



## School of Human Evolution and Social Change

### Social Science and Health Ph.D. Curriculum

Students entering the Ph.D. in Social Science and Health do so with diverse backgrounds and with varied career goals, so we recognize the need to be flexible in planning the most appropriate path for each student. Thus, curricular tracks will tend to be individualized, and final determination of the most appropriate course of study or how each requirement should most appropriately be met is made by a student's advisory committee in consideration of the research and career goals of the student. The plan should ensure that graduates are strong in both social science theory and appropriate health research methods, and considerable experience in community-level research and its application. Equivalent graduate-level courses taken previously, including at other institutions, might meet requirements or provide substitutions. Elective courses should generally focus in health social sciences areas, as relevant to a student's dissertation research and career plans. Generally, students are expected to complete:

1. The core program entry class: ASB 591/ SSH 510 Health: Social and Bio-cultural Theories (3) (everyone MUST take this class)
2. At least one course in ethnographic method: ASB 500 Ethnographic Research Methods (3) or equivalent.
3. A course in ethics relevant to health social science: SSH 511 Ethics, Social Justice, and Health Social Science (3) or ASB 591 Poverty, Social Justice, and Global Health (3), or equivalent.
4. A research design/ proposal writing course.
5. *At least* two advanced statistics courses (e.g., grad level)
6. *At least* one advanced course in epidemiology.
7. *At least* two additional methods courses, relevant to social science health research (such as nutrition, exercise, survey, archival analysis, demography, social network analysis, GIS, modeling, text analysis, etc.)
8. A relevant community-based internship/ practicum experience prior to advancement to candidacy. The appropriate form and duration will be determined by the student's advisory committee as appropriate to the proposed dissertation project and/or career plans of the candidate.
9. A foreign language. In most cases, demonstration of language competency is expected; the form and level of competency required will be determined by the student's advisory committee as appropriate to the proposed dissertation project and career plans of the candidate.
10. Also recommended is formal training in instruction, such as the short courses provided by the Center for Learning and Teaching Excellence.

## NOTES

- Within the first year, and ideally in the first semester, the student selects a major professor who is an affiliate of the Social Science and Health program. The professor may be in any unit at ASU.
- When a student selects a supervisory committee, there must be three or more members, and at least two must be affiliates of the Social Science and Health program. The committee must be approved by the executive committee and the ASU Division of Graduate Studies.
- In the first semester, the student prepares an interim program of study that addresses all the degree requirements, to be approved provisionally by their major professor. This program of study is to be revised as needed, but is to be formally approved by the full supervisory committee no later than the end of the second year.
- For students entering post-Bachelors, a Masters-in-passing will be awarded if necessary based on (1) completion of at least 30 hours of coursework, (2) submission of at least two research papers demonstrating ability to systematically gather, analyze, and interpret health social science data, and present the results in a publishable or exhibited form to professional standards, and (3) presentation of one of the research papers in a SHESC (or other ASU unit) student research symposium.
- To advance to candidacy, the student completed a doctoral comprehensive exam and present then orally defend a dissertation proposal. At the completion of all requirements, including any language requirements, the student is advanced to candidacy. The form of the doctoral exam may be either (a) the format specified for the Anthropology Ph.D. in SHESC, or (b) the format specified in a relevant Ph.D. program in the major professor's home unit, with the final determination of both the format and the result of the exam resting with the student's advisory committee. Regardless of the format of the exam, in all cases a dissertation proposal must be submitted, defended, and approved by the committee.
- Students write a research-based dissertation, which must be approved by their committee. The dissertation must be presented in an oral public defense. Because of the program's emphasis on use-inspired research, the dissertation should include a translational perspective or component (i.e., moving between theory and health improvement).
- Students must maintain a 3.2 average GPA in their courses and complete degree requirements in a timely manner to continue in the program.
- A maximum of 9 hours of SSH 512 may be applied to the degree. No more than 6 hours of 400-level courses may be counted toward the degree.
- Students are expected to take 9 hours of courses (courses are usually 3 hours each) each semester, or more, unless on TA or RAs in which case they may elect to take 6 hours.

5/10/07