



UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# Master of Science in Health Policy Research



- Two-year training program culminating in a Master of Science in Health Policy Research
- Major curricula areas include:
  - Core courses in health economics, health policy, research methods and statistics
  - Electives drawn from throughout the University of Pennsylvania
  - Mentored research project

For more information, contact::

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Associate Professor of Medicine and  
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Co-Director of the RWJ CSP and  
Director of Research at LDI

University of Pennsylvania

**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN  
HEALTH POLICY  
RESEARCH**

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## Introduction

### Health Policy Research at Penn

Health policy research investigates the clinical, public health, economic, and societal impact of health care and health policy. Health policy research brings a broad vision to improving the delivery of health care in the US and abroad. Health policy researchers are intrinsically multi-disciplinary, using tools from a wide range of scientific disciplines to gain insight into the complex challenges facing health care.



The University of Pennsylvania provides a unique and fertile environment for a Master of Science in Health Policy Research. Penn has leading Schools of Medicine and Business with internationally recognized scholars spanning the spectrum of health services research. The Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics is one of the oldest and largest programs in the world devoted to the organization, management, financing, and delivery of health care, and investigating the social forces that shape health.

### Program & Goals

This is a two-year training program in health services research that will lead to a Master of Science Degree. The program is based in the School of Medicine as a collaborative effort with the Wharton School and a joint venture of the Leonard Davis Institute (LDI) and the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Program (RWJ CSP). The program is closely affiliated with the Annenberg School for Communication, the School of Social Policy and Practice, and the School of Nursing.

The primary goal of the Master of Science in Health Policy Research training program is to train outstanding investigators in health services and policy research. The program is designed for students who already have, or will receive, an MD, PhD, JD, or other degree. The curriculum will prepare these students for successful careers in health policy and health policy research in academics, government, and industry.



## Participating Schools

- Annenberg School for Communication
- School of Social Policy and Practice
- School of Medicine
- School of Nursing
- The Wharton School of Business



## Advisory Board

- Linda Aiken, Ph.D., Claire M. Fagin Leadership Professor, School of Nursing and Department of Sociology
- Michael Delli Carpini, Ph.D., Dean, The Annenberg School for Communication
- Lee Fleisher, M.D., Chair, Anesthesiology and Critical Care, School of Medicine
- Richard Gelles, Ph.D., Dean, School of Social Practice and Policy
- Mark Pauly, Ph.D., Bendheim Professor, The Wharton School
- Susan R. Ross, Ph.D., Associate Dean and Director of Biomedical Graduate Studies, Professor of Microbiology, School of Medicine



## Eligibility

- Students who have or are currently enrolled in terminal degrees in other fields (M.D., Ph.D, J.D. or other degree).
- Students interested in careers in academic / non-profit health services research or health policy.

### University of Pennsylvania Nondiscrimination Statement:

The University of Pennsylvania does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, color, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, or status as a Vietnam Era Veteran or disabled veteran in the administration of educational policies, programs or activities; admissions policies; scholarship and loan awards; athletic, or other University administered programs or employment.

## Resources

- **Research at the University of Pennsylvania**

With 174 research centers and institutes, research is a substantial and esteemed enterprise at Penn. The research community included more than 4,200 faculty and 870 postdoctoral fellows, nearly 3,800 graduate students and 5,400 academic support staff and graduate assistants, and a research budget of \$660 million. The scale and interdisciplinary character of our research activities make Penn a nationally-ranked research university. For more information, visit [www.upenn.edu](http://www.upenn.edu).



- **Leonard Davis Institute**

The Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics (LDI) is the center of the University of Pennsylvania's activities and programs in health services research, health policy, and health care management executive education. A formal cooperative venture among Penn's schools of medicine, business, nursing, communication, and dental medicine, and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, LDI works to improve the health of the public through multidisciplinary studies on the medical, economic, social, and ethical issues that influence how health care is organized, financed, managed, and delivered. LDI represents one of the earliest efforts to promote collaborative scholarship in health care through formal partnerships within the same university among the clinical, management, and social sciences. For more information, visit [www.upenn.edu/ldi](http://www.upenn.edu/ldi).

- **Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Programs**

The Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Program (RWJ CSP) at Penn offers a two- to three-year, masters-level interdisciplinary training program, guided by strong mentorship and informed by community-based research to enable scholars to improve health and healthcare in community settings. An overarching goal of the program is for scholars to partner with private and public sector organizations to become a new type of clinical physician-investigator, rigorously trained in health services research and related disciplines (clinical epidemiology, biostatistics, economics, health communications) and prepared to effectively translate and implement research into policy and practice which meets the needs of the community and advances health care and the health of the public. Primary areas of the masters training program include research skills, health policy, health-related social sciences and professional development.. Clinical scholars at Penn will have the opportunity to collaborate with faculty from such Penn institutions as: The Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics, the Wharton School, the Annenberg School for Communication, the Schools of Nursing, Law, Social Work, Education, and Arts and Sciences, as well as the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and the Philadelphia VA Medical Center. For more information, visit [www.med.upenn.edu/rwjcspp](http://www.med.upenn.edu/rwjcspp).

## Program Faculty

- **Katrina Armstrong, M.D., M.S.C.E.**

Associate Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology, School of Medicine, Co-Director of the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Program and Director of Research at LDI

- **David A. Asch, M.D., M.B.A.**

Robert D. Eilers Professor of Health Care Management and Economics, School of Medicine and The Wharton School

- **Virginia W. Chang, M.D., Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor of Medicine, School of Medicine

- **Jalpa A. Doshi, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor of Medicine, School of Medicine

- **Sam Field, Ph.D.**

Research Associate, School of Medicine

- **David Grande, M.D., M.P.A.**

Instructor of Medicine, School of Medicine

- **Peter Groeneveld, M.D., M.S.**

Assistant Professor of Medicine, School of Medicine

- **Judith A. Long, M.D.**

Assistant Professor, School of Medicine

- **Joshua P. Metlay, M.D., Ph.D.**

Associate Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology, School of Medicine, Co-Director of the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Program

- **Susmita Pati, M.D., M.P.H.**

Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, School of Medicine

- **Mark V. Pauly, Ph.D.**

Bendheim Professor of Health Care Systems, Business and Public Policy, Insurance and Risk Management, and Economics, The Wharton School

- **Daniel E. Polsky, Ph.D., M.P.P.**

Associate Professor of Medicine and Health Care Systems, School of Medicine and The Wharton School

- **Judy A. Shea, Ph.D.**

Professor of Medicine, School of Medicine

- **Jeffrey H. Silber, M.D., Ph.D.**

Professor of Medicine and Health Care Systems, School of Medicine and The Wharton School, Director of the Center for Outcomes Research, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

- **Seema S. Sonnad, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor of Surgery, School of Medicine

- **Kevin Volpp, M.D., Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor of Medicine and Health Care Systems, School of Medicine and The Wharton School

- **Rachel Werner, M.D., Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor of Medicine, School of Medicine

# Curriculum

The program curriculum spans four major domains: health economics, health policy, research methods, and statistics. There are six core courses, each led by a leading faculty member. Students will complete a mentored research project, a Master's thesis, with the assistance of a mentor and two additional members of the thesis committee. The thesis will be completed over the two years of the program with the goal of producing a publishable manuscript by the end of the second year.

Electives can be taken in schools across the University. Example of existing courses include advanced epidemiology or biostatistics from the School of Medicine; advanced health care economics, health care policy or statistics from the Wharton School; survey design, measurement and analysis from the Annenberg School; social policy and social environment from the School of Social Policy and Practice; and social forces and demography from the School of Arts and Sciences. A total of 12 course credits are required for completion of the degree.

First Year			Second Year		
Summer	Fall	Spring	Summer	Fall	Spring
Economics of Health Care Delivery	Introduction to Statistics	Applied Regression Analysis	Electives		
	Health Services and Policy Research Methods I	Health Services and Policy Research Methods II		Fundamentals of Health Policy	
	Mentored research project (1 credit per year)			Mentored research project (1 credit per year)	

# Curriculum

## Core courses include:

- Economics of Health Care Delivery**  
 Examines how medical care is produced and financed in private and public sectors, economic models of consumer and producer behavior, and applications of economic theory to health care
- Health Services and Policy Research Methods I**  
 Introduces students to commonly used primary data collection methods, provides examples of how they have been used in health services research. Students will define a primary data collection research project and develop methods necessary to conduct the project
- Health Services and Policy Research Methods II**  
 Introduces research methods appropriate for data analysis of administrative and public datasets to address health policy issues
- Introduction to Statistics for Health Policy**  
 Introduces basic concepts of statistical thinking and analysis. Includes descriptive statistics, hypothesis testing for differences between two or more groups and correlation and prediction
- Applied Regression Analysis for Health Policy Research**  
 Students will learn how to select an appropriate regression model for a given set of research questions/hypotheses, assess how adequately a given model fits a particular set of observed data, and how to correctly interpret the results from the model fitting procedure
- Fundamentals of Health Policy**  
 Students gain an overview of the U.S. health care system and comprehensive understanding of politics and government, economics of the public sector, the nature of persuasion, and techniques and formats for communication

