**Behavioral and community sciences program**

**Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Degree**

**DEGREE INFORMATION**

**Program Admission Deadlines:**

**Domestic:**

**Fall:**  December 15 (Priority Deadline)

**Spring:** October 15

**Summer:** February 15

**International:**

Fall: May 1

Spring: September 15

Summer: January 15

**Minimum Total Hours:** 90 post-bachelor’s

**Program Level:** Doctoral

**CIP Code:** 55.2212

**Dept Code:**

**Program (Major/College):** BVC BC

**Approved:** Effective 2017

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**College:** Behavioral & Community

Sciences

**Department:**

**Contact Information:** [www.grad.usf.edu](http://www.grad.usf.edu)

**PROGRAM INFORMATION**

The Ph.D. in Behavioral & Community Sciences is an interdisciplinary program focusing on research and policy in the area of behavioral health and community sciences. Behavioral and Community Sciences refers to the development and evaluation of services and interventions that promote resiliency and social well-being for at-risk populations and addresses these issues within the context of community settings.

**Major Research Areas:** Substance Abuse & Co-Occurring Disorders; Community Based Behavioral Health Systems & Services; Child & Adolescent Behavioral Health; Behavioral Health, Law, and the Justice System; Disability & Rehabilitation Studies; Behavioral Health Disparities; and Positive Behavior Intervention & Support.

**Accreditation:**

Accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of College and Schools.

**ADMISSION INFORMATION**

Applications for the program will be reviewed on a rolling basis and students may be accepted for any semester. However, in order to be given full consideration for financial assistance, students should apply by December 15 for admission for the Fall semester.

Must meet University requirements (see Graduate Admissions) as well as requirements listed below.

**Program Admission Requirements**

* A bachelor’s GPA of 3.50 or higher in the last 60 hours of undergraduate coursework based on a 4.00 grading scale. The completed degree must be in a field related to behavioral and community sciences, e.g., behavioral healthcare, human services, human development, psychology, sociology, anthropology, economics, public health, social work, counseling education, education.
* GRE taken within five years of application with a preferred minimum of 150, 147, and 4.0 on the verbal quantitative, and analytical writing subtests respectively. Students who have completed a master’s degree are not required to submit GRE scores. However, all students are encouraged to submit GRE scores because they are often considered in applications for fellowship, scholarship, and assistantship opportunities.
* Students who do not meet the minimum criteria may be admitted based on strong records reflected by other aspects of their applications (GPA, Letters of Recommendation, Writing Samples, and prior research experiences).
* Evidence of written/analytical skills which will take two-forms:
  + A writing sample, such as a major paper, thesis, or research paper of which the student is the sole author, and
  + A personal goal statement of 2-3 pages that describes why you want to obtain the Ph.D. in Behavioral & Community Sciences; how the degree will help you in achieving your professional goals; unique qualities, life experiences, and knowledge related to the field; obstacles overcome to achieveyou’re your educational goals thus far; obstacles that may challenge you in pursuing a graduate degree; your research and teaching goals; and the USF professor you would like to work with and why.
* Two formal letters of recommendation from faculty members or other professional personnel who have knowledge of the applicant's academic background, potential for success in graduate school, and/or commitment to a research career.
* Applicants with a master’s degree: Transcripts from the master’s degree will be evaluated to determine coursework that will be applicable toward the 90 hours of credit required for the doctoral program

Prior to applying for the program, applicants are encouraged to contact faculty with whom they would like to study and discuss the fit between the student’s area of research interest and the faculty member’s research program.

**DEGREE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

**Total Minimum Hours: 90 (Post-Bachelor’s)**

Core requirements -15 credit hours

Research/statistics foundation courses – 6 credit hours

Advanced research courses – 12 credit hours

Didactic courses in behavioral & community sciences – 18 credit hours

Specialization courses – 9 credit hours

Directed research – 18 credit hours

Dissertation – 12 credit hours

**Core requirements -15 credit hours**

MHS 6742 3 Community Based Research & Evaluation in Behavioral Sciences

MHS 6409 3 Evidence-Based Practice in Behavioral & Community Sciences

EDF 6213 3 Biological Bases for learning Behavior

OR

PSB 6056 3 Physiological Psychology or comparable course

MHS 7707 3 Interdisciplinary Approaches to Behavioral Health Policy & Systems

MHS 7720 3 Professional Seminar in Behavioral & Community Sciences

**Research/statistics foundation courses – 6 credit hours**

Such as:

MHS 5745 3 Applied Qualitative Research Methods

MHS 5746 3 Applied Quantitative Research Methods

GEY 6402 3 Statistics Methods in Aging Research

**Advanced research courses – 12 credit hours**

Students will select four courses from at least two of the following areas. Courses such as those listed across multiple departments will be considered to best fit the student’s individualized plan of study.

Advanced Statistics

MHS 7748 3 Statistical Applications in Translational Research & Evaluation

GEY 6403 3 Multivariate Statistical Analysis for Aging Research

PHC 7054 3 Advanced Biostatistical Methods

PHC 7056 3 Longitudinal Data Analysis

EDF 7412 3 Application of Structural Equation Modeling in Education

EDF 7474 3 Applied Multilevel Modeling in Education

Research Design

EDF 6481 3 Foundations of Educational Research

PSY 6217 3 Research Methods & Measurement

Program Evaluation

MHS 7740 3 Survey Course in Planning, Evaluation, and Accountability

PHC 6708 3 Evaluation Methods in Community Health

Qualitative Methods

PHC 6193 3 Qualitative Methods in Community Health Research

PHC 6725 3 Focus Group Research Strategies

Measurement

MHS 7747 3 Measurement Issues in Behavioral Health Services Research

EDF 6432 3 Foundations of Measurement

EDF 7436 3 Rasch Measurement Models\*

EDF 7439 3 Foundations of Item Response Theory\*

*\*Pre requisite course EDF 6432 or equivalent*

**Didactic courses in behavioral & community sciences – 18 credit hours**

MHS 7749 3 Applications in Dissemination and Implementation Science

MHS 6065 3 Issues and Trends in Developmental Disabilities

MHS 6066 3 Systems, Services, and Supports for Children and Adolescents in Development Disabilities

MHS 6067 3 Evidence-Based Practices in Developmental Disabilities

MHS 6068 3 Community-Based Behavior Health Interventions for Culturally Diverse Youth

MHS 6069 3 Child & Adolescent Behavioral Health

MHS 6072 3 Epidemiology and Prevention in Children’s Mental Health

MHS 6075 3 Cultural Competency in Behavioral Health

MHS 6095 3 Family-Centered Interdisciplinary Systems of Care

MHS 6410 3 Intensive Individualized Positive Behavior Support

MHS 6437 3 Family Perspectives on Behavioral Health Disparities

MHS 6494 3 Women’s Mental Health

MHS 6508 3 Wraparound Interventions and the System of Care

MHS 6605 3 Addressing Behavior Challenges in Young Children

MHS 6607 3 Behavioral Consultation and Collaborative Systems Change

MHS 6608 3 School-wide Positive Behavior Support

MHS 6654 3 Mental Health Informatics

MHS 6706 3 Child & Adolescent Behavioral Health Policy

PHC 6542 3 Epidemiology of Mental Disorders

MHS 6900 3 Selected Topics: Substance Abuse, Crime and the Justice System

PHC 6035 3 Co-Morbidity and Physical Disorders

MHS 6938 3 Selected Topics: Grant Writing Seminar

RCS 5080 3 Medical Aspects of Disability

RCS 5480 3 Selected Topics: Human Growth & Development

RCS 5780 3 Legal, Ethical, Professional Standards

RCS 5450 3 Fundamentals of Substance Abuse

RCS 6440 3 Social and Cultural Foundations of Counseling

RCS 6930 3 Obesity and Eating Disorders

PHC 6401 3 Homelessness: Implications for Behavioral Healthcare

PHC 6539 3 Foundations in Adolescent Behavioral Health

PUP 5607 3 Public Policy and Health Care

**Specialization courses – 9 credit hours**

Students will complete a minimum of nine hours in a specialty area. The specialty area will be developed on an individual basis with each student and the student’s faculty advisor. Examples of possible specialties include:

• Child & Adolescent Behavioral Health

• Positive Behavior Intervention & Support

• Substance Abuse & Co-Occurring Disorders

• Community Based Behavioral Health Systems & Services

• Behavioral Health, Law, and the Justice System

• Recovery Oriented Behavioral Health

• Disability & Rehabilitation Studies

• Behavioral Health Disparities

**Directed research – 18 credit hours**

MHS 6915 Directed Research in Behavioral & Social Sciences

Students will complete 18 hours of Directed Research. Following the completion of the first six-hours of directed research, students will complete a research “product” such as a conference presentation, poster session, publication, portions of a grant proposal, literature review or other comparable product to demonstrate their progress in developing research proficiency. Ideally, this product will be associated with their dissertation topic. The remaining 12 hours of Directed Research will be conducted during the second and third year of study and will be conducted with the guidance of the student’s major professor with research outcomes specified in the student’s plan of study related to their eventual dissertation proposal.

**Qualifying Exam/Doctoral Candidacy**

Students will be admitted to doctoral candidacy upon completion of a qualifying exam. The qualifying exam will require completion of a grant proposal suitable for supporting dissertation or early career research (e.g., F31 or R03) and an oral examination.

**Dissertation – 12 credit hours minimum**

MHS 7980 Dissertation

The dissertation will consist of original research designed and supervised by a faculty advisor. The student will select the faculty member who will serve as the major advisor within the first year of study. Each student will have a dissertation committee consisting of the major advisor and three other faculty members from different disciplines to reflect the interdisciplinary approach of the program. The student will write a dissertation proposal that outlines the completed project and will defend the proposal to obtain committee approval for beginning the dissertation. The dissertation will consist of a series of three articles with an introductory and conclusion chapter. The student will complete a public oral defense of the dissertation and the committee will judge the adequacy of the final document and the oral defense for approval for the Ph.D. degree.

**Other Requirements**

* The Plan of Study must include at least 18 hours of coursework in an area that will fulfill the SACS teaching requirement of 18 hours in the field to ensure eligibility for university positions.

**COURSES**

See <http://www.ugs.usf.edu/course-inventory/>