

The Department of Rehabilitation Science at George Mason University is a research-oriented academic program that focuses on the individual development of our students as leaders in the field of rehabilitation science. With an emphasis on improving how people move and function, we educate and mentor students in advancing rehabilitation science research by translating an understanding of the mechanisms underlying disability into innovative interventions. Our science and research in rehabilitation science aims to improve the quality of life of individuals living with chronic health conditions.

Rehabilitation science brings together the expertise of many different disciplines and clinical professions to consider a single issue: how we can optimize human function and performance in daily life by better understanding the causes, course and consequences of disability and developing new interventions to promote optimal functional performance. As scientists we seek to improve the daily function and quality of life of all people by providing the scientific foundation for better diagnosis and treatment of chronic conditions by clinical rehabilitation professionals.

### **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.

We are proud to be one of the few rehabilitation science programs in the country, and we pride ourselves on offering interdisciplinary and research-intensive degrees and certificates. Our students are encouraged to develop as scientists across the spectrum of clinical to translational research. Expert faculty prepare you to pursue professional careers in academic, government, and industrial research environments with the skills to develop your own line of research in rehabilitation science.

Our program is particularly oriented toward the study of individuals with chronic illness, a rapidly growing segment of the American population. Individuals with chronic illness, their families, their communities, and society at large suffer the loss of human potential and diminished quality of life without the essential basic, clinical, and translational research in rehabilitation that enables optimal function and enhances quality of life.

Students select one of three specializations as the focus of their studies and research: Human Movement and Function; Clinical Exercise and Applied Physiology; 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**. Information regarding application guidelines and requirements can be found at the Graduate Admissions website: <https://www2.gmu.edu/admissions-aid/how-apply/graduate>. For additional program details, visit CHHS Admissions at <http://chhs.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate/index.cfm>. Meeting the minimum application criteria does not guarantee admission. Late applications will be considered on a space-available basis. The application for graduate study is available at [admissions.gmu.edu](http://admissions.gmu.edu).

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## Contact Information

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