Rehabilitation and Participation Science

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Degree Requirements  
PhD in Rehabilitation and Participation Science

Applicant Background  
Students pursue the RAPS PhD degree because of their desire to generate knowledge to improve rehabilitation practices and thus peoples' lives through participation. Students with a clinical degree at the bachelor’s, master’s or doctoral level are welcome to apply. Prior research experience is strongly encouraged.

Curriculum  
Students must complete core courses, electives to support their area of study, research in their mentor's laboratory, a qualifying exam and a dissertation. Prior graduate courses that explicitly meet the program requirements may be considered (syllabus must be submitted for review and approval of the RAPS PhD chair).

All RAPS PhD students will join faculty in a weekly seminar where faculty and student research is presented and discussed. Presentations will also be made by Washington University faculty and visiting professors whose work will stimulate new areas of study.

Core Courses

- Theories, Models and Classifications of Rehabilitation and Participation Science (RAPS, 3 units)
- Biopsychosocial Factors Affecting Performance (RAPS, 3 units)
- Environmental Factors and Participation (RAPS, 3 units)
- Measurement Theory and Development (RAPS, 3 units)
- Mentored Teaching Experience (RAPS, 1 unit)
- RAPS Seminar (RAPS, 1 unit)

Additional courses will be required in research design methods and graduate statistics.

Research Units

It is expected that all students will be involved in research beginning their first semester and continuing through the completion of the degree. Prior to the completion of courses and the qualifying exam, each student is expected to spend at least 15 to 20 hours per week actively engaged in research. After passing the qualifying exam, students are expected to focus full-time on their dissertation and other research projects. It is anticipated that these efforts will lead to refereed publications and the student becoming an independent scientist.