The Department of Rehabilitation Science (RHBS) is a department within the College of Health and Human Services (CHHS). Rehabilitation Science is an interdisciplinary field of study that seeks to understand the relationships among physiological and psychosocial causes, course and consequences of functional disability and how to improve health-related quality of life by enabling human function and performance. This field draws its body of knowledge from multiple disciplines spanning the physiological, health, and social sciences in order to approach the individual who lives with or is at risk of disability as a complete person with a full appreciation of the biopsychosocial environment in which that person functions.

The internationally recognized faculty mentor students through active involvement in their own funded research programs. Upon graduation, students are prepared for professional careers in academic, government, and industrial research environments with the tools to develop their own lines of research in Rehabilitation Science.

**Graduate Degrees**

The Department of Rehabilitation Science (RHBS) offers a **PhD in Rehabilitation Science**. Although some prospective students may hold bachelor’s, master’s or clinical doctoral degrees, a clinical degree is not a prerequisite.

Rehabilitation Science seeks to enhance the understanding and treatment of the physiological and psychosocial causes, course and consequences of functional disability. Our research focuses on the physiological determinants of functional loss and biobehavioral factors that contribute to functional disablement, which can limit activities that allow a person to live independently in the community and participate fully in society. Concomitantly, Rehabilitation Science is dedicated to understanding the process of enablement which is an individual’s resilience to factors that limit function and impede human performance. Ultimately, our scientific endeavors are intended to ensure that all individuals achieve optimal performance, the highest possible level of function, and a personally meaningful quality of life. Students select one of three specializations as the focus of their studies and research: Human Motion, Function & Performance; Cardiorespiratory Function & Physical Performance; or Biobehavioral Health.

**Graduate Certificates**

The department also offers a graduate certificate in **Rehabilitation Science**. Please visit [rhbs.gmu.edu](http://rhbs.gmu.edu) for detailed information about this program.
Admission Requirements

Applicants must hold a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited institution and have a minimum of a 3.0 GPA to be considered. Students may apply with a master’s degree or an advanced clinical degree (e.g. DPT, MD). A maximum of 30 credits may be waived in the PhD program based on a previously earned graduate degree. However, due to the diverse educational backgrounds of the students, credit for prior graduate coursework will be reviewed and awarded on a course-by-course basis after the applicant has earned admission. Admission to the program is competitive, and a variety of criteria are evaluated in the admissions process, including the strength of the undergraduate record and any post-baccalaureate coursework, the GRE, career goals, letters of recommendation, professional and/or volunteer experience, evidence of the ability to write and conduct research at the graduate level, and any additional evidence for potential success in the program.

GRE scores are required for all applicants, except those who have already completed a doctoral level degree from the U.S. or Canada. Professional or clinical doctoral degrees should be regarded the same as traditional academic degrees in interpreting this criterion.

Applicants are encouraged to contact the department to discuss their interest prior to applying. Preference will be given to full-time applicants, and interviews may be required at the request of the faculty admissions committee.

Applications are considered for the fall semester only. For application deadlines and detailed application requirements, please refer to the CHHS Graduate Admissions Website at: http://chhs.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate/deadlines.cfm. Meeting the minimum application criteria does not guarantee admission. Late applications will be considered on a space-available basis. The online application for graduate study is available at http://admissions.gmu.edu/grad.

Contact Information

Department of Rehabilitation Science
College of Health and Human Services
Robinson Hall B477
George Mason University
4400 University Drive, MS 5B7
Fairfax, VA 22030
Phone: 703-993-1950
Fax: 703-993-6073
E-mail: rhbs@gmu.edu
Web: chhs.gmu.edu/rehabscience

Office of Graduate Admissions
College of Health and Human Services
Robinson Hall B402
George Mason University
4400 University Drive, MS 5A8
Fairfax, VA 22030
Phone: 703-993-1736
Fax: 703-993-3606
E-mail: chhsgrad@gmu.edu
Web: chhs.gmu.edu

The above information is based on the 2013–2014 University Catalog and is subject to change without notice or obligation. It is not to be regarded as a contract. Please refer to the catalog for full course descriptions, department information, and university policy governing graduate degree programs at catalog.gmu.edu.