

Master of Science in Health Policy Research

A two-year training program culminating in a Master of Science in Health Policy Research

.....

INTRODUCTION

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 Perelman 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 Arts and Sciences, the School of Social Policy and Practice, and the School of Nursing.

The primary goals of the Master of Science in Health Policy Research training program are to train outstanding investigators in health services and policy research and prepare students for successful careers in academics, government, non-profit, and industry. Health policy research investigates the clinical, public health, economic, and societal impact of health care and health policy. It also 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.

Major Curricula Areas

- Core courses in health economics, health policy, research methods and statistics
- Electives drawn from throughout the University of Pennsylvania
- Mentored research

ELIGIBILITY

- Students who have or are currently enrolled in terminal degrees in other fields (MD, PhD, JD or other degree) are eligible for the Health Policy Research Program.
- Students interested in careers in academic/non-profit health services research, industry, or health policy.

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 includes more than 4,200 faculty and 870 postdoctoral fellows, nearly 3,800 graduate students, 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.

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.

Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Program

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 RWJ 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 about the separate RWJ CSP application process, visit www.med.upenn.edu/rwjcsf.

CURRICULUM

The program curriculum spans four major domains: health economics, health policy, research methods, and statistics. There are seven core courses, each led by a core 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.

Selected sampling of thesis topics:

- Rationale Allocation of Blood Products
- Power Over Parity: Intimate Partner Violence and Issues of Fertility
- Critical Illness Outcomes in Specialty Versus General Intensive Care Units
- Promoters and Barriers to Fruit, Vegetable, and Fast-Food Consumption Among Urban, Low-Income, African Americans
- Effect of Health Insurance on Utilization of Ambulance Services in the United States
- The Impact of Resident Duty Hour Reform on Hospital Readmission Rates
- Cost-Effectiveness of Therapeutic Hypothermia After Cardiac Arrest
- Well Child Care Adherence Predictors Over Time in a Cohort of Medicaid-Eligible Infants
- The Effect of Resilience on Posttraumatic Stress Disorder in Trauma-Exposed Inner City Primary Care Patients

Electives can be taken from the program or in schools across the University. Example of existing courses include advanced health policy from the MSHP; advanced epidemiology or biostatistics from the Center for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics; advanced health care economics and health care 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	Mentored Research Project	Fundamentals of Health Policy	Mentored Research Project
Elective	Health Services and Policy Research Methods I	Health Services and Policy Research Methods II	Elective or Research in Progress/Lab Meeting	Elective or Research in Progress/Lab Meeting	Elective or Research in Progress/Lab Meeting

PROGRAM FACULTY

- **Paul Allison, PhD**

Professor of Sociology, University of Pennsylvania; President, Statistical Horizons

- **Katrina Armstrong, MD, MSCE**

Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology, Perelman School of Medicine; Chief, Division of General Internal Medicine; Co-Director, Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Program

- **David A. Asch, MD, MBA**

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

- **Andrew Epstein, PhD, MPP**

Research Associate Professor of Medicine, Perelman School of Medicine

- **David Grande, MD, MPA**

Assistant Professor of Medicine, Perelman School of Medicine

- **Peter Groeneveld, MD, MS**

Assistant Professor of Medicine, Perelman School of Medicine

- **Chanita Hughes-Halbert, PhD**

Associate Professor of Psychiatry; Director of the Community and Minority Cancer Control Program, Perelman School of Medicine

- **Judith A. Long, MD**

Assistant Professor of Medicine, Perelman School of Medicine; Director, Master of Science in Health Policy Research

- **Joshua P. Metlay, MD, PhD**

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

- **Nandita Mitra, PhD**

Assistant Professor of Biostatistics, Perelman School of Medicine

- **Mark V. Pauly, PhD**

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

- **Daniel E. Polsky, PhD, MPP**

Professor of Medicine and Health Care Systems, Perelman School of Medicine and The Wharton School; Director of Research, Leonard Davis Institute

- **Anthony Rostain, MD, MA**

Professor of Psychiatry; Director, Education, Department of Psychiatry, Perelman School of Medicine.

- **David Rubin, MD, MSCE**

Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics

• **Judy A. Shea, PhD**

Professor of Medicine, Perelman School of Medicine; Associate Dean of Medical Education and Research, Perelman School of Medicine

• **J. Sanford Schwartz, MD**

Leon Hess Professor of Medicine, Perelman School of Medicine

• **Lucy Tuton, PhD**

Adjunct Associate Professor, Medicine; Adjunct Associate Professor of Prevention and Population Health; Director, Program Development in Community Health, CCEB; Executive Director, Bridging the Gaps

CORE COURSES

1. Economics of Health Care Delivery (HPR 501)

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

2. Health Services and Policy Research Methods I (HPR 603)

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

3. Health Services and Policy Research Methods II (HPR 607)

Introduces research methods appropriate for data analysis of administrative and public datasets to address health policy issues

4. Introduction to Statistics for Health Policy (HPR 604)

Introduces basic concepts of statistical thinking and analysis. Includes descriptive statistics, hypothesis testing for differences between two or more groups and correlation and prediction

5. Applied Regression Analysis for Health Policy Research (HPR 608)

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

6. Fundamentals of Health Policy (HPR 606)

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

7. Research in Progress/Lab Meeting (HPR 609)

In an informal setting, students review ongoing research projects with other students and faculty. Lab meeting provides an opportunity for students to work through and receive feedback on work in progress from its inception to presentation of results

SELECTED ELECTIVE COURSES

1. Qualitative Methods in Health Research (HPR 503)

The purpose of this course is to expose students to a variety of qualitative approaches/methodologies that may be used in health services/policy research. Students will have the opportunity to apply the theoretical approaches to their own research interests with direct input from the faculty and their peers.

2. Principles and Practice of Quality Improvement and Patient Safety (HPR 504)

Healthcare delivery is complex and constantly changing. A primary mission of leading healthcare organizations is to advance the quality of patient care by striving to deliver care that is safe, effective, efficient, timely, cost effective, and patient-centered. The goal of this inter professional course is to provide students with a broad overview of the principles and tools of quality improvement and patient safety in health care.

3. Clinical Economics and Decision Making (HPR 550)

This course focuses on the application of decision analysis and economic analysis to clinical and policy research. A major focus of the course is the application of economic principles to the evaluation of health outcomes.

4. Outcomes Research (HPR 580)

This course addresses issues related to the measurement of quality in healthcare. Included is a review of the classical-structure-process-outcome quality paradigm. In addition, this course deals with observational, or quasi-experimental, research studies. It addresses the advantages and limitations of alternative designs, and covers the role of clinical risk adjustment in observational studies of medical interventions.

5. Achieving Evidence-Based Health Policy (HPR 610)

Examines how research can influence health policy. Individual sessions will be devoted to topics such as the Nurse-Family Partnership program, health insurance, tobacco use, and early childhood mental health.

.....
For more information about the program, please contact:

Judith A. Long, MD

Assistant Professor of Medicine

Director, Master of Science in Health Policy Research

1201 Blockley Hall

423 Guardian Drive

Philadelphia, PA 19104

Phone: 215-898-4311 Fax: 215-573-8778

E-mail: jalong@mail.med.upenn.edu

University of Pennsylvania Nondiscrimination Statement

The University of Pennsylvania values diversity and seeks talented students, faculty and staff from diverse backgrounds. The University of Pennsylvania does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, creed, national or ethnic origin, citizenship status, age, disability, veteran status or any other legally protected class status in the administration of its admissions, financial aid, educational or athletic programs, or other University-administered programs or in its employment practices. Questions or complaints regarding this policy should be directed to the Executive Director of the Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Programs, Sansom Place East, 3600 Chestnut Street, Suite 228, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6106; or (215) 898-6993 (Voice) or (215) 898-7803 (TDD).