Public Health Sciences

The Brown School's PhD program in Public Health Sciences prepares students to think critically as public health scientists, succeed as independent investigators, and understand and address public health challenges for the nation and the world. It provides hands-on research experiences and mentoring from day one in the program; a curriculum that builds methodological and analytical skills, and deep knowledge of the field's theoretical and conceptual underpinnings, philosophy and history; and professional acculturation and network building.

Our doctoral program involves intense training in population and social science research methods and personalized mentoring by some of the leading scholars in the field. Our faculty are on the forefront of research in health disparities, chronic disease prevention, epidemiology and biostatistics, global health, health policy, systems science, urban design and the built environment, violence and injury prevention, and mental health. Our curriculum prepares students for leadership in research in a rapidly changing society. We provide a diversity of experience and faculty with a cross-section of interests that enhance transdisciplinary learning. We have created a collaborative and entrepreneurial community with a strong commitment to conducting research that will have social impact.

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Dean
Edward F. Lawlor
William E. Gordon Distinguished Professor
PhD, Brandeis University
Access to health care; Health care reform; Policy analysis; Aging

Associate Dean for the Doctoral Program
Renée M. Cunningham-Williams
Associate Professor; Director, NIDA T32 (TranSTAR) Pre- and Postdoctoral Training Program; Director, PhD Program in Social Work
PhD, Washington University
Epidemiological, prevention, and intervention research; Health and mental health disparities; Pathological gambling and comorbidity; Risk taking, substance use and antisocial behaviors; Crisis intervention

Director, PhD Program in Public Health Sciences
Douglas A. Luke
Professor
PhD, University of Illinois
Systems Science, Evaluation of Public Health Programs, Tobacco Control Policy

Endowed Professors
Ross Brownson
Bernard Becker Professor
PhD, Colorado State University
Evidence-based Public Health, Dissemination & Implementation Research, Chronic Disease Prevention

Debra Haire-Joshu
Joyce Wood Professor
PhD, Saint Louis University
Obesity Prevention, Diabetes Prevention, Health Policy

Matthew Kreuter
Kahn Family Professor of Public Health
PhD, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Health Communication, Health Disparities

Professors
Timothy McBride
PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Health Policy, Health Economics, Rural Health Care

Vetta Sanders Thompson
PhD, Duke University
Health & Mental Health Disparities, Cultural Competency, Race, Identity & Health

Associate Professor
Jenine Harris
PhD, Saint Louis University
Social Network Analysis, Social Media in Public Health
Assistant Professors

Derek Brown  
PhD, Duke University  
Health Economics, Health Policy

Alexis Duncan  
PhD, Saint Louis University  
Psychiatric & Genetic Epidemiology, Obesity and Eating Disorders

Amy Eyler  
PhD, Oregon State University  
Physical Activity, Childhood Obesity, Prevention Policy

J. Aaron Hipp  
PhD, University of California, Irvine  
Build Environment, Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

Darrell Hudson  
PhD, University of Michigan  
Social Determinants of Health, Health Disparities

Lora Iannotti  
PhD, Johns Hopkins University  
Child Nutrition, Infectious Diseases and Poverty Pathways

Kimberly Johnson  
PhD, University of Minnesota  
Human Genetics & Cancer, Epidemiology

Jason Purnell  
PhD, Ohio State  
Health Disparities, Economic Determinants of Health

Zorimar Rivera-Núñez  
PhD, University of Michigan  
Environmental Health, Environmental Epidemiology

Jean-Francois Trani  
PhD, Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris, France  
Global Health, Human Rights, Disabilities

Degree Requirements

PhD in Public Health Sciences

- 72 credit hours; 21 credits transferrable from a relevant master's program
- Two years of full-time course work
- Complete and defend a dissertation
- Three teaching practicums for course credit
- Three research practicums for course credit