/research/) can be found on the Kinesiology website.