

## ABOUT THE PHD PROGRAM

The Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS) doctoral program is based on the principle that health and health behaviors are influenced by multiple psychological, behavioral, social and cultural factors. This CEPH-accredited doctoral program is designed for master's prepared students who seek advanced training in social and behavioral sciences theories and methodologies. The program completion typically takes three to four years.

There are several competitive assistantships available with a full tuition waiver and a \$18,000 annual stipend. A PhD degree can be earned in-person, full-time or part-time.

### WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

Students work closely with faculty mentors in research areas such as addiction, substance abuse, HIV/AIDS, STDs, cancer, nutrition, physical activity, obesity, smoking, maternal and child health and the neighborhood environment, with strong mixed methods training.

As a metropolitan research university, we are especially committed to health equity and social justice issues in urban communities, with an emphasis on health and health disparities in Tennessee, the Mid-South region, nationally and globally.

Graduates of the program are prepared to conduct innovative, interdisciplinary and translational research in community settings, with a focus on vulnerable populations. They are also trained to design, implement, administer and evaluate public health interventions and policies.

### IS THIS DEGREE FOR YOU?

A PhD in Social and Behavioral Science is the highest academic degree for individuals planning to pursue scholarly careers in the discipline.

### EMPLOYMENT PREPAREDNESS

The goal of this program is to prepare students to teach and conduct original research using rigorous scientific theories and methods in order to understand and influence the social and behavioral determinants of population health risk factors and outcomes.

Due to the complex challenges of population health and healthcare delivery, the need for public health scholars with expertise in social and behavioral sciences continues to grow in academia, research and practice.

## DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES (PHD)

### 54 CREDIT HOURS

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- A research-based master's degree in a health-related or social/behavioral field.
- Applicants who possess professional master's degrees (e.g., MPH) will be considered if they have appropriate research experience, such as having completed a thesis during master's training or being employed in a professional research position.
- Minimum GPA of 3.0
- Three (3) letters of recommendation
- Statement of Purpose (750-1,000 words)
- Curriculum Vitae/Resume



## CONNECT WITH OUR ADMISSIONS TEAM

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