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UAB School of Public Health  
Department of Health Behavior  
**Ph.D. Plan Student Handbook**  
2018-19

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# 1. Introduction to the Program

The mission of the Joint Ph.D. program in Health Education and Health Promotion (HEHP) is to provide you with the academic courses, scholarly activities, and practical experiences that will enable you to become a leading researcher, teacher, and practitioner in the field. The program is based in three distinct academic departments that share a common educational mission: (1) the [Department of Health Behavior](#), School of Public Health at UAB; (2) the [Department of Health Science](#), College of Human Environmental Sciences at the University of Alabama (UA); and (3) the [Department of Human Studies](#), School of Education at UAB. You were admitted to the program through the UAB School of Public Health, Department of Health Behavior. Our program emphasizes training in social and behavioral sciences in public health. This handbook is intended to guide you through the doctoral training program of the Department of Health Behavior. As such, it contains information about departmental requirements and resources that may not apply to doctoral students enrolled in one of the other two units.

## 1.1 Program Goals

Upon completion of the Ph.D. program in HEHP you will be able to:

- Analyze the individual and social influences on health behavior with the aim of developing, evaluating, and implementing solutions to health behavior problems.
- Evaluate theoretical models of health and health behavior considering societal, structural, community, and organizational influences.
- Design health education/health promotion intervention programs.
- Conduct a comprehensive review of literature and identify gaps.
- Develop a health behavior dissertation research proposal with detailed plan for conducting the study and performing the analyses.
- Conduct dissertation research from design through analysis and interpretation.
- Effectively communicate results in an oral presentation and manuscript appropriate for degree.

## 1.2 Program Directors

The Program Director at each unit serves on the Executive Committee for the HEHP Ph.D. program. Unit Program Directors for the 2018–19 academic year are:

Robin Gaines Lanzi, Ph.D., M.P.H.  
Professor  
Department of Health Behavior  
UAB School of Public Health

David Birch, Ph.D.  
Professor  
Department of Health Science  
UA College of Human  
Environmental Sciences

Retta Evans, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor  
Department of Human Studies  
UAB School of Education

### 1.3 Program Faculty and Staff

The Ph.D. Program in HEHP includes faculty from all three participating academic units. Health Behavior Departmental faculty are listed below. Contact information and areas of research interest for Department of Health Behavior faculty can be found in Appendix A.

Kevin Fontaine, Ph.D.	Professor & Chair
David Coombs, Ph.D., M.P.H.	Associate Professor, retired
Susan Davies, Ph.D.	Professor
Faith Fletcher, Ph.D., M.A.	Assistant Professor
Frank Franklin, M.D., M.P.H., Ph.D.	Professor Emeritus
Melissa Galvin, Ph.D., M.P.H.	Professor Emerita
Peter Hendricks, Ph.D.	Associate Professor
Kathryn Kaiser, Ph.D.	Assistant Professor
Connie Kohler, Dr.P.H.	Professor Emerita
Robin Gaines Lanzi, Ph.D., M.P.H.	Professor & Director of Academic Programs
Ann Elizabeth Montgomery, Ph.D., M.P.A., M.S.W.	Assistant Professor
Greg Pavela, Ph.D.	Assistant Professor
Dori Pekmezi, Ph.D.	Associate Professor
Julie Brown, M.S., M.B.A.	Coordinator of Graduate Academic Programs

# 2. Coursework Requirements

This section describes: 1) prerequisite course work required for entering the program and 2) the minimum course work required to complete the program. There is also information on academic advising and how to plan coursework.

## 2.1 Prerequisites

You must have completed master’s degree level coursework in the subject areas listed below under Table 1, Prerequisite Coursework Areas. If upon entering the program, you have not already completed the prerequisite coursework, it must be completed as determined in your acceptance notification (Appendix B). Prerequisite coursework is not counted in the 73 credit hours required to complete the PhD program. A number of specific courses may cover any one of the coursework areas below. The Director of Graduate Academic Programs will review your incoming transcript to determine which prerequisite requirements have been met and how to meet those that have not been met.

Courses that qualify as prerequisites can be taken concurrently with other course work. Examples of qualifying courses are listed below in Table 1 next to each of the corresponding course titles. You should check appropriate schedules to verify the semester in which courses are taught before registering. *Please note, some prerequisites listed below must be taken before registering for certain Ph.D. program courses. For example, HB 641 & HB 643 are required prerequisites for HB 740 if equivalent graduate courses have not been taken.*

### Table 1. Prerequisite Coursework Areas

**Must be at master’s level or higher.** Equivalent courses at the graduate level are acceptable with approval of director, please provide syllabus when possible.

- Biostatistics (e.g., BST 601)
- Research Methods/Design (e.g., HB 641)
- Designing/Evaluating Health Promotion Programs/Interventions (e.g., HB 636, HB 643)

## 2.2 Required Courses

Required Ph.D. courses are listed below. Waivers and substitutions can be discussed with your academic advisor.

# Department of Health Behavior Joint PhD Program

## Doctor of Philosophy in Health Education and Health Promotion Curriculum Planning Form

*Students receiving a MSPH or PhD are required to complete a **37 hour, self-paced online course** entitled "Overview of Public Health" by the end of their second semester. Students with prior public health education (coursework in each of the public health core disciplines) or experience (5 years in public health) may be waived from this requirement by permission of the Associate Dean.*

Name:	Admission Date:					
Banner ID:	Candidacy Date:					
Current GPA:	Graduation Date:					
Course Name	Term Course Available			Credit Hours	Term /Year Taken	Grade
	Fall	Spr	Sum			
<b>Departmental Requirements: 18 hours</b>						
<b>*Sequenced Courses offered every other year taken in this order: HB 724, 741 (fall), 736 (spring) &amp; HB 737 (following fall)</b>						
*HB 724: Advanced Social and Behavioral Science Theory for Doctoral Candidates	X			3	Fall, odd numbered years	
*HB 741: Advanced Research Methods in the Behavioral Sciences	X			3	Fall, odd numbered years	
*HB 736: Advanced Intervention Research Design		X		3	Spring, even numbered years	
*HB 737: Advanced Intervention Implementation and Evaluation	X			3	Fall, even numbered years	
HB 703: Writing for the Behavioral Sciences			X	3	Summer, even numbered years	
GRD 717: Responsible Conduct of Research	X	X		3	During first 4 semesters	
<b>Joint Courses include Doctoral Seminar, Health Education / Health Promotions Electives, Advanced Research &amp; Stats Methods Courses, Evaluation/Research Methods/Stats Electives, Directed and Dissertation Research hours</b>						
HB 771: Doctoral Studies Seminar	X	X		1	Fall, odd numbered years	
HB 772: Doctoral Studies Seminar	X	X		1	Spring, odd numbered years	
HB 773: Doctoral Studies Seminar	X	X		1	Fall, odd numbered years	
<b>Health Education / Health Promotions Electives Courses: 9 hours (Appendix C)</b>						
	X	X	X	3		
	X	X	X	3		
	X	X	X	3		

**Health Education / Health Promotions Advanced Research & Statistical Methods: Select 13 hours; during first 6 semesters**

EPI 610: Prin. of Epidemiologic Research	X			4	During first 6 semesters
BST 611: Intermediate Statistical Analysis I <b>or</b> EPR 609: Statistical Methods and Research in Education	X			3	During first 6 semesters
BST 612: Intermediate Statistical Analysis II <b>or</b> EPR 710: Statistical Methods and Research in Education: Intermediate		X		3	During first 6 semesters
Qualitative or Mixed Methods Research	X	X	X	3	During first 6 semesters

**Health Education / Health Promotions Evaluation/Research Methods/Stats Elective Courses: 6 hours (Appendix D)**

	X	X	X	3	
	X	X	X	3	

**Health Education / Health Promotions Directed Research: Minimum 12 hours**

HB 798/HE 702: Directed Research	X	X	X	3	
HB 798/HE 702: Directed Research	X	X	X	3	
HB 798/HE 702: Directed Research	X	X	X	3	
HB 798/HE 702: Directed Research	X	X	X	3	

**Qualifying Exam**

Must complete 75% (a min of 36 hours) of didactic coursework

**Dissertation Proposal**

Date of Dissertation Proposal

**Health Education / Health Promotions Dissertation Research: Min of 12 hours over the course of at least 2 semesters candidacy**

HB/HE 799: Dissertation Research	X	X	X	3	
HB/HE 799: Dissertation Research	X	X	X	3	
HB/HE 799: Dissertation Research	X	X	X	3	
HB/HE 799: Dissertation Research	X	X	X	3	

**Dissertation Defense**

Date of Dissertation Defense

**Minimum Credit Hours Earned for Degree 73**

## 2.3 Course of Study

An advising form outlines the required courses, research, and exam requirements. Use this worksheet when meeting with your faculty advisor to map out a plan of study. Both you and your advisor keep a copy of this planning worksheet and update it every semester. If you have any questions about your course of study (e.g. course substitution/waiver), talk to your advisor.

## 2.4 Academic Advising

Upon admission to the program, you are assigned a faculty advisor. Advisors provide guidance about course selection, course substitutions, internships, research opportunities, and possible employment opportunities. You will consult with your advisor prior to registering for your first semester in the Ph.D. program. In subsequent semesters, you will meet with your faculty advisor to review selected courses before the registration hold is removed.

*You are free to change advisors*—you should work with the faculty member who you think is the best “fit” given research content area or personal “chemistry.” Consent to work with a student must be obtained from the new advisor before the change can be completed. Please see Ms. Julie Brown for the required paperwork. The *School of Public Health Change of Advisor* form can be obtained from the [School of Public Health Website](#). You will complete this form, and Ms. Brown will obtain the appropriate signatures, and submit it to the Office of Student Affairs for processing in order to formally change advisors.

## 2.5 Degree Completion Time

As a doctoral student, you are generally expected to complete all degree requirements within **seven years of matriculation**. An extension of this time limit can be requested when circumstances preclude completion of requirements within this seven-year period. The recommendation for an extension includes a plan and timeline for completion. Such requests require the approval of your dissertation chair/advisor, Graduate Program Director in the department (Dr. Lanzi), Associate Dean for Academic Affairs (Dr. Austin), and must be presented in writing to the Dean of the Graduate School (Dr. McMahon) for consideration and approval. Courses taken more than seven years before graduation cannot be applied toward a degree without the approval of the Graduate Program Director and Dean of the Graduate School.



### 3. Annual Student Update

As a doctoral student, your academic pursuits should extend beyond required coursework. Pursuits include conference abstract submissions and presentations; fellowship awards; submitted and published manuscripts; grant submissions and awards; teaching, research, and service activities; and/or special skills training. In order to follow your progress in these areas and provide faculty with opportunities to give feedback, the Department conducts an annual update of your academic progress and achievements. This information is collected during the summer semester, and is used as a tool to enhance communication between you and your advisor. Evaluations are sent to you by mail and you are encouraged to meet with your advisor to discuss details. A copy of the *Annual Student Update* form can be found on the [departmental website](#).

## 4. Directed Research and Other Scholarly Activities

You are required to complete at least twelve directed research credit hours under course number HB 798.

### 4.1. Goals of the Directed Research

- To provide experience in planning, conducting, and reporting behavioral science research under the mentoring of a faculty member or a researcher employed by an agency such as the CDC, NIH, or health department.
- To provide opportunities to develop manuscripts for publication, conference paper presentations, grant submissions, or other “research products”.
- To help you prepare for dissertation work.

### 4.2 Registering for Credit Hours

You should register for hours under a faculty member who will supervise your experience during a particular semester using course number HB 798.

In general, the department encourages you to take no more than three credit hours of directed research per semester, and no more than six credit hours during your first year in the program. You are expected to spend a minimum of ninety ‘work’ hours (actual time spent) per semester for every three hours of credit received.

### 4.3 Content of the Directed Research

You are encouraged to participate in more than one research project over the course of your Ph.D. studies. For example, in one semester you may choose a project that is in its planning stages and register for three credit hours to participate in that project. In another semester, you may choose to register for a project that involves data collection or data analysis. It is your responsibility to identify the research project and faculty with whom you will work. Your advisor or other faculty may have useful suggestions. Please note that it is not acceptable to count research you have done for other purposes (e.g., for work, for another course) as hours of directed research.

## 4.4. Documenting Research Experiences

For each three credit hour segment, you and your research mentor should agree upon a work plan in the form of a memo with clear objectives that are approved by your advisor and kept in your file in the Coordinator of Graduate Academic Programs office. You cannot register for HB 798 credit hours until the approved memo is on file. An example of a memo can be found in on the [departmental website](#).

You are required to document your research experiences at the end of each semester in which directed research credits are taken. This documentation includes:

1. A succinct report\* describing the nature of experience, knowledge gained as well as relevant manuscript or conference presentations if appropriate.
2. A *Directed Research Evaluation* form can be found on the [department's website](#). It is your responsibility to ensure that the research mentor completes and submits the form so that you can receive a grade at the end of the term.

\*Your short report should include the nature of the project and work accomplished in comparison to originally stated objectives along with any products such as conference abstracts, manuscript drafts, manuals, brochures or other materials developed during the internship. You must submit all documentation to the mentor who supervises the experience, the faculty advisor, and Ms. Julie Brown.

## 4.5. Grading

A faculty mentor will assign a grade of pass/no pass for the research internship hours. If your mentor is not on the HB faculty, he or she will evaluate your work and will provide your faculty advisor with a recommendation regarding a pass/fail grade. All documentation regarding the directed research experience is due during exam week of the semester in which you are registered for your directed research. This paperwork must be received before a grade can be given. If the requirements are not met you will receive an "incomplete" for the credit hours. Incomplete grades are changed to No Pass if not completed within the next semester.

## 5. Qualifying Examination

A written comprehensive examination is required of all candidates for the Ph.D. degree. The core comprehensive exam is offered on the third Thursday of January and June each year. This exam should be prepared for by individual study expanding on the content covered in the core courses. The exam must be passed unconditionally before the student can defend his/her dissertation proposal and be advanced to candidacy.

### 5.1 Eligibility

Prior to taking the exam, students must have completed 75% of didactic courses (i.e., 36 hours); this must include all of the departmental core courses listed below. Doctoral Directed Research (HB 798) hours may not be used to satisfy the 75% completion criterion.

- Advanced Social and Behavioral Science Theory for Doctoral Candidates
- Advanced Research Methods in the Behavioral Sciences
- Advanced Intervention Research Design
- Advanced Intervention Implementation and Evaluation

### 5.2 Preparation

Two weeks prior to the exam, each student will receive a list of scenarios describing health problems and intended audiences; students will select one option to focus on during their exams.

Students should NOT assume that “A” level performance in their coursework is adequate preparation for the comprehensive exam. To prepare, students should review all materials from listed coursework as well as other related courses and supplementary material. Each student must synthesize and apply what has been learned throughout the program.

### 5.3 Grades

The exam is designed and graded by the graduate faculty in the doctoral program. Grading is blinded and will evaluate students’ description of the development, implementation, and evaluation of an intervention intended to address the selected health issue and target population. In addition, students will be graded on their writing style; quality, accuracy, depth, and breadth of information presented in their responses; and their ability to critically analyze the selected health issue.

The exam is graded as PASS (score of 80 or greater), INCOMPLETE (score of 75–79), or FAIL (score of 74 or less).

- Students who receive a grade of incomplete will be asked to schedule a meeting with the Program Director to discuss their results. After this meeting, the student will have one week to revise their answers in a “take-home” format. This must be completed by the end of the semester or it will be considered a FAIL. The revised version will be distributed to graduate faculty graders to determine if it is a PASS or FAIL (i.e., a second score of 79 or less). If the student’s revised exam fails, the student will have one more opportunity to take the exam.
- A student who fails an exam must take a second exam at one of the two subsequent regularly scheduled examinations. If a student fails for the second time, the student will be dismissed from the program.

# 6. Dissertation

The doctoral dissertation is the capstone of your training. It demonstrates your capacity to conceptualize, design, implement, and report a research project. The dissertation should constitute an original contribution to the literature.

The dissertation requires the completion of a minimum of twelve hours of dissertation credit (HB799). According to UAB Graduate School regulations, you may begin taking dissertation research credit hours after successfully completing required coursework, passing the qualifying examination, and being admitted to candidacy.

## 6.1 Dissertation Committee

Before admission to candidacy, you must select a doctoral study committee and chair, receive IRB approval for the project, and develop and have approved a dissertation proposal. The committee must include at least three HB faculty (chair plus two) members. After selecting a committee, you must submit a [Graduate Study Committee Letter](#) form to the Graduate School. This form must be submitted prior to the proposal meeting. The committee should include a minimum of five faculty members. Additional graduate school requirements can be found at the [Graduate School website](#). All committee members must have a [Graduate School Faculty appointment](#). Dissertation committee chairs must be Health Behavior Faculty at UAB. Co-chairs may be allowed with pre-approval. If proposed members do not have appointments, please contact Ms. Julie Brown for guidance in acquiring approval.

## 6.2 Admission to Candidacy

Once you pass the qualifying exam, you must prepare a formal document outlining the proposed dissertation topic. You should begin the process by providing potential committee members with a concept paper of 3-10 pages in length that outlines hypotheses, significance, methods, time line, human subjects protections (if applicable) and concerns and questions.

The formal dissertation proposal document will typically include objectives, hypotheses, literature review, significance, study design, power analysis, analytical methods, strengths and limitations. If you are choosing to do the three paper option, the proposal needs to explicitly state this and include an overview section that ties each of the three together in a cohesive body. Each planned paper must have a background and approach described so that they can be publishable as stand-alone papers with: significance, study design, power analysis, analytical methods, strengths and limitations. **Papers must be based on work initiated after admission to the program.**

You are to submit the written proposal to the doctoral dissertation committee **at least 14 days prior** to the scheduled proposal meeting. While you are free to meet with committee members as you develop your

proposal, the final proposal should not be given to other committee members until the committee chair has given approval for the distribution. You are responsible for scheduling the proposal meeting and notifying committee members. The proposal meeting should be attended by all members of the doctoral study committee. This meeting is generally not open to the public.

Members of the doctoral committee decide whether or not you have written an acceptable proposal and should be advanced to candidacy. If so, the committee will complete the [Application for Admission to Candidacy](#) form. This form is submitted by the student to the Graduate School along with documentation of IRB approval for the proposed research. The committee may request revisions before allowing you to advance to candidacy. Revisions of the written proposal and/or additional proposal meetings may be required.

Admission to candidacy must take place before the last two regular terms in which you wish to complete the doctoral program. For example, if you wish to graduate at the end of spring semester, you must be admitted to candidacy before the previous fall semester begins. You must be admitted to candidacy before you can register for dissertation research hours (HB 799). You must be in good academic standing to be admitted to candidacy. No coursework can have an incomplete grade status.

Alternative preprint/reprint dissertation format. As noted in the *UAB Format Manual For Theses and Dissertations* (see [UAB Format Manual for Theses & Dissertations](#)), “the preprint/reprint option is for students who have written closely related articles which have already been published (reprint), accepted for publication, are under review for publication, or are prepared for publication (preprint). **Students considering this option must first obtain the approval of the dissertation committee.** Doctoral students are typically expected to be first author on a minimum of three articles. The preprint/reprint is at the discretion of the dissertation committee. If you choose the preprint/reprint option (three paper option), the proposal would also outline the relationship/rationale for the discrete research topics represented by the preprints/reprints. Please refer to the [UAB Format Manual for Theses & Dissertations](#) for guidelines on the style and format of the preprint/reprint option.

## 6.3 IRB Approval

Students admitted to candidacy must have research approval from the UAB Institutional Review Board (IRB). The process for obtaining IRB approval begins with a departmental review. When you submit your paperwork for the departmental review, you are required to fill out the *Protocol Oversight Review Form* (PORF) found at this [link \(FOR 205\)](#). The IRB application is submitted in your name (as opposed to that of a mentor, even if that person is responsible for a ‘parent’ study from which you are using data) and approval can take several weeks. As long as your research continues (data collection, data analysis), you must submit an annual IRB report for review and keep the protocol open.

## 6.4 Dissertation and Final Defense

The Graduate School regulations for the final dissertation and final defense are described, in detail, in the booklet, [UAB Format Manual for Theses & Dissertations](#). The Graduate School also has examples of templates found at this link: <http://www.uab.edu/graduate/templates-available>. If in the opinion of more than one member of the dissertation committee, you failed the final defense, there is no consensus to pass. The chair of the committee will advise you that the dissertation fails to meet the requirements of the Graduate School. The chair will notify you in writing about the reason(s) for failure. If you resubmit or submit a new dissertation for consideration to the Graduate School, at least two members of the new examining committee must be drawn from the original committee. If the modified or new dissertation fails to meet the requirements of the Graduate School, you will be dismissed from the Graduate School.

The document is submitted to the chair of your doctoral dissertation committee **at least 40 days prior** to the scheduled dissertation defense. At least **25 days prior** to the final defense, the chair should return a draft for changes. At least **15 days prior** to the defense date, all committee members are to have a copy of your dissertation. (It is your responsibility to confirm if they prefer a hard copy or a digital copy of the dissertation). The final dissertation document should not be sent to committee members until the Chair has approved it. Your committee chair has the option of requiring you to turn in materials prior to these dates if necessary (e.g. if he or she is planning extended travel or other circumstances make it necessary to have more time to read your document). For the three paper option, a summary section discussing conclusions must be included.



# 7. Summary of Steps toward the Doctoral Degree

1. Admission to doctoral degree program.
2. Assignment of faculty advisor – to change advisors submit [School of Public Health](#) form to make the change official.
3. Maintenance of good academic standing. This is defined by a grade point average of at least a 3.0 and overall satisfactory performance on pass/no pass courses.
4. Passing of the qualifying examination.
5. Appointment of doctoral study committee – A completed [Graduate School form](#) is required and scheduling of proposal meeting.
6. [IRB](#) approval [obtained](#) and HIPAA Training [completed](#).
7. Dissertation proposal is approved by committee.
8. [Admission to Candidacy](#) - This must occur no later than two terms before expected graduation. A Graduate School form is required. Documentation of IRB approval must accompany this form when you submit it to the graduate school.
9. [Application for Degree](#) – You must submit your application to the Graduate School no later than two weeks into the expected term of graduation. This is located in Blazer Net. You will receive an email reminder from Ms. Julie Brown.
10. Completion of dissertation to be submitted for defense. The document is submitted to the chair of your doctoral dissertation committee **at least 40 days prior** to the scheduled dissertation defense. **At least 25 days prior** to the final defense, the chair should return a draft for changes. **At least 15 days prior** to the defense date, all committee members are to have a copy of your dissertation. (It is your responsibility to confirm if they prefer a hard copy or a digital copy of the dissertation).
11. Request for dissertation approval forms can be found [online](#). This must be at least two weeks before the defense date. This form serves as official notification to the Graduate School of your public defense, and the information will be entered into the Graduate School Calendar of Events and into the Graduate School tabs on BlazerNET. *You also must post fliers in your department announcing your public defense.*
12. Final defense – The final defense must take place no later than 30 days before the expected date of graduation (see [Graduate School deadlines](#)).

13. A single PDF of the committee-approved dissertation document must be submitted to the [UAB/ProQuest website](#) no later than 2 weeks following the public defense.

14. One copy of dissertation on 24 pound paper must be submitted to the Department of Health Behavior. The Department will have this copy bound and will pay for the binding.

15. *Conferring of degree will occur if there are not any financial holds.* If there are, then the diploma and transcript cannot be released to the student.

## 8. Useful Information

Departmental Office Policies and the names of key personnel and places are outlined below. Other helpful documents include the [UAB Academic Calendar](#) and the [UAB Graduate School Catalog](#).

### 8.1 Office Policies

**Phones:**

Phones are available for student use in the Ryals Building first floor lobby near the elevators.

**Mail:**

Faculty and Staff mailboxes are in the departmental reception area. You may leave material for faculty in these boxes.

**Reserving Conference and Classrooms and Equipment (e.g., pointer, laptop):**

Conference\* and classrooms are to be reserved through [25 Live](#). Equipment is to be reserved for use and will be addressed by the MITS Department. Contact information for MITS: Phone: (205) 934 -7731; Location: Ryals 127

\*The Health Behavior Conference Room can be reserved through Ms. Julie Brown at [jebrown@uab.edu](mailto:jebrown@uab.edu).

### 8.2 People and Places

**Dean's Office:**

Paul Erwin, M.D., Dr.P.H. is Dean of the School of Public Health.

Ela Austin, Ph.D., M.P.H. is the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

April Carson, Ph.D., M.S.P.H. is the Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

**Office of Public Health Practice:**

Lisa McCormick, Ph.D. is the Associate Dean for Public Health Practice.

Please look for the *Get A Handle* newsletter every Monday (via email) for the most recent happenings in the school that is produced by this office.

**Financial Aid:**

The UAB Office of [Student Financial Aid](#) number is (205) 934-8223.

**Registration:**

You will register by computer through [BlazerNet](#). Before registering, you should meet with your faculty advisor.

**Office of Disability Support Services:**

The UAB Office of [Disability Support Services](#) is located at the Hill University Center, Suite 409. The number is (205) 934-4205.

**Other Useful Phone numbers:**

Barnes & Noble Blazer Bookstore	(205) 996-2665
International Scholar and Student Services	(205) 934-3328
Graduate School	(205) 934-8227
Lister Hill Library	(205) 934-2230
Mervyn Sterne Library	(205) 934-6364
Student Health Services	(205) 934-3580
Student Housing	(205) 996-0400
UAB Parking	(205) 934-3513
UAB Police	(205) 934-4434
Emergency	911
Safety Escort Service	(205) 934-8772

**Public Health Student Association:**

Since its creation in 1978, the Public Health Student Association (PHSA) has supported the growth of the student experience. With its roots in the foundation of encouraging student involvement, advocacy, and leadership, PHSA has made many powerful strides in promoting the student voice and facilitating interactions between students, faculty, staff, and administrators. Through connecting students, faculty, staff and administrators, PHSA works to promote the School of Public Health, achievements of those in our community, and work that is being done in the field of public health. Students from each department elect one representative to serve for one year.

PHSA Responsibilities Include:

- Fostering an academic, professional, and social environment for students of the School.
- Facilitating an interactive relationship between faculty, staff, alumni, and students of the School.
- Promoting student involvement in the School, university, and community through service, programming, and special events.
- Presenting the suggestions and concerns of the student body to School officials.
- Contributing to the education and welfare of public health students in cooperation with public health organizations on a local, state, and national level.

To learn more about PHSA, please visit their Facebook page or contact the staff advisor, Ms. Meena Nabavi.

## 8.3 Computer and Network Access

Computers are available for your use in the Computer Resource Lab (CRL) located on the first floor in the Ryals Building. **You need to obtain an access account and an e-mail address (Blazer ID) by contacting the AskIT staff at (2025) 996-5555.** Hardware and software support are provided by the AskIT. **It is your responsibility to ensure that the department has your current UAB e-mail address and telephone number.** This will enable you to receive important information from the Department regarding School and University deadlines as well as research, internship, and employment opportunities.

## 8.4 Professional Meetings

Student involvement in national public health organizations, as well as attendance at national professional meeting, is encouraged. Below is a list of recommended organizations in which you are encouraged to participate.

- Academy Health .....[www.academyhealth.org](http://www.academyhealth.org)
- Alabama Public Health Association .....[www.alphassoc.org](http://www.alphassoc.org)
- American Association of Cancer Education ..... [www.aaceonline.com](http://www.aaceonline.com)
- American College of Preventive Medicine .....[www.acpm.org](http://www.acpm.org)
- American Diabetes Association .....[www.diabetes.org](http://www.diabetes.org)
- American Evaluation Association .....[www.eval.org](http://www.eval.org)
- American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children ..... [www.apsac.org](http://www.apsac.org)
- American Psychological Association .....[www.apa.org](http://www.apa.org)
- American Public Health Association ..... [www.apha.org](http://www.apha.org)
- Association for Prevention Teaching & Research .....[www.aptrweb.org](http://www.aptrweb.org)
- Association for Psychological Science .....[www.psychologicalscience.org](http://www.psychologicalscience.org)
- International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect ..... [www.ispcan.org](http://www.ispcan.org)
- Society for Adolescent Health & Medicine ..... [www.adolescenthealth.org](http://www.adolescenthealth.org)
- Society for Research in Child Development .....[www.srcd.org](http://www.srcd.org)
- Society of Behavioral Medicine .....[www.sbm.org](http://www.sbm.org)
- Society of Public Health Educators .....[www.sophe.org](http://www.sophe.org)
- The Obesity Society .....[www.obesity.org](http://www.obesity.org)

## 8.5 Local Non-Profits

Student involvement in local nonprofits is encouraged. Below is a list of some of the Birmingham area nonprofit organizations. You can also contact the Office of Public Health Practice for more information.

- AIDS Alabama ..... [www.aidsalabama.org](http://www.aidsalabama.org)
- Birmingham AIDS Outreach ..... [www.birminghamaidsoutreach.org](http://www.birminghamaidsoutreach.org)
- Crisis Center, Birmingham ..... [www.crisiscenterbham.org](http://www.crisiscenterbham.org)
- First Light ..... [www.firstlightshelter.org](http://www.firstlightshelter.org)
- GASP ..... [www.gaspgroup.org](http://www.gaspgroup.org)
- JBS Mental Health Authority..... [www.jbsmha.com](http://www.jbsmha.com)
- One Roof ..... [www.oneroofonline.org](http://www.oneroofonline.org)
- Pathways ..... [www.pathwayshome.org](http://www.pathwayshome.org)

Here is a [link](#) to other community partners. Contact Ms. Meena Nabavi for more information.

## 8.6 Seminars

There are a variety of seminars that take place on campus. In the department, we offer monthly seminars. Please look for announcements on the bulletin boards in the first floor student lounge, outside the department suite, and via emails from faculty and the Coordinator of Graduate Academic Programs.

# 9. Appendices

## Appendix A: Department of Health Behavior Faculty Research Interests and Contact Information

Name	Research Interests	Campus Address	Telephone	UAB E-Mail
<b>David Coombs, Ph.D. (Retired)</b>	Mental Health Issues/Suicide Prevention; Community-Based Interventions	RPHB 227 H	(205) 305-9210	dcoombs@uab.edu
<b>Susan Davies, Ph.D., Professor</b>	Using community-engaged research, qualitative methods and comprehensive evaluation strategies to develop theoretically guided behavioral interventions to influence risk and resilience among youth, families and vulnerable populations	RPHB 227 F	(205) 975-8049	sdavies@uab.edu
<b>Faith Fletcher, Ph.D., M.A. Assistant Professor</b>	Health Disparities/Health Equity, Improving Health Outcomes Among Women Living with HIV/AIDS (WLWHA), Reproductive Health, Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (Prep), HIV Research Ethics, Community-Engaged Research	RPHB 227 R	(205) 934-7067	fletch95@uab.edu
<b>Kevin Fontaine, Ph.D., Professor &amp; Chair</b>	Obesity; Placebo Effects; Ketogenic Diets;	RPHB 241C	(205) 975-8397	kfontai1@uab.edu
<b>Frank A. Franklin, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H., (Emeritus)</b>	Nutrition Problems and Policies, Pediatrics, School Nutrition Promotion Programs, International Nutrition	RPHB 227	No office phone	frankln@uab.edu
<b>Melissa Galvin, Ph.D., M.P.H. (Emerita)</b>	Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR), Hepatitis; Senior Citizens, Health Communications	RPHB 227	(205) 934-6020	mgalvin@uab.edu
<b>Peter Hendricks, Ph.D., Associate Professor</b>	Addiction, Novel Interventions, Clinical Trials, Expectancies, Motivation, Positive Psychology	RPHB 434E	(205) 934-6020	phendricks@uab.edu
<b>Kathryn Kaiser, Ph.D. Assistant Professor</b>	Hunger and Appetite Regulation; Racial, Sex, And Social Status Disparities In Obesity; Systematic Review Methods; Metaresearch; Agent-Based Modeling	RPHB 227 J	(205) 975-9212	kakaiser@uab.edu
<b>Connie Kohler, Dr.P.H. (Emerita)</b>	Tobacco, Chronic Disease, Health Communication, Entertainment-Education	RPHB 227 H	(205) 975-6020	ckohler@uab.edu
<b>Robin Gaines Lanzi, Ph.D., M.P.H., Professor, Graduate Program Director</b>	Reducing Family and Child Health Disparities and Promoting Positive Youth Development; HIV/STI; Mhealth; Community Engaged Research; Parenting and Home Visiting Programs; Faith and Spirituality; Mental Health Needs of Women and Children	RPHB 227 D	(205) 975--8071	rlanzi@uab.edu
<b>Ann Elizabeth Montgomery, Ph.D., M.P.A., M.S.W., Assistant Professor</b>	Homelessness and Housing; Veterans; Universal Screening to Identify Individuals Experiencing Homelessness and Risk; Interventions to Prevent and End Homelessness; Vulnerable Populations and Related Health Disparities	RPHB 227 M	(205) 934-0505	aemontgo@uab.edu
<b>Greg Pavela, Ph.D., Assistant Professor</b>	Environmental And Early Life Determinants Of Health And Adiposity; Methods For Causal Inferences About The Effects Of Social Determinants On Adiposity; Socioeconomic Status And Health	RPHB 227 K	(205) 934-6020	pavela@uab.edu
<b>Dori Pekmezi, Ph.D., Associate Professor</b>	Chronic Disease Prevention, Health Communication, Physical Activity, Health Disparities	RPHB 227 P	(205) 934-6020	dpekmezi@uab.edu



**Appendix B: Pre-requisites for Doctor of Philosophy Degree Program in  
Health Education and Health Promotion  
Health Behavior Department, UAB School of Public Health**

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Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Reviewed: \_\_\_\_\_

All students must have their transcripts reviewed by the Health Behavior Director of Academic Programs and the Graduate Program Coordinator prior to registration to determine whether the following pre-requisites are met. Equivalent courses at the graduate level are acceptable with approval of director, please provide syllabus when possible.

Any pre-requisite that is not met must be taken during the first year in the doctoral program. Please note that these courses will not count towards the degree credit hour requirement.

<b>Pre-Requisite</b>	<b>Indicate whether the pre-requisite has been met</b>	<b>Indicate the course that satisfies the pre-requisite requirement</b>
Biostatistics (BST 601)	<input type="radio"/> Met <input type="radio"/> Not Met	
Research Methods/Design (HB 641)	<input type="radio"/> Met <input type="radio"/> Not Met	
Designing/Evaluating Health Promotion Programs/Interventions (HB 636 or 643)	<input type="radio"/> Met <input type="radio"/> Not Met	

*Suggested UAB courses in parenthesis*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Robin Lanzi, Director of Academic Programs  
Signature and Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student  
Signature and Date

*Rev. July 9, 2018*

## Appendix C: Suggested Social and Behavioral Science Electives

The following courses are recommended by the Department of Health Behavior to fulfill the PhD Program requirement of nine credit hours of electives in the areas of social and behavioral sciences. Some courses are taught in the Department; others are taught elsewhere in the School of Public Health or UAB. Only courses carrying graduate credit are allowed. You and your advisor select specific courses based on your needs and interests.

The list is not exhaustive. Appropriate courses not on this list may be considered and approved by your academic advisor.

### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH BEHAVIOR

HB 602	Alcohol and Drug Abuse
HB 605	Physical Activity in Public Health
HB 608	Women's Health and Social Behavior - online
HB 609	African American Health Issues – online
HB 611	Mental Health as a Public Health Issue - online
HB 627	GIS for Public Health
HB 635	Communities, Family, & Health
HB 638	Public Health Aging - online
HB 660	Adolescent Health: A Social and Behavioral Science Perspective
HB 692	Principles and Practices of Community Organization - online
HB 695:	Examining Health Inequalities in Social and Behavioral Sciences
HB 706:	Energetics: Scientific Foundations of Obesity and Other Health Aspects

### DEPARTMENT OF EPIDEMIOLOGY

EPI 603	Injury – Epidemiologic Principles
EPI 613	Cancer and Epidemiology
EPI 621	AIDS/HIV & STD's
EPI 635	Genetics in Public Health
EPI 708	Tropical/Infectious Diseases

### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE ORGANIZATION AND POLICY

HCO 608	Reproductive Health
HCO 619	Social Work in Public Health
HCO 631	Public Health Demography
HCO 670	Social and Ethical Issues in Public Health
HCO 677	Patient-Based Outcomes Measurement

### UAB School of Education, Department of Community Health and Human Services

CHHS 502	Mental Health and Stress Management
CHHS 523	Human Sexuality
CHHS 527	Peer Education

## **Appendix D: Evaluation/Research Methods/Statistics Electives**

The following courses are recommended by the Department of Health Behavior to fulfill the PhD Program requirement of six credit hours of electives in evaluation/research methods/statistics. Some courses are taught in the Department; others are taught elsewhere in the School of Public Health or UAB. Only courses carrying graduate credit are allowed. You and your advisor select specific courses based on your needs and interests.

The list is not exhaustive. Appropriate courses not on this list may be considered and approved by your academic advisor.

### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH BEHAVIOR

HB 639	Survey Design and Analysis in Social and Behavioral Sciences
HB 701	Theory Based Measurement Development
HB 740	Advanced Health Program Evaluation
HB 742	Mediation and Moderation

### DEPARTMENT OF EPIDEMIOLOGY

EPI 603	Injury-Epidemiologic Principles and Prevention Strategies
EPI 606	Epidemiology of Cardiovascular Disease
EPI 607	Fundamentals of Clinical Research
EPI 612	Nutritional Epidemiology
EPI 616	Environmental Epidemiology
EPI 617	Occupational Epidemiology
EPI 625	Quantitative Methods in Epidemiology
EPI 626	Introduction to Data Analysis with SAS
EPI 709	Theoretical Basis of Epidemiology
EPI 710	The Analysis of Case Control Studies

### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE ORGANIZATION AND POLICY

HCO 628	Qualitative & Mixed Methods Research in Public Health
HCO 631	Public Health Demography
HCO 677	Patient-Based Outcomes Measurement

### **UAB School of Nursing**

NRM 777	Mixed Methods Research I: Introduction to the Field
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### UAB School of Education, Department of Community Health and Human Services

CHHS 689	Intervention Strategies Health Education/Promotion
CHHS 697	Evaluation of Health Education/Promotion Programs

# 10. Addendums to the program

## 10.1 Graduate School Faculty Members update from section 6.1

Before admission to candidacy, you must select a doctoral study committee and chair, receive IRB approval for the project, and develop and have approved a dissertation proposal. **The committee must include at least two HB faculty members including the chair of your dissertation.** After selecting a committee, you must submit a [Graduate Study Committee Letter](#) form to the Graduate School. This form must be submitted prior to the proposal meeting. The committee should include a minimum of five faculty members. Additional graduate school requirements can be found at the [Graduate School website](#). All committee members must have a [Graduate School Faculty appointment](#). Dissertation committee chairs must be Health Behavior Faculty at UAB. Co-chairs may be allowed with pre-approval. If proposed members do not have appointments, please contact Ms. Julie Brown for guidance in acquiring approval.