

The University of Pittsburgh is currently recruiting high quality students interested in earning a graduate degree (MS and Ph.D.) in the Department of Health and Physical Activity. Thus, if you have students who are interested in advancing their education and pursuing graduate studies in this area, please share the following information with these students.

The mission of the Department of Health and Physical Activity is to teach and study the role of physical activity in promoting health and preventing disease across the lifespan. This allows for strong collaborations with the School of Medicine, School of Nursing, and the Graduate School of Public Health, and the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Moreover, students have access to national and international scholars, along with access to superior research facilities. This has resulted in the graduate program in the Department of Health and Physical Activity recently being ranked 6th by Academic Analytics. The City of Pittsburgh was voted "The Most Livable City" in 2007 by Places Rated Almanac with access to a variety of recreation opportunities, professional and collegiate athletic events, and a vibrant cultural district.

Degree Programs

The Department of Health and Physical Activity offers a doctorate degree (Ph.D.) in Exercise Physiology and a complimentary Master of Science (MS) degree. Degree tracks include: 1) Health, Physical Activity, and Chronic Disease; 2) Health and Fitness. These tracks are offered with a "research" focus for students interested in eventually earning an advance degree (Ph.D.) or a "practitioner" focus for students interested in pursuing a clinical or health-fitness career. Students can contact Kristie Abt, Ph.D., Graduate Student Coordinator (klabt@pitt.edu) to receive additional information about the 36 Credit Hour MS degree programs or the Ph.D. program. Full-time Ph.D. students can earn their degree in approximately 3 years. Full-time MS students can earn their degree in 12-15 months (3 terms) and part-time students can earn their degree in 15-24 months.

Research Centers and Laboratories

The Department of Health and Physical Activity a visible and influential research hub with the capacity to compete for extramural funding, which currently exceeds \$6 million. The majority of these funds have been received through grants awarded to the faculty by the National Institutes of Health to conduct research in the areas of obesity and weight control, energy, balance, women's health, and physical activity initiatives. These extramural funds support the existing laboratories within the department, and graduate students are integrated into the research and clinical experiences provided by these facilities, along with collaborating laboratories throughout the University of Pittsburgh.

Financial Support for Graduate Students

The Department of Health and Physical Activity provide opportunities for financial support to qualified graduate students. These awards may include partial or full tuition remission, financial support for graduate assistantships, and assistantships offered through funded research projects. Students are encouraged to apply for graduate assistantships when submitting their application for admittance. In addition, tuition remission funds are currently available to assist new students for the Summer 2008 and Fall 2008 terms.

Interested students are encouraged to contact Kristie Abt, Ph.D., Graduate Student Coordinator (klabt@pitt.edu). Additional information is available at <http://www.education.pitt.edu/hpa>.

Sincerely,

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