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 study in population health 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, dissemination and implementation science, 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.

A completed master's degree in public health, social work, or related social or health science is required of all applicants for admission. The deadline for applications to the PhD in Public Health Sciences is December 1 of the year preceding enrollment.

For additional information, please refer to our PhD Viewbook (PDF).

Contact: Elizabeth Hahn
Phone: 314-935-3599
Email: ehahn@wustl.edu
Website: https://brownschool.wustl.edu/academics/PhD-in-public-health-sciences

Faculty

Dean
Mary McKernan McKay (https://brownschool.wustl.edu/faculty-and-research/pages/mary-mckay.aspx)
Professor; Neidorff Family and Centene Corporation Dean of the Brown School
PhD, University of Illinois at Chicago
Child mental health services; HIV prevention and care; poverty

Associate Dean for Doctoral Education
Renee M. Cunningham-Williams (https://brownschool.wustl.edu/faculty-and-research/pages/renee-cunningham-williams.aspx)
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
Professor
PhD, University of Illinois
Systems science; evaluation of public health programs; tobacco control policy

Endowed Professors
Ross Brownson (https://brownschool.wustl.edu/faculty-and-research/pages/ross-brownson.aspx)
Bernard Becker Professor
PhD, Colorado State University
Evidence-based public health; dissemination and implementation research; chronic disease prevention

Joyce Wood Professor
PhD, Saint Louis University
Obesity prevention; diabetes prevention; health policy

Matthew Kreuter (https://brownschool.wustl.edu/faculty-and-research/pages/matthew-kreuter.aspx)
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

Rodrigo Reis
    PhD, Federal University of Santa Catarina, Florianopolis, Brazil
    Physical activity; international health; urban design and health; transportation and health

Vetta Sanders Thompson
    PhD, Duke University
    Health and mental health disparities; cultural competency; race, identity and health

Associate Professors

Derek Brown
    PhD, Duke University
    Health economics; health policy

Alexis Duncan
    PhD, Saint Louis University
    Psychiatric and genetic epidemiology; obesity and eating disorders

Amy Eyler
    PhD, Oregon State University
    Physical activity; childhood obesity; prevention policy

Jenine Harris
    PhD, Saint Louis University
    Social network analysis; social media in public health

Darrell Hudson
    PhD, University of Michigan
    Social determinants of health; health disparities

Lora Iannotti
    PhD, Johns Hopkins University
    Child nutrition; infectious diseases; poverty pathways

Kimberly Johnson
    PhD, University of Minnesota
    Human genetics and cancer; epidemiology

Jason Purnell
    PhD, Ohio State University
    Health disparities; economic determinants of health

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 transferable from a relevant master's program
• Two years enrolled in full-time courses
• Complete and defend a dissertation
• Three teaching practicums for course credit
• Three research practicums for course credit