Doctor of Philosophy

Kinesiology and Rehabilitation (PhD)

Eric Schussler and Patrick Wilson, Graduate Program Directors

The Ph.D. in Kinesiology and Rehabilitation is designed for aspiring professionals who already have a master's degree or entry-level clinical doctorate and are interested in becoming leaders, teachers, and scholars in the fields of athletic training, biomechanics, exercise science, kinesiology, occupational therapy, physical therapy, or speech-language pathology. This inter-professional program features faculty from different schools in the Ellmer College of Health Sciences. Students are immersed in research experiences in and out of the classroom and complete a flexible curriculum that encompasses motor control, motor learning, neuroscience, biomechanics, exercise physiology, rehabilitation, communication, and research methodology. In addition to 4 core courses, students will complete research courses, teaching and/or research apprenticeship courses, and at least four electives for a total of at least 51 credit hours.

Requirements for Admission

Five to seven students will be admitted to the Ph.D. program annually, starting with the fall term. Applications for admission are reviewed by the Ph.D. In Kinesiology and Rehabilitation admissions committee. To qualify for admission, an applicant must meet the general University admission requirements at the graduate level as well as specific program requirements including:

1. Completed graduate degree (Master's or Clinical Doctorate) from a regionally-accredited institution in kinesiology, exercise science, athletic training, occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech and language pathology, or a related field.
2. A minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.25 on a 4.0 scale for the graduate degree.
3. A personal statement that explains your qualifications, professional and career goals, and reasons for seeking the Ph.D. Be sure to also identify potential professor(s) at ODU who could mentor you based on your research interests.
4. Three letters of reference a least two of which are from former professors familiar with the applicant's academic performance.
5. English Proficiency Requirement for those whose first language is not English. (See Admissions website)

Enrollment in the program is limited by number of available faculty mentors matching an applicant's desired area of research. Interested individuals are advised to contact the program to find out whether a mentor is available for their research area of interest.

Application Dates

Applications to the program and for assistantships are due by February 1 for students planning to enter in the fall semester, however applications will be accepted until the cohort is full.

Curriculum Requirements

Coursework consists of a total of 51 credit hours, including 12 credit hours of core courses, at least 9 credit hours of research courses, 6 credit hours of experiential learning/apprenticeships, and 12 credit hours of electives. Each student will also complete 12 credit hours of dissertation research. Up to 12 hours of graduate credit may be transferred from another program to be applied to non-core courses. Transfer of credits is approved at the discretion of the guidance committee and the graduate program director.

Kinesiology and Rehabilitation Core Courses		12
KRS 830	Theoretical Models in Kinesiology and Rehabilitation *	

KRS 835	Critical Appraisal and Synthesis of Evidence in Kinesiology and Rehabilitation	
KRS 851	Motor Performance: Rhythmic/Cyclic Tasks	
KRS 857	Kinesiology in Rehabilitation	
Research Core		**9**
Courses to be selected in consultation with advisor.		
FOUN 812	Research Design and Analysis	
FOUN 816	Single Subject Research Designs	
FOUN 822	Applied Linear Models in Educational Research	
FOUN 823	Analysis of Variance Applied to Educational Research	
HLSC 810	Research Design and Application	
HLSC 811	Quantitative Research Methods in Health Care	
KRS 825	Mixed and Multi Methods in Health Sciences Research	
TLCI 814	Qualitative Research Design in Education	
Experiential Learning/Apprenticeships		**6**
Courses may be taken more than one time.		
KRS 887	Structured Teaching Experience for Kinesiology and Rehabilitation Professions	
KRS 898	Supervised Research	
Electives		**12**
Courses to be selected in consultation with advisor.		
BIOL 747/847	Responsible and Ethical Conduct of Research	
CSD 850	Neuromotor Speech Disorders	
EXSC 827	Advanced Biomechanics	
EXSC 830	Advanced Cardiovascular Exercise Physiology	
EXSC 838	Exercise Endocrinology	
EXSC 840	Ergogenic Aids in Sport and Human Performance	
HLSC 873	Planning Proposals and Developing Grants in Health Research	
KRS 820	MATLAB Programming for Kinesiology and Rehabilitation	
KRS 852	Motor Performance: Discrete Tasks	
KRS 855	Neurosciences of Motor Control	
KRS 856	Balance and Postural Control	
KRS 895	Special Topics in Kinesiology and Rehabilitation	
PT 792	Neuroscience I	
PT 793	Neuroscience II	
SPED 802	Cognitive Processes and Learning Strategies for Students with Special Needs	
Dissertation Research		**12**
KRS 899	Dissertation	
Total Credit Hours		**51**

*   Must be completed in student's first year in program. KRS 830

Additional Requirements

Degree Requirements

1. Satisfactory completion of at least 51 semester hours of graduate level coursework with a grade point average of 3.0 or higher, including all required courses as listed below. (Students who receive two or more grades of C or one grade of F may not continue in the program).

2. Acceptable performance on written and oral candidacy examinations to be completed at the end of the program of coursework. Students may re-take the candidacy exams only once.
3. Successful defense of a dissertation proposal.
4. Completion of a dissertation representing the candidate's ability to conduct scholarly, original research.
5. Successful oral defense of the dissertation.
6. Submission of the approved final copy of the dissertation.

Time frames for completion of degree requirement

1. The entire process from admission to dissertation defense must be completed within eight years. Exceptions to this time limit require the approval of the graduate program director, the department chair, and the college dean.
2. Academic credit which is more than eight years old at the time of graduation must be re-validated by an examination before the work can be applied to a doctoral degree.
3. The dissertation must be completed within five years after the candidacy exams are passed.
4. Dissertations should be defended at least four weeks prior to the deadline for electronic submission.

Each student is required to have a faculty advisor who will meet with the student upon admission to the program. The faculty advisor, with the graduate program director, approves the student's plan of study and conducts the written and oral competency exams.