

**From:** [Kowalsky, Lisa](#)  
**To:** [Reed, Katie](#)  
**Cc:** [Cohen, Anya \(OSUMC\)](#); [Weaver, Lindy \(OSUMC\)](#); [Miriti, Maria](#)  
**Subject:** Forwarding Informational Item: HRS PhD  
**Date:** Friday, March 6, 2026 3:13:36 PM  
**Attachments:** [Submission Packet for PhD Curricular Changes.pdf](#)  
[image001.png](#)

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Dear Katie,

Please find attached and Informational Item from the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences. It has been reviewed and it supported for inclusion in a CAA agenda.

Best,  
Lisa



**Lisa Clouser (Kowalsky)**

**The Ohio State University**  
Graduate School  
247E University Hall  
230 N. Oval Mall, Columbus, OH 43210  
614-292-2267 Office  
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Pronouns: she/her/hers

## **PhD in Health and Rehabilitation Sciences**

### **Overview**

The packet contains the materials for an update to the curriculum for the PhD in Health and Rehabilitation Sciences. The proposal was reviewed and approved by the HRS Curriculum Committee on January 21, 2026, and by the HRS MS/PhD Graduate Studies Committee on March 2, 2026.

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Page 5: Original Curriculum Plan

Page 6: Updated Curriculum Plan

**Re: HRS PhD Curriculum Update**

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**From** Gold, Jennifer <Jennifer.Gold@osumc.edu>  
**Date** Thu 3/5/2026 11:17 AM  
**To** Cohen, Anya <Anya.Cohen@osumc.edu>  
**Cc** Weaver, Lindy <Lindy.Weaver@osumc.edu>

Hi Anya,  
I approve. Thanks for sending me everything.  
Jenny



Jennifer Gold, MD, FAAP  
Vice Dean for Education  
Professor and Chair, Department of Biomedical Education and Anatomy  
Harry C. and Mary Elizabeth Powelson Professor of Medicine  
**College of Medicine**  
320L Hamilton Hall  
1645 Neil Avenue  
Columbus, OH 43210  
Office: 614.688.3104

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**From:** Cohen, Anya <Anya.Cohen@osumc.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 4, 2026 10:28 AM  
**To:** Gold, Jennifer <Jennifer.Gold@osumc.edu>  
**Cc:** Weaver, Lindy <Lindy.Weaver@osumc.edu>  
**Subject:** HRS PhD Curriculum Update

Good morning, Dr. Gold,

The HRS Curriculum Committee and MS/PhD Graduate Studies Committee recently reviewed and approved a change to the PhD in Health and Rehabilitation Science curriculum.

Can you please review the attached materials, and if you approve, reply with a brief statement or letter of approval? This will be included in the packet we submit to the Graduate School.

The attached materials include:

- Letter of Support from the PhD Program Director
- Updated PhD Program Curriculum Guide
- Documentation of HRS Curriculum Committee Approval
- Letter of Support from the MS/PhD Graduate Studies Committee

Thank you,  
Anya

**Anya Cohen, MPAL**

Program Coordinator, Academic Affairs



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF HEALTH AND  
REHABILITATION SCIENCES

**Graduate Program Office**  
206 Atwell Hall, 453 W.10<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Columbus, OH 43210  
614-292-1706  
<https://hrs.osu.edu>

March 2, 2026

To: HRS Curriculum Committee  
Subject: GSC Approval of PhD Curriculum Changes

HRS Curriculum Committee,

We are writing on behalf of the MS/PhD Graduate Studies Committee to inform you of our approval of the requested changes to the HRS PhD program curriculum.

We are in support of the removal of ESEPSY 7403 and 7404 and feel that the learning objectives and course outcomes that are offered in these classes will still be met by a combination of HTHRHSC 7250, a required teaching practicum, elective courses, and teaching certificate requirements for those students who choose to pursue that pathway.

Please let us know if you have any questions at this time.

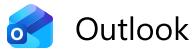
Sincerely,



Jill Heathcock MPT, PhD  
Director, PhD Program



Randee Hunter, PhD  
Director, MS Program



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**Re: Revised Letter and Curriculum Guide to Curriculum Committee - Proposed Changes to HRS PhD**

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**From** Cohen, Anya <Anya.Cohen@osumc.edu>

**Date** Wed 1/28/2026 1:43 PM

**To** McCabe, Ashley <Ashley.McCabe@osumc.edu>

**Cc** Weaver, Lindy <Lindy.Weaver@osumc.edu>; Heathcock, Jill <Jill.Heathcock@osumc.edu>

Good afternoon, Ashley and Dr. Heathcock,

The Curriculum Committee reviewed the revised materials on 1/21 and voted in approval of these changes.

Copying Lisa Di Tommaso here so she can update the website with the new program guide.

Thank you!

Anya

**Anya Cohen, MPAL**

Program Coordinator, Academic Affairs

School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

(614) 292-5645 Office

[anya.cohen@osumc.edu](mailto:anya.cohen@osumc.edu)

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**From:** McCabe, Ashley <Ashley.McCabe@osumc.edu>

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 13, 2026 11:28 AM

**To:** Cohen, Anya <Anya.Cohen@osumc.edu>

**Cc:** Weaver, Lindy <Lindy.Weaver@osumc.edu>; Heathcock, Jill <Jill.Heathcock@osumc.edu>

**Subject:** Revised Letter and Curriculum Guide to Curriculum Committee - Proposed Changes to HRS PhD

Anya,

Please find attached the revised letter and curriculum guide for the Proposed Changes to the PhD curriculum.

Let us know if you have any questions.

Best,



**Graduate Program Office**

206 Atwell Hall, 453 W. 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Columbus, OH 43210

614-292-1706

<https://hrs.osu.edu>

January 13, 2026

To: HRS Curriculum Committee  
From: Jill Heathcock, PhD Program Director

Subject: REVISED Proposal to Remove One Required College Teaching Course from the PhD Curriculum

Dear Members of the HRS Curriculum Committee,

I am writing to propose a revision to the PhD in Health and Rehabilitation Sciences curriculum that would remove one of the two required college teaching courses (**ESEPSY 7403/7404**) while maintaining the total number of credit hours in the program. This change is grounded in feedback from students, benchmarking against peer institutions, and the program's commitment to providing both strong pedagogical training and the flexibility students need to pursue their research and professional interests.

During the 2024-2025 academic year, I conducted individual meetings with all current PhD students to better understand their experiences in the program. A clear and consistent theme emerged from these conversations: students feel that the two required college teaching courses contain overlapping content and do not always align with their primary areas of interest, which tend to focus more on research, specialized disciplinary content (such as neuroscience and biomechanics), and industry applications. Students also consistently reported that the teaching course in HRS is the more valuable and relevant of the two. This concern was echoed by members of the curricular revision committee and aligns with student requests for more HRS-based electives and core classes. Several new electives are currently in development, including courses in Academic Pathways, How to Be a PhD Student, Traditional Biomechanics, and Motor Learning Across the Lifespan. This proposed change would create the space needed to incorporate more of these options into students' programs of study.

In addition to student feedback, I conducted site visits to three peer PhD programs. These visits revealed that none of the programs require didactic coursework in university teaching. While we are proud of the strong teaching preparation we currently provide and intend to maintain that as a program strength, we believe it is possible to do so more efficiently and with greater flexibility. The proposed change would remove one of the two required college teaching courses while retaining one 3–4 credit teaching course by HRS core faculty and the 1-credit teaching practicum. All students would also be required to complete the Drake Institute TA training regardless of funding status (this is newly implemented, previously it was required for students with a TA position only). This structure preserves meaningful exposure to evidence-based pedagogy and hands-on teaching experience while opening space in the curriculum for more HRS electives that align with students' scholarly and career goals. In total, each student would complete approximately 4–5 credits of structured teaching preparation in addition to TA training and, for many, additional teaching opportunities through their assistantships.

To support students who are primarily interested in teaching-intensive academic careers, we plan to identify those interests during the admissions interview process and through annual



progress meetings. Students with a clear teaching focus will be encouraged to complete the University Certificate in College Teaching, which several students already pursue each year, and we hope to increase participation in that program over time. Furthermore, a significant proportion of our PhD students—currently 20%—serve as teaching assistants at some point in their training. These students will benefit from enhanced instructional training through Dr. Weaver's mentorship, ensuring that those who want to build more advanced teaching skills have multiple pathways to do so without requiring all students to complete two nearly redundant courses.

Removing one required teaching course while retaining one core offering, the teaching practicum, and the Drake TA training allows us to maintain our commitment to preparing students for a range of academic careers while making room for richer disciplinary training. This adjustment will help us better align with peer programs, reflect student feedback, and ensure that our curriculum remains both rigorous and responsive. The Drake Institute's Graduate Teaching Orientation (GTA) is available with multiple trainings and professional development opportunities throughout the academic year for our students. The PhD program previously required this TA training only for GTAs, but will now be required for all HRS PhD students for additional skill set and growth. After the training, students will be able to: reflect on the value of establishing clear classroom guidelines, identify a variety of techniques for developing and communicating classroom norms, and consider how to respond when a classroom guideline is broken or ignored.

The total number of credit hours will be maintained by students picking up 3 additional credits through an elective, research methods and design, or independent study. This allows for more flexibility for students to focus on their core area of interest. This was also a suggestion by the PhD Curriculum Review Committee led by Dr. Buford last year. One final consideration for the curriculum committee. The PhD program has, presently, 5 core faculty members with 1 more expected soon. This model of a larger PhD program faculty is expanding and different from how the program was historically run. We anticipate more courses in the PhD program to be taught by core faculty in HRS now and in the future.

I respectfully request that the Curriculum Committee review and approve this proposal for implementation in Spring 2026 for both current (optional) and future students. I am confident this change will strengthen the program by balancing pedagogical preparation with enhanced flexibility in research and content specialization.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this proposal and for your continued support of the PhD program.

Sincerely,



Jill Heathcock MPT, PhD  
Director, PhD Program

## Health and Rehabilitation Sciences PhD Program Curriculum Guide 2025-2026

Course #	Course Title	Credits	Term
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### REQUIRED COURSES

CORE (19 credits)			
ESEPSY 7403 <u>or</u> 7404	Motivation in Learning and Teaching/College Teaching	3	AU
HTHRHS 7250	Teaching and Curriculum in the Health & Rehabilitation Sciences	3	SP
BSGP 7070	Fundamentals of Grant Writing	4	AU
HTHRHS 7100	Health and Rehabilitation I	3	AU
HTHRHS 7150	Health and Rehabilitation II	3	SP
HTHRHS 7883	Responsible Conduct of Research	3	SU
PRACTICUM (6 credits)			
HTHRHS 8289	Teaching	1	AU, SP, SU
HTHRHS 8998 (Pre-Candidacy)	Research	5 Total (1 per experience)	AU, SP, SU
SEMINAR (at least 5 credits)			
HTHRHS 7888 (Pre-Candidacy)	Grand Rounds	4 pre-candidacy (one per course)	AU, SP
HTHRHS 8888 (Post-Candidacy)	Grand Rounds	1 post-candidacy	AU, SP
RESEARCH (1-15 credits)			
HTHRHS 8999 (Post-Candidacy)	Dissertation Research	1-15	AU, SP, SU

### COGNATE COURSES

RESEARCH METHODS and DESIGN (at least 6 credits)			
<i>Consult with your advisor and choose courses that are relevant to your area of research (list is not exhaustive)</i>			
AEE 8855	Research Methods and Design	3	AU
AEE 8877	Data Collection, Analysis, and Interpretation	3	SP
AEE 8880	Instrumentation and Procedures for Data Collection	2	SP
HTHRHS 7900	Evidence-Based Practice I	1	AU
HTHRHS 7910	Evidence-Based Practice II	1	SP
HTHRHS 8200	Research Dissemination	3	SP
HTHRHS 8250	Advanced Statistical Methods	3	SU
PUBHBIO 6210	Design and Analysis of Studies in the Health Sciences I	3	AU, SP, SU
PUBHBIO 6211	Design and Analysis of Studies in the Health Sciences II	3	AU, SP
PSYCH 6810	Statistics Methods in Psychology I	4	AU
PSYCH 6811	Analysis of Variance	4	SP
AREA OF EMPHASIS (at least 12 credits)			
<i>Consult with your advisor and choose courses that are relevant to your area of research.</i>			

## Health and Rehabilitation Sciences PhD Program Curriculum Guide

Course #	Course Title	Credits	Term
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### REQUIRED COURSES

<b>CORE (19 credits) (16 credits)</b>			
ESEPSY 7403 <u>or</u> 7404	Motivation in Learning and Teaching/College Teaching	3	AU
HTHRHS 7250	Teaching and Curriculum in the Health & Rehabilitation Sciences	3	SP
BSGP 7070	Fundamentals of Grant Writing	4	AU
HTHRHS 7100	Health and Rehabilitation I	3	AU
HTHRHS 7150	Health and Rehabilitation II	3	SP
HTHRHS 7883	Responsible Conduct of Research	3	SU
<b>PRACTICUM (6 credits)</b>			
HTHRHS 8289	Teaching	1	AU, SP, SU
HTHRHS 8998 (Pre-Candidacy)	Research	5 Total (1 per experience)	AU, SP, SU
<b>SEMINAR (at least 5 credits)</b>			
HTHRHS 7888 (Pre-Candidacy)	Grand Rounds	4 pre-candidacy (one per course)	AU, SP
HTHRHS 8888 (Post-Candidacy)	Grand Rounds	1 post-candidacy	AU, SP
<b>RESEARCH (1-15 credits)</b>			
HTHRHS 8999 (Post-Candidacy)	Dissertation Research	1-15	AU, SP, SU

### COGNATE COURSES

<b>RESEARCH METHODS and DESIGN (at least 6 credits)</b>			
<i>Consult with your advisor and choose courses that are relevant to your area of research (list is not exhaustive)</i>			
AEE 8855	Research Methods and Design	3	AU
AEE 8877	Data Collection, Analysis, and Interpretation	3	SP
AEE 8880	Instrumentation and Procedures for Data Collection	2	SP
HTHRHS 7900	Evidence-Based Practice I	1	AU
HTHRHS 7910	Evidence-Based Practice II	1	SP
HTHRHS 8200	Research Dissemination	3	SP
HTHRHS 8250	Advanced Statistical Methods	3	SU
PUBHBIO 6210	Design and Analysis of Studies in the Health Sciences I	3	AU, SP, SU
PUBHBIO 6211	Design and Analysis of Studies in the Health Sciences II	3	AU, SP
PSYCH 6810	Statistics Methods in Psychology I	4	AU
PSYCH 6811	Analysis of Variance	4	SP
<b>AREA OF EMPHASIS (at least 12 credits)</b>			
<i>Consult with your advisor and choose courses that are relevant to your area of research.</i>			

**Course Curriculum Guide  
Health and Rehabilitation Sciences PhD Program**

**REQUIRED COURSES**

**Core courses (16 credits)**

Course number	Course title	Credits	Term
HTHRHSC 7250	Teaching and Curriculum in HRS	3	AU
BSGP 7070	Fundamentals of Grant Writing	4	AU
HTHRHSC 7100	Health and Rehabilitation I	3	AU
HTHRHSC 7150	Health and Rehabilitation II	3	SP
HTHRHSC 7883	Responsible Conduct of Research	3	SU

**Practicum (6 credits)**

Course number	Course title	Credits	Term
HTHRHSC 8289	Teaching	1	Any
HTHRHSC 8998 (Pre-Candidacy)	Research	5 Total (1 per experience)	Any

**Seminar (at least 5 credits)**

Course number	Course title	Credits	Term
HTHRHSC 7888 (Pre-Candidacy)	Grand Rounds	4 pre-candidacy (one per course)	AU, SP
HTHRHSC 8888 (Post-Candidacy)	Grand Rounds	1 post-candidacy	AU, SP

**Research (1-15 credits)**

Course number	Course title	Credits	Term
HTHRHSC 8999 (Post-Candidacy)	PhD Research (TBD with advisor)	1-15	AU, SP, SU

**COGNATE COURSES**

**Research methods and design.** Choose any 6 credit hours in consultation with advisor; not an exhaustive list.

Course number	Course Title	Credits	Term
AEE 8855	Research Methods and Design	3	AU
AEE 8877	Data Collection, Analysis and Interpretation	3	SP
AEE 8880	Instrumentation and Procedures for Data Collection	2	SP
PUBHBIO 6210	Applied Biostatistics I	3	AU, SP, SU
PUBHBIO 6211	Applied Biostatistics II	3	AU, SP
HTHRHSC 7900	Evidence Based Practice I	1	AU
HTHRHSC 7910	Evidence Based Practice II	1	SP
HTHRHSC 8200	Research Dissemination	3	SU
HTHRHSC 8250	Advanced Statistical Methods	3	SU
PSYCH 6810	Statistical Methods in Psychology I	4	AU
PSYCH 6811	Statistical Methods in Psychology II	4	SP

**Area of emphasis (at least 12 credits).** Consult with your advisor and choose courses that are relevant to your area of research. These credits may be taken within any department on campus as long as they are graduate-level courses.