What is health education?

Health education is a social science that draws from the biological, environmental, psychological, physical, and medical sciences to promote health and prevent disease, disability, and premature death. Health education involves the development of individual, group, institutional, community, and systemic strategies to improve health knowledge, attitudes, skills, and behaviors.

Mission of our program

The mission of the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Health Education Program is to prepare doctoral degree graduates in advanced study and research in health education. The program prepares advanced students to contribute to the field of health education through teaching, research, service, health education process, grant writing, and advocacy. Although health and research courses are required, the program is individualized through selection of elective courses and a cognate to develop each student for leadership roles in academia, private health sector, or government agencies.

Career opportunities

—Teaching health education in a college or university setting.
—Working as a managerial health educator in public or private community health agencies.
—Conducting research on health promotion/behavior/education topics.
**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY**
**Health Education**
**plan of study**

**GENERAL CORE REQUIREMENTS (12 hours)**
- RESM 8120 Quantitative Methods II
- RESM 8320 Research Design
- HEAL 8880 Scientific Writing in Health

*One course from the following:*
- RESM 7330 Qualitative Research I
- RESM 8130 Multivariate Statistics
- RESM 8160 Nonparametric Statistics
- RESM 8350 Survey Research Methods
- HEAL 8700 Epidemiology

**MAJOR CORE REQUIREMENTS (27 hours)**
- HEAL 8000 Professional Issues in Health Education
- HEAL 8200 Methods and Materials
- HEAL 8300 Community Health Organization
- HEAL 8360 Applied Survey Research
- HEAL 8460 Health Promotion Programs
- HEAL 8600 Health Behavior
- HEAL 8640 Issues in Public Health
- HEAL 8800 Evaluation of Health Programs
- HEAL 8900 Grant Writing in Health

**COGNATE AREA OPTIONS* (12 hours)**
- Statistics
- Research and Design
- Educational Psychology
- Educational Technology
- Epidemiology
- Gerontology
- Health Policy
- Sociology
- Other (with permission)

* Health Education is required for students without a prior degree in health education

**A SAMPLE OF ELECTIVE COURSES (9 hours)**
- HEAL 8100 College Teaching of Health Education
- HEAL 8280 Health Communication
- HEAL 8520 Public Health Nutrition
- HEAL 8530 Drug Use and Misuse
- HEAL 8540 Human Sexuality
- PUBH 8550 Chronic Disease Epidemiology

**DOCTORAL DISSERTATIONS (10 hours)**
- HEAL 8960 Doctoral Research Dissertation

**contact**

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