



Harvard PhD Program in Health Policy

Overview: The PhD in Health Policy, awarded by the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, is a collaborative program among six Harvard University faculties: Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Harvard Business School, Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard Law School, Harvard Medical School, and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

Faculty: The Faculty Chair of the PhD in Health Policy program is David Cutler, Otto Eckstein Professor of Applied Economics. The Director of Graduate Studies is Meredith Rosenthal, C. Boyden Gray Professor of Health Economics and Policy. The Executive Director is Debbie Whitney, and the Associate Director is Colleen Yout.

Approximately 105 faculty members from schools within the university are involved in the program, and students are able to take classes throughout Harvard. One of the program's hallmarks is faculty accessibility and commitment to students enrolled in the program.

Program Structure: Within health policy, students specialize in one of the following five concentrations: decision sciences, economics, management, methods for policy research, or political analysis. Typically students take courses during the first two years of the program and work primarily on the dissertation for the remainder of the program. Most students earn the PhD in approximately five and a half years.

The program started in 1992. There are approximately 65 students currently enrolled and over 250 graduates.

Application & Financial Aid: The application deadline is mid-December each year.

Most admitted students have either a prior graduate degree in a related field and/or relevant work experience. Although both GRE and GMAT scores are accepted, GRE scores are preferred. MCAT or LSAT scores cannot be substituted.

The PhD Program in Health Policy offers financial aid to students enrolled in the program. Tuition support is provided for five years and stipend support for three years. For the years in which stipends are not provided, students support themselves through fellowships, paid research assistantships, and/or teaching fellowships. Training grants from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) fund several students each year.

The PhD Program in Health Policy is committed to increasing the diversity of its doctoral student population. People with disabilities and minority candidates are especially encouraged to apply.

Combined Degrees: Those wishing to combine an MD and PhD in Health Policy will apply to HMS/MD-PhD via AMCAS, with all tailored GSAS application components included in the MD-PhD secondary application. MD-PhD students typically complete the PhD in four years.

Applicants interested in the coordinated JD/PhD Program must apply and be separately admitted to both Harvard Law School and the PhD Program in Health Policy. Combining the programs saves approximately one semester of coursework.

Applicants to either combined degree program are encouraged to notify the PhD Program in Health Policy as early as possible in the admission process.

Alumni: The purpose of the program is to train students primarily for academic positions in graduate schools and research positions in government agencies and research institutes. Many of our graduates eventually lead interdisciplinary research teams; hence we feel it is important to provide interdisciplinary training.

We believe that there is a demand for individuals trained at the doctoral level with expertise in both US domestic health policy and global health policy. We are therefore committed to providing not only rigorous training in research methods applicable to all areas of health policy, but also opportunities to work with the many Harvard faculty whose research focuses on domestic or global policy, or both.

Examples of positions held by alumni include: Senior Vice President for Executive Operations and Executive Director of Public Opinion and Survey Research, Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation; Assistant Professor of Operations, Information, and Decisions, Wharton; Professor of Law, UCLA School of Law; Senior Health Policy Researcher, RAND; Professor of Health Care Policy, Harvard Medical School; Assistant Professor of Global Health, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health; Associate Analyst, Congressional Budget Office; Country Representative, Liberia Mental Health Initiative, The Carter Center; and Senior Health Economist, The World Bank.

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<http://www.healthpolicy.fas.harvard.edu/>

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