

HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH IN PHARMACY, PH.D.

The **Health Services Research in Pharmacy (HSRP)** provides a rigorous background in a range of disciplines critical to preparing the next generation of health services researchers. The program's interdisciplinary approach combines theories and concepts from fields such as economics, sociology, psychology, management sciences, education, epidemiology, industrial/safety engineering, history, and law. The UW–Madison Division of Health Services Research in Pharmacy, which administers the degree, has a national reputation for its research productivity, extramural funding support, publication record, and teaching. The HRSP Graduate Program at UW–Madison has educated generations of researchers who have taken challenging leadership and advisory positions in academia, industry, and government. Our faculty members and graduates have provided influential roles in communicating research findings to the public, policy makers, pharmacists, and other health care professionals to improve health outcomes, patient care, medication use, and the healthcare system. UW–Madison's Sonderegger Research Center (<https://pharmacy.wisc.edu/src/>)(SRC) is housed at the School of Pharmacy and complements graduate student interactions with faculty, enriching student exposure with other researchers in the field.

About the Program

The program was renamed from the **Social and Administrative Sciences in Pharmacy (SAS)** Ph.D. Program. Students who earn degrees in the Fall of 2019 and later will earn the degree name **Health Services Research in Pharmacy**.

The objective of the HRSP graduate program is to prepare students for independent, theory-based research, leading to new knowledge and understanding of medication use, patient and provider communication and behaviors, health outcomes, patient safety, and healthcare systems. Further, it evaluates the need for pharmacists to fulfill various roles, such as clinical practitioner, drug consultant, and drug distribution system manager, in order to meet the needs of diverse patients, providers, and organizations that use pharmacy services. This is accomplished by integrating knowledge of pharmacy and pharmaceuticals with theories and concepts from numerous disciplines. The name change to HSRP was driven by faculty recognition of the policy orientation of much of its work, whether related to standards of care, practice innovations, reimbursement, safety, or a focus on patient-centeredness. There was also acknowledgement of the division's scholarship as involving the examination of multiple health services, and being significantly broader than "pharmacy" research only. The new name better reflects the training offered and the career trajectory of its graduates.

Why Consider a Graduate Degree in Health Services Research in Pharmacy at the University of Wisconsin–Madison

Students in the HSRP graduate program have the advantages of studying at a world class institution of higher learning. Courses may be taken from a wide range of academic units, providing access to top instructors and researchers. The HSRP graduate program has considerable curricular flexibility, and can be tailored to individual student interests. As program faculty have a broad range of knowledge and expertise, students can specialize in diverse areas of emphasis.

UW–Madison (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XTJA5alrisQ&feature=youtu.be>) is one of the nation's most prolific research universities, located on the shore of Lake Mendota in the state's vibrant capital city. The city of Madison (<https://madison.wisc.edu/>) is consistently recognized as one of the best cities in the nation in multiple categories for quality of life. Visit grad.wisc.edu (<http://grad.wisc.edu>) to learn more about the many reasons to choose UW–Madison for graduate study.

The Graduate Student Handbook (<https://pharmacy.wisc.edu/handbook-sas/>) is a resource for additional information.

POST-GRADUATE INFORMATION

Placement information for recent HSRP alumni is updated yearly; see the program website. (<https://pharmacy.wisc.edu/programs/sas/student-outcomes/>) HRSP has a rich history of creating future pharmacy educators, as Wisconsin HRSP PhD alumni are faculty members at schools and colleges of pharmacy across the United States and abroad. Prospective students interested in careers in *academic pharmacy* are encouraged to explore resources from the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (https://www.aacp.org/sites/default/files/2015_ashp_mcm_slides_final.pdf). Beyond academia, common career setting options are in the pharmaceutical industry, contract research organizations, managed care, nonprofit research centers, and government entities. In non-academic settings, alumni have titles such as director for health economics and outcomes research; health researcher for patient safety and quality; social researcher; research scientist; director of pharmacy; director for global market access, pricing, and policy.

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/>).

Requirements	Detail
Fall Deadline	January 3
Spring Deadline	This program does not admit in the spring.
Summer Deadline	This program does not admit in the summer.
GRE (Graduate Record Examinations)	May be required in certain cases; consult program.*
English Proficiency Test	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 (https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/#english-proficiency).
Other Test(s) (e.g., GMAT, MCAT)	n/a
Letters of Recommendation Required	3

- * Required for applicants who will receive (or have received) degrees at international (non-U.S.) institutions. The GRE is not required for applicants who will receive (or have received) degrees from U.S. accredited universities or colleges.

Academic backgrounds in public health, sociology, industrial/systems engineering, or economics are well suited for graduate study in HSRP. A professional degree in pharmacy is helpful, but not required. Those with pharmacy-type work experience or a degree in a related field are invited to inquire about the compatibility of their background for admissions purposes. If you seek to apply your knowledge and skills to pharmacy or medication-related research at the highest levels, contact us. You can earn the Ph.D. in Health Services Research in Pharmacy with emphasis in any of the diverse areas of concentration within our program.

Please see admissions (<https://pharmacy.wisc.edu/programs/sas/admissions/>) on the program website for a link to the application and a description of the required supplementary materials. Applications are only considered at the **yearly January deadline**, for matriculation in the following fall semester. **Applications are not reviewed at any other time during the year.** If one does not hold a research-based master's degree at the time of application, but is interested in the Ph.D. degree, that Ph.D. intent should be in the application (and if admitted, such students would typically pursue an M.S. in HSRP on the way to the Ph.D.).

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.

PROGRAM RESOURCES

HSRP faculty (<https://pharmacy.wisc.edu/sas/faculty-research/>) believe in supporting graduate students in their quest for knowledge and research expertise; maintaining a range of graduate student funding mechanisms is a high priority. Graduate students are typically provided with tuition remission and stipend (salary) support as either teaching assistants, research assistants, or fellows. The minimum graduate stipend for 2018-19 is \$18,350 for the academic year (Sept-May); note that these levels are adjusted annually. Such appointments include health insurance; see the Graduate Coordinator for details. In addition, incoming students are provided with new laptop computers for their learning and research endeavors and access to state-of-the-art statistical software. Travel grants (<https://pharmacy.wisc.edu/handbook-sas/travel-support/>) facilitate graduate student participation at national meetings. The **Sonderegger Research Center** is another source for funding, with the availability of annual dissertation grants. HSRP graduate students who are licensed pharmacists are typically encouraged to continue practicing part-time (e.g., on weekends), to maintain ties to the profession. See the School's webpage for the latest on HSRP graduate funding (<https://pharmacy.wisc.edu/programs/sas/tuition-financial-support/>).

REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

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

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Face to Face	Evening/ Weekend	Online	Hybrid	Accelerated
Yes	No	No	No	No

Mode of Instruction Definitions

Accelerated: Accelerated programs are offered at a fast pace that condenses the time to completion. Students are able to complete a program with minimal disruptions to careers and other commitments.

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

Requirements Detail	
Minimum Credit Requirement	51 credits
Minimum Residence Credit Requirement	32 credits
Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement	At least half of degree coursework (at least 26 credits out of 51 total credits) must be in graduate-level coursework; courses with the Graduate Level Coursework attribute are identified and searchable in the university's Course Guide (http://my.wisc.edu/CourseGuideRedirect/BrowseByTitle).
Overall Requirement	3.00 GPA required for graduate-level courses (numbered Graduate GPA 300 and above, excluding research) to receive a degree.
Other Grade Requirements	Candidates may be dropped from the program if they receive more than 7 credits of grades at the BC level or lower. This applies to formal courses, seminars, and research credits.

Assessments and Examinations Doctoral students must pass both written and oral preliminary examinations to achieve dissertator status (see <https://pharmacy.wisc.edu/handbook-sas/phd-degree-requirements/preliminary-exams> (<https://pharmacy.wisc.edu/handbook-sas/phd-degree-requirements/preliminary-exams/>)). The written preliminary examination is evaluated on a pass/fail basis. The oral preliminary examination must be completed within six months after having passed the written preliminary examination.

A dissertation and final oral defense are required. See <https://pharmacy.wisc.edu/handbook-sas/phd-degree-requirements/dissertation-final-exams> (<https://pharmacy.wisc.edu/handbook-sas/phd-degree-requirements/dissertation-final-exams/>) for details.

Language Requirements Candidates with an emphasis in the history of pharmacy are required to achieve competence in two foreign languages (one in addition to the language acquired for the M.S. degree). Contact the school's graduate programs coordinator for more information.

Doctoral Minor/Breadth Requirements All doctoral students are required to complete a minor. Students completing option B minors must complete a minimum of 9 credits outside of HSRP, reflecting a cohesive and logical combination of courses for specialization emphasis. For Option B, the doctoral minor is developed by the student and faculty advisor as a plan for specialization. In HSRP, the student's committee approves the minor Option B plan. The minor supports the theoretical foundations for the Ph.D. and should consist of a majority of courses that are theory-focused (i.e., not focused on research methods or analytical/statistical techniques); that is, theoretical courses should comprise all or most of the minor plan.

REQUIRED COURSES

At least 14 credits in core courses (seminar and core principles and methods), 15 credits in research and analysis (additional research methods, analytic techniques), and 22 credits in specialty/advanced courses is required.

Code	Title	Credits
Core Seminar Courses		
Select all of the following:		8
S&A PHM 701	Grant Writing for Health Services Research	
S&A PHM 702	Mixed Methods for Health Sciences: Purpose, Design and Approach	
S&A PHM 703	Community Engagement in Health Services Research	
S&A PHM 704	Dissemination, Implementation and Sustainment of Change in Health Services Research	
Core Methods and Principles		
Select all of the following:		6
S&A PHM 711	Research Methods for Pharmaceutical Outcomes and Policy Research	

S&A PHM 715	Social Behavioral Theories in Pharmacy, Drug Use, and Health Behavior	
Research and Analysis		
Methods (Select from approved list in consultation with major professor.)		3-9
Analytic Techniques (Select from approved list in consultation with major professor.)		6-12
Specialty and Advanced Coursework		22
Select in consultation with major professor:		
Minor (Option A or Option B)		
Other Elective Courses		
Research (credit varies)		
Foreign Languages (History Concentration only). Ph.D. students with a history concentration must achieve reading ability in two foreign languages and take a minimum of 3 credits in methods of research and analysis.		
Total Credits		51

POLICIES

GRADUATE SCHOOL POLICIES

The Graduate School's Academic Policies and Procedures (<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.

MAJOR-SPECIFIC POLICIES

PRIOR COURSEWORK

Graduate Work from Other Institutions

If accepted into the HSRP Ph.D. program with a master's degree equivalent to an M.S. (HSRP) degree and with program approval, students are allowed to count no more than 24 credits of graduate coursework from other institutions (the student must have graduate student status on the other institution's transcript at the time the courses were taken) towards the Ph.D. at UW-Madison. Such courses should be presented to program faculty prior to one's first graduate semester and require the review/approval of at least two program faculty members. Coursework earned ten years or more prior to admission to a doctoral degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

UW-Madison Undergraduate

No credits earned as a UW-Madison undergraduate may be used toward achieving the 24 credits beyond the M.S. that are required for the Ph.D. in HSRP.

UW-Madison University Special

No credits earned as a UW-Madison Special student may be used toward achieving the 24 credits beyond the M.S. that are required for the Ph.D. in HSRP.

PROBATION

A semester GPA below 3.0 will result in the student being placed on academic probation. If a semester GPA of 3.0 is not attained during the subsequent semester of full-time enrollment (or 12 credits of enrollment

if enrolled part-time) the student may be dismissed from the program or allowed to continue for one additional semester based on advisor appeal to the Graduate School.

ADVISOR / COMMITTEE

All students in the Ph.D. program are required to have a major professor/advisor through the duration of their studies. Students should select a permanent major professor before the end of the second semester enrolled in the program. Program graduate faculty monitor the progress of Ph.D. students annually.

Composition requirements of the HSRP Ph.D. oral preliminary examination committee are presented at this link (<https://pharmacy.wisc.edu/handbook-sas/phd-degree-requirements/preliminary-exams/>); this same committee typically also serves as the dissertation final oral defense committee.

CREDITS PER TERM ALLOWED

15 credits

TIME CONSTRAINTS

A candidate for a doctoral degree who fails to take the final oral defense and deposit the dissertation within five years after passing the preliminary examinations may be required to take another preliminary examination and to be admitted to candidacy a second time.

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/gapp/#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://employeedisabilities.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/departmental 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)

Students should contact the department chair or program director with questions about grievances.

OTHER

Program faculty believe in supporting graduate students and a range of funding mechanisms are possible; graduate students are often provided with tuition remission and funding support either as teaching assistants, project assistants or fellows. In addition, new students are provided with new laptop computers for their learning and research endeavors, access to state-of-the-art statistical software and support, and travel grants to present their research at national meetings.

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.

HRSP faculty conduct comprehensive annual reviews of each HSRP graduate student, providing confidential feedback to each student's own self-assessment. This combination provides a great launch for a meaningful goal setting. HSRP faculty are committed to coaching graduate students to grow as instructors and to mentoring them in this dimension, complementing the wealth of campus resources for teaching and learning. The School of Pharmacy's **Sonderegger Research Center** regularly hosts "Brown Bag" lunches where HSRP graduate students can interact informally with SRC staff. There is increased emphasis to connect current students to PhD alumni (e.g. via Skype "informational interviews") for career discussions and mentoring. The School of Pharmacy student body, along with those from other UW-Madison health professional schools, participates in a number of annual "Lunch and Learn" events throughout the academic year to build community and talk about other challenges regarding diversity, equity, inclusivity, and climate in higher education.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Demonstrate an advanced critical knowledge and in-depth application of economic, policy, and/or social behavioral analyses to the study of the interrelationships between pharmacy, pharmaceutical services, health care systems, and patients.
2. Formulate research questions, design experiments to test hypotheses, apply appropriate quantitative and qualitative methods, and evaluate evidence relevant to questions in health economics, health care systems, healthcare organization and management, outcomes research, health care policy, and pharmacy services.
3. Communicate, both orally and in writing, scientific knowledge, research findings, and/or core principles effectively to a range of audiences.

PEOPLE

A list of **Health Services Research in Pharmacy (HSRP) graduate faculty** and their respective areas of research specialization is available from the division website (<https://pharmacy.wisc.edu/about-us/divisions/sas-division/faculty-research/>) and related links.