

School of Health Professions

Dean: Andrew Butler, PhD

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The School of Health Professions delivers educational programs to prepare health personnel who will improve the services in health care and the systems through which these services are provided. In keeping with the mission of the University of Alabama at Birmingham, the resources and programs of the school are dedicated to excellence in teaching, research, and scholarly activity and to service to the institution, the community, and the professions represented by programs of the school.

Degree options in the School of Health Professions include undergraduate, master's, and doctoral programs sponsored by five academic departments – Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences, Health Services Administration, Nutrition Sciences, Occupational Therapy, and Physical Therapy. In addition, minors, certificates, and post-doctoral fellowships are available in some specialized areas. The School sponsors more than 30 degree and certificate options, all of which require students to apply for and be accepted to the specific degree or certificate program.

The School of Health Professions is committed to the practice of ethical standards of conduct. School policies, procedures, and regulations reflect this commitment and are in compliance with those of the University of Alabama at Birmingham. To ensure continued practice of ethical standards, the administration and the standing committees of the school (Faculty Affairs, Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) regularly review school policies and procedures. All research endeavors are in compliance with policies of the UAB Institutional Review Board.

SHP Admissions

Entrance requirements for the individual educational programs of SHP vary. Persons desiring admission to a particular program should consult the appropriate section of the University Catalogs for specific entrance requirements, application process, and program information. Students who attend an institution other than UAB are encouraged to seek academic advisement from the intended program as early as possible to plan for completion of program prerequisites.

Application for admission to UAB to complete program entrance or pre-professional requirements at UAB may be made to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions (<http://www.uab.edu/students/undergraduate-admissions>). Admission to UAB does not guarantee admission to the professional phase of any SHP program.

The School of Health Professions welcomes applications from all individuals who are prepared for the programs offered. All applicants must offer acceptable evidence of ability and intent to meet the academic standards specified by the particular program into which admission is desired. In addition, certain immunizations are required prior to enrollment; see UAB Student Health and Insurance Programs and UAB Immunization Policy. Accepted students are subject to background check and drug screen requirements. Applicants are considered regardless of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, disability

unrelated to program performance, disabled veteran status, or Vietnam era veteran status (see UAB Equal Opportunity Policy).

Persons who have not yet decided upon a specific health career may obtain information about our programs from the SHP Office of Student Services and Advising, School of Health Professions Building, Room 230, 1716 9th Avenue South; Telephone: (205) 934-4195.

SHP Mission, Vision, Values

The mission of the School of Health Professions is “*To improve health care through teaching, research, and translation of discoveries into practice in partnership with the UAB community.*” The School vision is, “*To be recognized as the leading school of health professions – shaping the future of healthcare.*” Fulfilling the mission requires faculty and staff to embrace the following organizational values:

- Accountability
- Collaboration/Cooperation
- Diversity
- Excellence
- Innovation/Creativity
- Integrity/Ethical behavior
- Open communication
- Professional behavior

SHP First Year Experience

All freshmen admitted to the university are required to complete a first year experience (FYE) course. The FYE course sponsored by SHP, HRP 101 Experience the University Transition is designed to ease the transition between high school and university experiences and to prepare students for success in health professions majors. The course is delivered in a blended seminar / online format. Students interact with faculty, advisers, and other students to learn academic skills and personal lifestyle management tactics to make their freshman experience positive and academically rewarding. Social interaction and engagement in the UAB community are key goals as well.

Blazer Core Curriculum

All SHP majors are required to comply with the UAB Blazer Core Curriculum for a baccalaureate degree. However, most professional curricula in the school include specific prerequisite coursework that should be considered in making choices about options within the core curriculum. Students are strongly encouraged to make early contact with academic advisers in the School of Health Professions to plan their course schedules to meet the dual requirements of the core curriculum and the requirements of their chosen major. The courses identified in Area V of the core curriculum (Elective and Pre-professional Credits) differ by major, and are subject to change as programs respond to changes in workforce requirements. Students should work closely with their academic advisers to plan their programs of study during the freshman and sophomore years.

School-Wide Core / Capstone

The School of Health Professions does not specify a common core for all programs. Students must comply with the UAB core curriculum and the degree requirements for their chosen major. All SHP programs include capstone experiences, either a supervised practicum, a didactic course, or a combination of both.

University Requirements

In order to receive a degree at UAB, a student must have a minimum 120 semester hours of acceptable credit.

Interdisciplinary Majors / Minors

Interdisciplinary majors are not offered by the School of Health Professions. Students may elect to pursue any minor available at UAB in addition to their major, but minor study is not required. Several minor options are available in the School of Health Professions.

Research Technician Certificate

Undergraduate students who wish to explore an individual research experience may apply for the Research Technician Certificate. The certificate program is designed to provide didactic and experiential coursework to build knowledge and skills appropriate to entry level work in research laboratories or in support of non-laboratory research. Students are expected to develop the following behaviors and skills through their experiences and courses:

- Understanding and application of responsible conduct of research
- Critical thinking and analytical skills
- Project management skills
- Experience in data logging and in communicating research results
- Experience in the application and performance of a variety of laboratory techniques
- Experience in the application of statistical methods for data analysis

Students will complete a total of 21 credits, including six hours of mentored research spread over at least two semesters, and a blend of required and elective courses selected from their degree major's course of study. Students who complete this program will receive a Research Technician Certificate from the School of Health Professions, which will be reflected on their academic transcript.

For information about application to this certificate or any undergraduate research activity, or to make an appointment to discuss required courses and project work, please contact Dr. Samantha Giordano-Mooga by email at sgjordan@uab.edu. Additional information is available on the SHP website at: <http://www.uab.edu/shp/urh>.

Minor in Biomedical Sciences

All courses (including prerequisites) must be completed with a grade of C or better and students must maintain a 2.75 overall GPA. Please contact BMD@uab.edu for more information on the BMD minor.

Requirements	Hours
Required Courses	
CH 115 General Chemistry I	3
CH 116 General Chemistry I Laboratory	1
CH 117 General Chemistry II	3
CH 118 General Chemistry II Laboratory	1
BY 123 Introductory Biology I	4
BY 123L Introductory Biology I Laboratory	0
BY 124 Introductory Biology II	4
BY 124L Introductory Biology II Laboratory	0
BMD 315 Clinical Physiology and Pharmacology for Health Professions I	4

BMD 317 Clinical Physiology and Pharmacology for Health Professions II	4
Choose 3-4 Semester Hours of BMD/CDS Elective Courses	6
BMD 310 Clinical Anatomy and Histology	4
BMD 320 Survey of Cell Biology for Health Professions	3
BMD 330 Clinical Microbiology for Health Professions	3
BMD 410 Clinical Biochemistry for Health Professions	3
BMD 420 Pathophysiology for Health Professions	4
BMD 430 Clinical Immunology for Health Professions	3
BMD 331 Microbiology Lab for Health Professions	1
Total Minors Hours: 27-28	

Disability Studies and Rehabilitation Science Minor

Requirements	Hours
RHB 210 Introduction to Rehabilitation Science	3
RHB 220 Rehabilitation and Healthcare in the US	3
Disability Inclusion Science & Advocacy (Choose one)	3
RHB 320 Environmental and Community Considerations of Mobility	
RHB 340 Living with Disability	
RHB 460 Leadership/Lifelong Learning and Rehabilitation Science	
Scientific Literacy (Choose one)	3
RHB 360 Scientific Inquiry	
RHB 430 Current Trends in Rehabilitation Science	
RHB 370 Tests and Measures in Rehabilitation Science	
Disability Health & Function (Choose one)	3
RHB 330 Adapted Mobility and Exercise Interventions	
RHB 410 Aging in the Community	
RHB 490 Quantitative Biomechanics of Injury and Rehabilitation	
Additional course from one of the three study areas above	3
Total Hours	18

Minor in Health Care Management

The minor in Health Care Management requires completion of 21 semester hours of course work. Students must apply to the Health Care Management program for admission to the minor, and must have a 2.5 GPA to qualify. All courses must be completed with a grade of C or better.

Requirements	Hours
HCM 330 Health Care Systems	3
HCM 401 Organizational Studies in Health Care	4
HCM 403 Operations Management in Health Care Organizations	4
HCM 405 Human Resource Management in Health Care Organizations	4
Select two 400-level electives	6
HCM 402 Economics for Healthcare Managers	
HCM 407 Strategic Management in Health Care Organizations	
HCM 416 Financial Management in Health Care Organizations	
HCM 421 Introduction to Long Term Care Administration	
HCM 425 Healthcare Reimbursement Methods	
HCM 435 Clinical and Administrative Information Systems	
HCM 450 Quality Management in Health Care	

HCM 460	Research Methods	
HCM 480	Health Care Policy and Reform	
Total hours		21

Minor in Health Information Management

The Health Information Management minor requires completion of 18 semester hours of course work. Students must contact the Health Care Management program office for admission to the minor, and must have a 2.5 GPA to qualify. All courses must be completed with a grade of C or better.

Requirements		Hours
HCM 325	Healthcare Law and Ethics	3
HCM 330	Health Care Systems	3
HCM 425	Healthcare Reimbursement Methods	3
HCM 435	Clinical and Administrative Information Systems	3
HIM 418	Documentation Standards for Health Data	3
HIM 475	Electronic Health Records	3
Total Hours		18

Minor in Nutrition Sciences

The Department of Nutrition Sciences offers a minor option for undergraduate students matriculating in programs in the School of Health Professions. Interested students from other schools may be admitted upon approval from the NTR minor program director. The Nutrition Sciences minor requires completion of 18 semester hours of course work, maintenance of a 2.5 GPA overall, and no grade lower than a C in minor courses.

Requirements		Hours
NTR 222	Nutrition and Health	3
NTR 232	Lifecycle Nutrition	3
NTR 330	Nutrition and Metabolism	3
Choose 9 Hours of Elective Coursework From the List Below		9
NTR 300	Nutrition Communication: From Science to Consumer	
NTR 320	Nutrition and the Consumer	
NTR 420	Nutritional Genetics	
NTR 421	Nutrition Assessment and the Nutrition Care Process	
KIN 405	Sports Nutrition	
HRP 415	Mentored Research in the Health Professions	
Approved Research Experience Course		
Total Hours		18

School of Health Professions Undergraduate Research and Honors Programs

The School of Health Professions Undergraduate Research and Honors Programs provide experiential opportunities for undergraduate students to develop project leadership and research skills in a team environment to prepare for careers in health care or for graduate study in the health professions. All students' projects are presented publicly in an appropriate professional forum.

SHP Honors Program. A cohort of students is accepted into the SHP Honors Program each year. Admission criteria include a 3.25 GPA, an application process, and starting the 3rd year of the major. Honors students participate in four semester credits of interdisciplinary seminars and a minimum of six semester credits in honors projects under the

direction of a faculty and community mentor. Projects may involve community research or service learning activities, and are completed by teams of students. Students who successfully complete all program requirements graduate with School Honors.

SHP Undergraduate Research Opportunities. Students who wish to pursue a mentored research experience outside of, or in addition to, the Honors Program are paired with a faculty mentor to complete a research activity consistent with their goals and abilities that will contribute meaningfully to their mentor's research.

Individual Mentored Research. Students who wish to complete individual projects must be registered for the appropriate HRP course while working with their mentor. Project hours completed will be documented on the student's academic transcript. The number of credit hours allocated to the project is negotiated among the student, the mentor, and the Honors Program Director. Interested students should contact the Director of the Honors Program to determine the registration requirements.

Undergraduate Team Research Certificate. Students may participate in a 3-semester team based research experience that pairs student teams with research mentors, to address research issues. Students participate in a two-credit research/team work/project development course, and then complete a minimum of six semester hours of research in a team. Teams of students who complete this experience will receive a certificate from the School for their professional portfolios.

Research Technician Certificate. Students who wish to expand their individual research experience may apply to the Research Technician Certificate Program. Students must participate in six hours of mentored research spread over at least two semesters, as well as complete a blend of required and elective courses selected from their degree major's course of study. Students who complete this track will receive a Research Technician Certificate, which will be reflected on their transcript.

For information about application to any honors or research activity, or to make an appointment to discuss required courses and project work, please contact Dr. Samantha Giordano-Mooga by email at sgjordan@uab.edu. Additional information is available on the SHP website at: <http://www.uab.edu/shp/urh>.

Courses

HRP 101. Experience the University Transition. 3 Hours.

Structured introduction to the college experience for entering freshmen with health professions majors. This course meets Blazer Core Local Beginnings requirement with a flag in Freshman Year Experience.

HRP 200. Responsible Conduct of Research Training. 1 Hour.

Provides required RCR training for undergraduates conducting any form of research at UAB.

HRP 210. Social Determinants of Health in Alabama. 3 Hours.

Social determinants play a crucial role in health and well-being, focusing on the impact of health disparities in clinical settings. To better understand specific challenges to health in Alabama, students will research how health disparities in Alabama and create a service-learning project with a community partner that advocates to decrease the health disparity in the Alabama community. Examples of social determinants of health include but are not limited to race, gender, socioeconomic status, lack of access to food, greenspace, and housing.

HRP 300. Survey of Health Professions. 2 Hours.

A survey of undergraduate and graduate health professions that provide patient care and other services in the health care delivery system. Designed to assist undergraduate students in career investigation.

HRP 401. Honors Seminar I. 1 Hour.

Introduction to leadership and team principles.

HRP 402. Honors Seminar II. 1 Hour.

Advanced leadership and team principles. Skills development in information critiquing, report writing, and presentation techniques.

HRP 405. Team-Based Problem Solving in the Health Professions. 2 Hours.

Blend of didactic, online, and mentored team work; development of effective team skills, including assessment, conflict management, and project development and management; information searching and critiquing, literature review, and technical writing. May be taken for Honors credit.

HRP 410. Honors Research Project. 1-3 Hour.

Development and completion of a scholarly project for presentation and publication under the direction of a faculty mentor. Two to four terms required for a minimum accumulation of 4 semester hours.

HRP 411. Honors Community Service Project. 1-3 Hour.

Development and completion of a community-based team project for presentation and publication under the direction of a faculty mentor.

HRP 414. Volunteer Research Experience. 0 Hours.

Short-term supervised research experience focused on a specific learning objective. Approval of faculty mentor and course director is required.

HRP 415. Mentored Research in the Health Professions. 1-6 Hour.

Field, laboratory, literary study, service learning or community based research project directed by a supervising mentor.

HRP 425. Preparation for Professional School in Health Professions. 1 Hour.

Prepare students to apply for professional school through seminars on interview skills, personal statements, and essential professional skills.

HRP 426. Preparation for Professional School and Exam Preparation for Health Professions. 4 Hours.

Prepare students to apply for professional school through seminars on interview skills, test prep, personal statements, and essential professional skills.

HRP 475. Special Topics in Health Services or Clinical Research. 1-4 Hour.

Faculty-led exploration of current topics and issues in health services or clinical research.

HRP 490. Capstone Experience in the Health Professions. 1-4 Hour.

Capstone experience to demonstrate health professions curriculum integration.