

Indiana University Office of Online Education

Program Approval Form

Date: 7/10/13

Campus: Indianapolis

School/academic unit: School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

Department: Health Sciences

Proposed program title: MS in Health Sciences

Proposed program type: Degree

Graduate/undergraduate: Graduate

Status of proposed program: Established program converting to distance (online) delivery

Percentage of program to be delivered via distance: 100%

Will this program also be delivered in an on campus format? No

**Academic:**

1. Describe the rationale for converting the program to distance delivery.  
The program has been 80% online since fall 2011. With the substitution of two new courses that are currently in the approval process, we can convert to 100% online. Prospective students have told us that they would prefer a completely online degree program. All of the students currently enrolled in the program work full time, and those who have contacted us for information are employed full time. They have expressed difficulty in coming to campus for classes.
2. Explain why you are uniquely suited to offer this program via distance delivery. What are the distinctive features of the distance delivered program?  
The Department of Health Sciences in the School of Rehabilitation Sciences has had a history of successfully offering distance courses at both the graduate and undergraduate level. The number of online courses offered per academic year increased from 9 in fall 2008 to 35 in fall 2010, an increase of 289 percent. We are currently scheduled to offer 21 distance courses in fall 2013 and 25 in spring 2014. The advantage of offering the MS in Health Sciences degree completely on line is that it would meet the expressed desire of current and prospective students to continue to work full time while taking courses to complete their graduate education. This degree is targeted to meet the needs of working baccalaureate prepared health and rehabilitation professionals who are seeking an advanced degree to increase their knowledge base and to prepare for career advancement.

- Describe the program review plan and any plans for acquiring/maintaining program accreditation (identify accrediting agency).

The Master of Science in Health Sciences is an interdisciplinary degree designed for baccalaureate prepared health and rehabilitation professionals interested in pursuing advanced education to enable them to contribute to the body of knowledge in the health and rehabilitation sciences and for career advancement. The program is reviewed annually as part of the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences review assessment by the University Program Review and Assessment Committee.

Outlined below are the learning outcomes and assessment methods to be used in evaluating the program. In addition, enrollments will be tracked on an annual basis.

<b>Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Benchmark</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Changes</b>
Analyze trends and issues in the health sciences	Course grade	Each student to pass SHRS W510		
Critically evaluate research in the health sciences	Course grade Project/thesis defense	Each student to pass SHRS W520 Each student able to successfully defend his/her project/thesis		
Describe the theories of health promotion and disease prevention	Course grade	Each student to pass SHRS W661		
Demonstrate ethical conduct while in the program and with regard to the rehabilitation setting	Evaluate ethical conduct	No student to be charged with unethical conduct		
Demonstrate the ability to effectively communicate in writing	Written assignments in required courses using rubrics Acceptance of project/thesis	90% of students will exhibit good to excellent writing skills as reflected in grading rubrics for required courses All students will have project/thesis accepted		
Demonstrate an understanding of diversity issues in rehabilitation	Course grade Evaluate civility within all required courses	Each student to pass SHRS W625 No student to be charged with uncivil conduct		
Conduct guided research in an area of interest	Thesis/project	Each student to have his/her thesis or project accepted by committee		
Contribute to the body of knowledge in health and rehabilitation	Thesis/project	Each student to produce a project/thesis that contributes to		

sciences		knowledge in the health and life sciences 10% of students each year have a peer reviewed presentation 5% of students each year have a peer reviewed publication		
Be eligible for career advancement	Exit interview	50% of students each year experience career advancement		

There is no agency that accredits MS in Health Sciences degrees.

**Market Demand**

- Describe the evidence that you have that there is a market demand for the distance delivery of this program at the state, regional, national or international level.  
The intended audience for this degree is professionals currently employed in the health and rehabilitation sciences who want to increase their knowledge base and prepare for career advancement. It is not designed for individuals who are seeking entry level positions in the health care field or those who desire to increase their clinical skills as practicing health care professionals.

All workforce surveys at the state, regional and national level predict a strong demand for employees in the health and rehabilitation sciences. For example, 6 out of the top 10 jobs listed in the Hoosier Hot 50 are in the health care fields. These surveys reflect a demand for people not just in entry level positions, but in mid-career level as well. The people who have expressed an interest in this degree have been health care professionals working full time, and it is our expectation that this will continue to be our target audience. Our ability to market the program and attract more students has been limited by the fact that students cannot complete this degree online.

We currently have 4 students enrolled in the MS in Health Sciences program. Three started with us in Fall 2011 and one will start in Fall 2013. Their health care background is as follows:

- Physician assistant
- Ultrasound technician
- Diabetes clinical research specialist
- Wellness coordinator

The Department of Occupational Therapy in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences is in the process of submitting a proposal to offer a clinical post professional doctorate in occupational therapy (OTD). Baccalaureate prepared occupational therapists who are interested in earning the OTD must obtain a master’s degree to be eligible for admission. Interested applicants will be encouraged to enroll in the MS in Health Sciences.

5. Are there currently any related distance delivery or on-campus programs offered by IU campuses? If so, please describe the extent to which plans to deliver this program via distance delivery have been discussed with the appropriate stakeholders associated with these related IU programs.  
No, there are no related distance delivery or on campus programs offered by IU.
6. No letters required.

**Fiscal**

7. What are the expected tuition and fees of the proposed program?  
Students enrolled in the program will be expected to pay the standard graduate tuition and fees approved by the IU Board of Trustees.
8. Describe any additional resources needed to implement the program.  
None needed.

## **Master of Science in Health Sciences**

**Description and purpose of the program:** The Master of Science in Health Sciences is an interdisciplinary graduate degree designed for health and rehabilitation professionals and educators interested in pursuing advanced education at the master's level. Graduates of the program will acquire advanced knowledge and understanding of current trends and issues, and the problem-solving skills to prepare them to assume leadership roles in practice and educational settings.

The program is designed to meet the educational needs of practicing health and rehabilitation professionals and educators. All courses are offered in a distance format. Most of the courses taken to satisfy the requirements of the master's degree can be used to fulfill course requirements for the PhD in Health and Rehabilitation Sciences.

The program consists of a minimum of 36 credit hours of course work, including a required 6 hour project or thesis.

### **ADMISSION:**

**Requirements:** Students accepted into the program must complete university, school, and program admission requirements. The minimum admission requirements are as follows:

1. A baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution (applicant must submit an official copy of all undergraduate transcripts).
2. Cumulative undergraduate grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
3. At least one undergraduate statistics or research methods course completed with a grade of B or better.
4. Three letters of recommendation from those familiar with the applicant's academic and professional performance.
5. 300 to 500 word personal statement of academic and professional goals.
6. If applicable, a TOEFL iBT score of at least 100.

NOTE: Due to the online course delivery format, this degree is not available to persons holding F1 or J1 visas.

### **Prior Course Work Applied Toward Degree Requirements**

A maximum of 6 graduate credit hours earned at Indiana University before admission may be applied toward a degree. Upon the recommendation of the Health Sciences program director and with the approval of the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences Academic Studies and Research Development Committee, up to 8 credit hours of graduate work at other institutions may be transferred in partial fulfillment of degree requirements. No course may be transferred from another institution unless the course was completed with a grade of B or higher within five years before matriculation in the Master of Science degree program.

### **Application Materials**

An applicant must submit a completed application using the IUPUI electronic admissions website. Transcripts from all universities attended must be included. However, if the applicant is a graduate of Indiana University, the school will obtain those transcripts directly. Non-Indiana

University graduates must submit at least one official transcript from each university attended. A nonrefundable application fee is required from all applicants who have never attended Indiana University.

**Curriculum:**

A total of 36 credit hours would be required to complete the degree, allocated as follows:

SHRS W510	Trends and Issues in Health Sciences	3
SHRS W520	Evidence Based Critical Inquiry in Health Sciences	3
SHRS W541	Administration and Supervision of Rehabilitation Organizations	3
SHRS W550	Health and Rehabilitation Systems Across the World	3
SHRS W561	Approaches to Rehabilitation Case Management	3
SHRS W562	Psychological Aspects of Disability	3
SHRS W625	Diversity Issues in Health and Rehabilitation Sciences	3
SHRS W663	Legal and Regulatory Aspects of Rehabilitation Organizations	3
SHRS W667	Ethical Issues in Rehabilitation Services	3
NURS R505	Measurement and Data Analysis (or equivalent)	3
SHRS W599 OR W600	Project or Thesis	6

Note that the student has the option of either thesis or project. The thesis follows the standards of the IU Graduate School as outlined on the IU Graduate School website (see Guideline to Theses and Dissertations). The project is an individual investigation in the form of an organized scientific contribution or a comprehensive analysis in a specific area related to the health sciences. Both the project and thesis require a primary mentor with at least two other faculty serving to form the student's research advisory committee.