

PhD in Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Program Handbook

Welcome

The Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Health Sciences (IHS) is an innovative approach to healthcare research and is in response to the growing demand from federal funding agencies (e.g., National Institutes of Health [NIH], Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute [PCORI], Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality [AHRQ]) to have an interdisciplinary research approach to solve complex healthcare problems. Current discipline-specific Ph.D. programs in health sciences are not adequately preparing graduates to identify and utilize the expertise of other disciplines in synergistic collaborations that are best able to handle these complex problems. Because the demand for an interdisciplinary approach is emerging, it is important to develop team science, which refers to conceptual and methodological strategies of collaborative research inquiry, to keep pace with the ever-changing global healthcare milieu. This Ph.D. program will address this emerging need and is not only innovative but propitious.

The Ph.D. in IHS will provide students from different disciplines an opportunity to learn how to approach complex healthcare problems by using the expertise from other disciplines. This goal will be achieved through completion of a common core of courses identified to provide a strong research foundation along with the ability to communicate this research to a broad audience of healthcare scientists and professionals. These core courses will be the foundation of the Ph.D.; however, students will be able to individualize their program of study with appropriate specialized coursework as well as independent research experiences. Students across the various sub-disciplines in the health sciences will have an opportunity to share their science and learn from others through several interdisciplinary seminars. Taken together, the plan of study will provide an interdisciplinary experience while developing expertise in a specialized area of study.

Interdisciplinary research has been the recent focus of federal health funding agencies; however, there are very few programs that offer an interdisciplinary educational approach like this program. This program is innovative in that it is one of the first interdisciplinary Ph.D. programs in Health Sciences in the Western U.S. Since there are so few programs, this represents a great opportunity for UNLV to be a leader in healthcare innovation. Additionally, this program is coming at an important time as growth in the health sector is expected to expand exponentially in the next decade and beyond. This growth will require a whole new cadre of health research educators who will help meet the needs of society by training the next generation of healthcare professionals.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Interdisciplinary Health Sciences at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas is to advance the science and practice of healthcare for society through the development of individuals with expertise in interdisciplinary research and scientific knowledge translation, built on strong backgrounds in basic sciences and health.

Vision Statement

The vision of the Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Ph.D. program is to produce independent and innovative researchers who will lead interdisciplinary research collaborations, exhibit expertise in specialized areas of health sciences, and whose experience will lead them to become expert translational researchers, educators, and communicators of research findings.

Program Outcomes

Upon completion of the program, all Ph.D. in IHS students will meet the outcomes detailed below.

1. Research outcome: Independently produce sound translational research by generating innovative research questions, developing appropriate designs, implementing study protocols, analyzing data, and critiquing the results in written form.
Deliverable 1: Submit a 3-article dissertation as primary author from data generated during the Ph.D. program or submit a large-scale study resulting in a traditional dissertation.

2. Expertise outcome: Disseminate translational research findings orally and critique the scientific literature in area of specialty with sufficient depth to be considered an expert.
Deliverable 2: Orally defend dissertation.
Deliverable 3: Present at least one national/international presentation as a podium (oral) or a poster from research generated during Ph.D. program (preferred) or present research generated during PhD program in HSC 710 (Interdisciplinary Seminar) or other approved venue to faculty and students.

Purpose

The purpose of this handbook is to provide program-specific information that is not found in the UNLV Graduate Catalog. Students are responsible for understanding and following the policies and procedures delineated in this document and the UNLV Graduate Catalog, as well as the NSHE Code, UNLV Bylaws, and the UNLV Student Conduct Code. Questions about UNLV policies can be directed to the Graduate College: gradassociatedean@unlv.edu

Department Graduate Faculty

A current listing of the graduate faculty can be found in the UNLV Graduate Catalog. Faculty must hold either associate or full graduate faculty status to be involved in graduate education at UNLV. For up to date information regarding graduate faculty status in your department, visit the [Graduate Faculty status web page](#).

Program Information

PhD in Interdisciplinary Health Sciences

Overseeing Deans

Alyssa Crittenden PhD (Graduate College), alyssa.crittenden@unlv.edu

Merrill Landers, PT, DPT, PhD, OCS (School of Integrated Health Science),
merrill.landerson@unlv.edu

Department Chairs from Participating Programs

Health Physics and Diagnostic Sciences: Steen Madsen, PhD, steen.madsen@unlv.edu

Kinesiology and Nutrition Sciences: Richard Rosenkranz, PhD, richard.rosenkranz@unlv.edu

Physical Therapy: Kai-Yu Ho, PhD (Interim Chair), kaiyu.ho@unlv.edu

Executive Governing Committee

IHS Program Director

Szu-Ping Lee, PT, PhD, szu-ping.lee@unlv.edu

Executive Committee Members

Jenny Kent, jenny.kent@unlv.edu

Janice Pluth, PhD, janice.pluth@unlv.edu

Sara Rosenkranz, PhD, sara.rosenkranz@unlv.edu

Danny Young, DPT, PhD, daniel.young@unlv.edu

Program Requirements

Official Program requirements regarding [admission, coursework and culminating experience are found in the graduate catalog](#).

This Handbook is effective Fall 2026. Current students have the option of following the handbook in effect upon matriculation or the 2024-2025 handbook. New students admitted Fall 2026 will adhere to this current AY26-27 Program Handbook.

Degree Program Benchmarks

The student's faculty mentor and associated academic unit Graduate Coordinator will be in charge of assessment of student learning. Student learning outcomes that will be evaluated in addition to the items in Section C above include the following:

1. Course grades. Must obtain a B (not B-) or better in all core coursework and maintain an overall grade point average of 3.0 across all coursework with no single course grade dropping below a C.
2. Comprehensive examination. Must complete satisfactorily.
3. Dissertation defense. Must complete satisfactorily.
4. Student publications and presentations completed by time of graduation.
5. Current student surveys as disseminated centrally from the Graduate College.

Students must complete 33 credits in the interdisciplinary health sciences core (12 of which are dissertation credits). Post master's students must complete 27 additional credits in their individualized program of study. Students enrolling with bachelor's degrees must complete 57 additional credits in their individualized program of study. The minimum credit total in the program is 60 credits for post-master's students and 90 credits for post-bachelor's students. Students must complete the degree with a cumulative GPA ≥ 3.0 and graduation must occur within 6 years for students enrolling with master's degrees and 8 years for students enrolling with bachelor's degrees. Grades below C will not be acceptable. If a grade less than a B (B- not acceptable) was received in a core class, the student must retake the class. At this point, the student will be placed on probation via the Graduate College process. If a core class is not satisfactorily passed on two attempts, the student will be separated from the program after being placed on probation. (Please see the Graduate Catalog for more information) If the grade was in an elective class, the class can be retaken until a passing grade is achieved or be replaced with another elective class.

Students are required to complete at least one national/international presentation as a platform or poster presentation from research generated during their PhD program *or* present research generated during PhD program in HSC 710 (Interdisciplinary Seminar) or other approved venue to faculty and students.

Sample Program Core Courses (See Graduate Catalog for official degree requirements)

PhD – Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Core Courses – 33 total credits

Required: Complete all courses listed below [15 credits]	Elective: Complete one course listed below [3 credits]	Required: Complete both courses listed below [15 credits]
● HSC 703 Grant Writing for Health Sciences (3 credits) ● HSC 706 Health Science Writing and Communication (3 credits) ● HSC 710 Seminar (1 credit repeated 3 times) ● 700-level statistics courses (6 credits)	● HSC 702 Translational Research Design (3 credits) ● HSC 705 Clinical Trial Design and analysis (3 credits)	● HSC 789 Dissertation Prospectus (3 credits) ● HSC 799 Dissertation (12 credits)

Sample Program Elective Courses

Post Master's PhD – Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Elective Classes – 27 total credits

Elective Contracted Research Courses [up to 15 credits]	Elective Interdisciplinary Courses [at least 12 credits]
● HSC 787 Special Problems in Health Science (up to 6 credits) ● HSC 788 Independent Study (up to 9 credits) ● HSC 790 Guided Research (3 credits)	● Graduate level courses (12 credits) approved by the advisor

Post Bachelor's PhD – Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Elective Classes – 57 total credits

Elective Contracted Research Courses [up to 15 credits]	Elective Interdisciplinary Courses [at least 42 credits]
● HSC 787 Special Problems in Health Science (up to 6 credits) ● HSC 788 Independent Study (up to 9 credits) ● HSC 790 Guided Research (3 credits)	● Graduate-level courses (42 credits) approved by the advisor

Current Schedule of Interdisciplinary Core Courses

Fall Semester	Spring Semester	Summer Semester
HSC 702 Translational Research Design	HSC 703 Interdisciplinary Grant Writing for Health Sciences	HSC 710 Seminar
HSC 705 Clinical Trial Design and Analysis		
HSC 706 Health Science Writing and Communication		
HSC 710 Seminar	HSC 710 Seminar	

Medical Physics Subplan

In addition to the Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Core requirement (33 credits), students in the Medical Physics Subplan are required to take the following discipline specific courses (25 credits):

HPS 602 Radiation Detection (3 credits)

HPS 676 Sectional Anatomy (3 credits)

HPS 701 Applied Nuclear Physics (3 credits)

HPS 703 Radiation Interactions and Transport (3 credits)

HPS 720 Radiation Dosimetry (3 credits)

HPS 730 Advanced Radiation Biology (3 credits)

HPS 740 Medical Imaging Physics (3 credits)

HPS 742 Radiation Therapy Physics (3 credits)

HPS 792 Ethics for Medical Physicists (1 credit)

Medical physics students enrolling with bachelor's degrees are required to complete an additional 32 credits of advisor-approved graduate-level courses with a minimum of 15 credits of 700-level courses, which can include the following: HSC 787 (1-6 credits), HSC 788 (1-9 credits). Medical physics students enrolling with master's degrees are required to complete 2 credits of advisor-approved graduate-level courses to achieve the total 60 credits for graduation.

The official degree requirements can be found in the Graduate Catalog.

Professional Code of Ethics/Discipline Guidelines

UNLV Graduate College policy regarding academic integrity can be found in the [graduate catalog](#).

Annual Mandatory Individual Development Plan (IDP)

Each winter break and early spring term, graduate students are **required** to complete the Graduate Student Individual Development Plan (IDP) form [Formerly known as the Student Annual Review]. The review covers the prior calendar year and assesses student progress, and it establishes reasonable goals for the year ahead.

Faculty Advisors/Graduate Coordinators have the option to provide feedback to each student's submitted IDP and acknowledge that they have reviewed the IDP.

Reported student data is shared with students' graduate coordinators and advisors to foster opportunities for discussion about students' strengths and weaknesses, accomplishments and next requirements, and mentoring plans so that students know what they need to do in order to progress successfully through their programs in a timely manner.

Students who are graduating are also required to complete the form in order to record their achievements since the data is also used to track UNLV metrics related to the annual productivity of all students.

Graduate Assistantship

Graduate assistantship (GA) positions will be allocated by the Program Director annually in consultation with the Executive Governing Committee, individual IHS faculty mentors, and the School of Integrated Health Sciences and Graduate College Deans Offices. The time limits for state-funded GAs are described in the [Graduate Assistant Handbook](#) (page 25).

- Post-bachelor's doctoral-level state-funded GAs may hold their position for four years and then be renewed up to two additional one-year extensions (12 semesters total), if the student is making good progress toward degree completion.
- Post-master's doctoral-level state-funded GAs may hold their position for three years, with a possibility of up to two additional one-year extensions (10 semesters total), if the student is making good progress toward degree completion.

Probation

If a student fails to successfully progress in their degree program, the Program Director will recommend that the student be placed on probation by the Graduate College. Students on probation may be dismissed/separated from their program for failing to successfully meet the conditions of their probation by the deadline provided. Please see the [Probation and Separation](#) section of the Graduate Catalog for more information.

University Resources

[The Graduate Academy: Innovative Leadership, Professional, and Career Development](#)

The goal of the Graduate Academy is to serve as a virtual resource providing support and many professional opportunities to UNLV graduate students. The Academy offers information about events and services such as graduate certificate programs, workshops, training sessions and career services. You can follow Academy activities via social media or look for regular updates on the website.

[Alumni Engagement](#)

With an alumni base 150,000+ strong, the UNLV Alumni Engagement offers a variety of services and opportunities in support of alumni and their families. UNLV alumni are encouraged to support the values of higher learning through advocacy, involvement, and giving.

[Commencement Office](#)

Located in the UNLV Office of the Registrar, the [commencement office](#) is the last step in the graduation process. Please check with the commencement office for information on the commencement ceremony and your diploma; for all other information about graduate student degree completion and graduation, including thesis/dissertation requirements and doctoral hooding, please contact the Graduate College. It is the students' responsibility to ensure they apply for [graduation on time](#) and submit all required forms to the Graduate College. Questions regarding thesis/dissertation should be directed to the Graduate College [Student Services Team](#) and questions regarding required forms should be directed to the Graduate College [RPC Team](#).

[Institutional Engagement and Experience](#)

The vision of the [Institutional Engagement and Experience](#) is to advocate, promote, and support the advancement of equity, inclusiveness, and empowerment of a continuously changing collegiate and global community. The mission is to provide leadership and support for UNLV's engagement mission: *to nurture equity, diversity, and inclusiveness that promotes respect, support, and empowerment*. This Office is housed under the Division of Human Resources and also handles UNLV Title IX questions, inquiries, and reporting.

[Disability Resource Center \(DRC\)](#)

The [DRC](#) is committed to supporting students with disabilities at UNLV through the appropriate use of advocacy, accommodations, and supportive services to ensure access to campus courses, services, and activities. The DRC is the university-designated office that determines and facilitates reasonable accommodations in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Graduate students with disabilities must disclose to the DRC in order to receive appropriate accommodations.

[Graduate Appeals and Issue Resolution](#)

The Office of Graduate Student Services at the Graduate College assists graduate and professional students with addressing concerns and overcoming personal, academic, or financial challenges that might hinder their ability to be successful in their program. The office also provides information and student-centered issue-resolution services and offers guidance, information, and assistance when regular channels have failed to provide graduate students with the information they need to solve problems. Please see website for more information:

<https://www.unlv.edu/graduatecollege/appeals-issue-resolution>

[UNLV Global and the Office of International Student and Scholar Compliance](#)

[International Student and Scholar Compliance \(ISSC\)](#) ensures compliance with both SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) and federal law, so that the university can continue to be authorized by the U.S. federal government to enroll international students; host and hire international scholars; assist and advise employment eligibility and authorization relating to international students and scholars, and visa, travel, and immigration issues; provide critical and specialized services to the international students and scholars of the UNLV community; and facilitate their transition to the campus and the U.S.

[The Care Center](#)

The [Care Center](#) is committed to creating a supportive and inclusive environment for all genders through programming, services, and advocacy for the UNLV community. The Women's Center has informational resources, brochures, and flyers for a variety of on and off campus organizations to help empower and protect yourself, and learn about your options. They also provide free tampons, pads, and condoms.

The Intersection

[The Intersection](#) is a one-stop resource for UNLV's highly diverse student body — a comprehensive multicultural center grounded in the academic life of our students. As an intersecting campus resource, the Intersection helps ensure students, particularly first-generation and students of color, successfully navigate their academic careers. Here, all members of campus can discuss their differences, discover their similarities, and build a shared sense of belonging.

UNLV Libraries

[UNLV Libraries](#) has always been more than books; they are about encouraging students and creating quality programs that elevate growth and learning. Please visit their website for important information about the services they offer to graduate students.

Graduate & Professional Student Association (GPSA)

The [Graduate & Professional Student Association](#) serves all currently enrolled University of Nevada, Las Vegas graduate and professional students. The GPSA maintains the Graduate Student Commons located in the Lied Library room 2141 and Gateway Building PDAC Room. The facility a working office equipped with a copier, fax, flatbed scanners, color laser printer, office supplies, and computers with printers and a small kitchen area. The GPSA is the graduate student governance body at UNLV; the GPSA Council consists of one graduate student representative from each graduate department, and they meet monthly. The GPSA also provides volunteer opportunities, sponsors social events, and supports graduate student research through the graduate research and travel grants program.

Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities

The [Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) is a student-centered, service-oriented office located within the Division of Student Affairs. The Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities collaborates with the UNLV community to provide an inclusive system through enforcement of the *UNLV Student Code of Conduct* by:

- Promoting awareness of student rights and responsibilities;
- Establishing accountability for student choices;
- Creating opportunities for involvement in the process; and
- Striving to uphold the values and ethics that advance the common good.

Military and Veteran Services Center

The [Military and Veteran Service Center](#) is staffed with veterans and veteran education benefits-experienced staff to assist more than 1,800 veterans, dependents, active duty service members, National Guard members, and reservists attending UNLV. Their mission is to develop a welcoming, veteran-friendly campus environment that fosters academic and personal success.

The Financial Aid & Scholarships Office

The [Financial Aid & Scholarships Office](#) supports higher-education access and persistence by providing financial aid to eligible students. The office partners with student organizations, the UNLV Foundation, the Graduate College, and other external constituents to provide financial aid learning opportunities and scholarship support for graduate students.

Writing Center

This is a free service to UNLV students to help you with any writing project, from papers to creative writing, to resumes, and we can work with you at any stage of the writing process. The center can help you brainstorm, make an outline, work on your drafts, or just be a soundboard for your ideas. The center staff can assist you in person, or via the [Online Writing Lab \(OWL\)](#) page.

University Policies and Procedures

Graduate students are responsible for knowing and acting in accordance with UNLV Policies and Procedures. To view the most commonly referenced campus policies and procedures, you can refer to the following websites:

- [Academic Integrity](#)
- [Activation for Military Service](#)
- [Change of Address](#)
- [FERPA/Privacy Rights](#)
- [Health Insurance - Mandatory](#)
- [Jean Clery Campus Safety and Security Report](#)
- [Proof of Immunization](#)
- [Policies and Procedures on the Protection of Research Subjects](#)
- [Rebelmail Policy](#)
- [Student Conduct Code](#)

- [Student Computer Use Policy](#)
- [Title IX](#)

UNLV does not discriminate in its employment practices or in its educational programs or activities, including admissions, on the basis of sex/gender pursuant to Title IX, or on the basis of any other legally protected category as is set forth in NSHE Handbook Title 4, Chapter 8, Section 13. Reports of discriminatory misconduct, questions regarding Title IX, and/or concerns about noncompliance with Title IX or any other anti-discrimination laws or policies should be directed to UNLV's Title IX Coordinator Michelle Sposito.

The Title IX Coordinator can be reached through the [online reporting form](#), by email at titleixcoordinator@unlv.edu, by phone at (702) 895-4055, by mail at 4505 S. Maryland Parkway, Box 451062, Las Vegas, NV, 89154-1062, or in person at Frank and Estella Beam Hall (BEH), Room 555.

To ensure compliance with Graduate College policies and procedures, please review the relevant sections of the [Graduate Catalog](#):

- [Academic Calendar](#)
- [Academic Policies](#)
- [Admission and Registration Information](#)
- [Degree Progression Policies & Procedures](#)

In addition, the [Graduate College website](#) contains additional information regarding policies and procedures.

Nothing in this handbook supersedes any NSHE, UNLV, or Graduate College policy.

Dissertation Committee

The dissertation committee should be formed as early as possible in the student's program of study. The minimum composition of the committee is to include: 1) Committee Chair, 2) At least two additional content-area members with Graduate Faculty Status in the IHS PhD program, and 3) One Graduate College Representative with Graduate Faculty Status outside of the IHS PhD program. The committee Chair must hold Graduate Faculty status in IHS PhD Program and the right to chair the dissertation committee. The two additional committee members must hold Graduate Faculty status in Interdisciplinary Health Sciences PhD Program minimally at the doctoral-member level. The Graduate College Representative must hold an approved level of Graduate Faculty status in any area outside of Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Program, Health Physics and Diagnostic Sciences, Kinesiology and Nutrition Sciences, Occupational Therapy, or Physical Therapy.

Comprehensive Examination and Prospectus Procedures

All students in the Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Ph.D. program must successfully complete the two-part process of comprehensive examination and prospectus, before advancing to candidacy status. This process should occur after completing most of their coursework, in accordance with the degree plan. With the primary mentor's permission, the student registers for HSC 789 (Comprehensive Exam and Dissertation Prospectus) during the term he/she plans to complete this process. Please note that in order to advance to candidacy, students must complete all course work, the comprehensive exam, successfully defend the prospectus, and submit all required forms to the Graduate College.

Aims of the Comprehensive Examination

The comprehensive examination is an assessment intended to verify that the student has reached the professional standard expected of a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Interdisciplinary Health Sciences. The primary purpose is to test the student's ability to perform high-level literature synthesis, critical appraisal, and demonstrate the scientific aptitude and skills pertaining to their research area. While the student's advisory committee provides topical guidance, the final products must reflect the independent work of the student rather than the work of the mentor or committee.

Written Examination

The written document may take one of two forms, determined by the student's dissertation committee: 1) A comprehensive literature review, or 2) A grant proposal.

- **Content:** The topic must be relevant to the student's research and guided by the committee. The student should meet with each content-area committee member *a priori* to ensure the inclusion of specific focus areas in this document. These meetings serve to ensure the scope is sufficiently comprehensive and related to the student's research direction.

- **Format:** There is no specific target word limit; however, the document must be formatted to a standard suitable for publication in a peer-reviewed journal or for submission as a grant proposal. Thus a maximum of 6000 words may be used as a guide. Margins, font, spacing, citation, and other formatting requirements are determined by the primary mentor in consultation with other committee members.

Procedures

- **Submission:** The student submits the written work directly to each member of the Advisory Committee.
- **Review:** The Committee reviews the document within three weeks after receiving the written document. Each committee member will conduct an independent review and provide a pass/fail grade and comments to the Committee Chair. The Chair will communicate the comprehensive exam results to the student.
- **Outcomes:**
 - **Pass:** Student proceeds to the Dissertation Prospectus.
 - **Fail:** If the first submission is deemed unsatisfactory by a consensus of the Committee, the student is placed on probation. The student has up to 4 weeks to revise and resubmit the written document to the Committee. A second unsatisfactory submission results in a recommendation for separation from the program.

Dissertation Prospectus Procedures

Following a pass of the Comprehensive Examination, the student may proceed to the Dissertation Prospectus. To ensure the dissertation research approach is sound, candidates are strongly encouraged to meet with each committee member in advance of the prospectus to discuss the research questions and approach.

The prospectus includes a written document and a public oral presentation and defense of the proposed dissertation research. The written document details the pertinent background and aims of the proposed dissertation topic, with full methods description. A grant proposal format may be used as a guide. The prospectus document may be submitted to the Committee with the comprehensive examination written document or at a later date, as instructed by the Committee. The oral examination is a rigorous defense of the student's research knowledge and capabilities. The suggested format includes: 1) An oral presentation (approx. 40-50 minutes) summarizing the content included in the student's written documents (i.e. comprehensive examination document and/or prospectus document), and 2) A defense to the questioning of the Committee after the presentation. The use of a formal scoring rubric by the Advisory Committee is strongly encouraged to ensure objective evaluation of these competencies (see example below).

Outcomes of the prospectus include:

- **Pass:** Student is advanced to Candidacy.
- **Fail:** Student is placed on probation and must repeat the prospectus to address the deficiencies identified by the Committee. Rescheduling must occur within 4 to 8 weeks. A second failure results in a recommendation for separation from the program.

After successfully completing both the Comprehensive Examination and the Prospectus (HSC 789), a student may enroll in dissertation credits in the first term following advancement to candidacy.

Example of a scoring guide for the Prospectus

Competency	Indicators	Contraindicators
Synthesis of Knowledge	Demonstrates high-level synthesis. Connects disparate concepts into a cohesive scientific argument.	Recites facts but struggles to connect themes across different study areas. Connects major themes but lacks depth in interdisciplinary integration.
Methodological Defense	Defends methodological frameworks with rigor. Identifies and addresses bias or limitations independently.	Unable to justify specific research designs or statistical choices. Justifies choices based on literature but struggles with potential limitations.
Critical Appraisal	Critically evaluates the body of knowledge. Identifies gaps and proposes sophisticated solutions.	Accepts published literature at face value without questioning validity. Identifies basic flaws in research but lacks a deep critical lens.
Independent Thinking	Defends original positions with sound scientific logic. Pivots effectively during questioning where appropriate.	Relies heavily on advisor's perspectives or "common knowledge."

Admissions Policies and Procedures

Students will be admitted into the program by the IHS Executive Governing Committee. Review of applicants for admission by this committee will occur after screening by the student's mentor. Note the mentor is to be identified prior to program admission. The minimum requirements of the Ph.D. in IHS is an overall undergraduate/graduate GPA >3.25, three letters of recommendation (one letter must be from the proposed mentor), online recorder interview, curriculum vitae and letter of intent. The curriculum vitae should include a list of the applicant's published manuscripts, grant applications, conference presentations (posters and talks), honors and awards (academic, professional, and research-related), professional development (seminars, memberships, conference attendance), and professional experience (clinician, practitioner in discipline and university teaching). The letter of intent should include a description of the applicant's research skills (devices, methods, statistics and writing), career aspiration, and specific justification for studying in the UNLV IHS program. The committee will consider all requirements and parts of the application as part of a holistic admissions review. If the applicant is from a country where English is not an official language, then the applicant must demonstrate English proficiency by scoring 80 or higher on the Test of English as a Foreign Language, by scoring 7.0 or higher on the International English Language Testing System, by scoring 85 or higher on Duolingo, or by earning a baccalaureate or higher at a regionally accredited institution in the U.S. or in a university where English is the language of instruction, or other requirements outlined in the Catalog.

Applicants must have graduated from a regionally accredited institution or equivalent in a related field (e.g., biology, engineering, exercise science, nutrition science, health physics, physical therapy, psychology, occupational therapy) at the Master's or first-professional clinical doctoral level. Applicants with Bachelor degrees may be admitted to the program but are required to take an additional 30 credits of elective, degree-appropriate coursework.

Students seeking entry to the Medical Physics Subplan must hold a Bachelor's degree in physics, applied physics, physical science, or engineering

(with an equivalent of a minor in physics) from an accredited college or university. Applicants must have taken a calculus-based general physics course (not algebra-based). In addition to this requirement, applicants must have taken at least four upper level physics courses. Examples of acceptable upper-level courses (but not limited to) include: modern physics, quantum mechanics, electricity and magnetism, atomic physics, statistical mechanics, nuclear physics and classical mechanics.

Applicants with a master's degree from a regionally accredited medical physics program who meet the entrance requirements may be considered for admission to the program. In addition, these applicants must have taken the American Board of Radiology (ABR) part 1 exam as a condition for admission to the program. These students will be required to take an additional 27 credits of electives (determined by PhD faculty).

Nothing in this handbook supersedes any NSHE, UNLV, or Graduate College policy.

Handbook Revision Information

Last revised	Revised by	Department Vote Tally: Yes/No/Abs. (date of vote)	Changes summary
May 9, 2016	J.S. Dufek		Dissertation format for KIN track; Minor edits
May 9, 2016	M.C. Clark		Minor edits
May 9, 2016	C. Dingley		Minor edits
March 13, 2017	J.S. Dufek		Addition of Comprehensive Examination Policy; Minor edits
May 15, 2017	C. Dingley, J. Dufek, J. Navalta, E. Puentedura		Update of course prefixes; Correction of Comprehensive Exam timeline for re-take; Addition of outcomes of final oral (dissertation) defense; Minor edits
November 30, 2017	J.S. Dufek (with committee input)		Clarification of minimum grade requirements; Update of contact personnel; Minor edits
February 22, 2018	C. Dingley, J. Dufek, S. Madsen, J. Navalta, D. Young		Update to comprehensive examination procedure; Clarification of grade requirements; Minor updates and edits
April 23, 2018	J.S. Dufek		Update of courses and course numbers; Removed dissertation format options for all tracks and moved information to Graduate Catalog
August 8, 2018	J.S. Dufek		Added notice of admissions hold to NURS track; Modified text font to be consistent within document
September 26, 2018	J.S. Dufek, S. Madsen, J. Navalta, D. Young		Elimination of SON, Elimination of Sub-Plans, Adoption of Common Admissions Procedures, Addition of Dissertation Prospectus, Minor Edits
November 28, 2018	J.S. Dufek		Incorporation of Graduate College comments and clarifications
April 1, 2019	J.S. Dufek		Updated format of core course table
April 15, 2020	J.S. Dufek – IHS Graduate Faculty		Update core courses, remove grant requirement for comprehensive exam, provide option for research dissemination deliverable, add one Executive Governing Committee member
June 28, 2021	S. Madsen		Update admissions requirements and EGC membership
March 28, 2023	S.J. Madsen – IHS Graduate Faculty	19/5/0 (02/17/2023)	Update EGC membership and admission requirements
February 7, 2024	S.J. Madsen & IHS Graduate Faculty	12/0/2 (02/28/24)	Inclusion of Medical Physics Subplan Clarification of verbiage concerning BS vs MS admitted students Incorporation of curriculum revisions
Mar 28, 2026	Szu-Ping Lee & IHS Graduate Faculty	11/0/0	Update course schedule, state-funded GA time limits, and comprehensive exam and prospectus procedures