

Faculty

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Contact

For more information on the application process, visit the School of Graduate Studies website:

graduate.mcmaster.ca/academic-services/how-apply.

For additional information regarding the MA program, please contact:

Kristine Espiritu
Graduate Administrative Assistant
espirit@mcmaster.ca or
905.525.9140 x 27035.

PLEASE SEND ALL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS TO:

Department of Health, Aging & Society

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healthagingandsociety.mcmaster.ca

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Ph.D. in Health & Society



SOCIAL SCIENCES
Department of
Health, Aging & Society

Health & Society

The PhD in Health & Society allows students to take a critical, interdisciplinary, and social science perspective in the study of health, illness, and health care. Students completing the PhD in Health & Society will have theoretical and methodological expertise in integrating knowledge and critical approaches to research from a broad range of disciplines in the social sciences.

The PhD program in Health & Society will apply this perspective to analysing and understanding health as a social and cultural process, construct, and outcome. It is the combination of these three perspectives, the ways that they interact with and build on one another, and a focus on both the social structural and cultural dimensions of health that makes the program distinctive in its area. The PhD program in Health & Society differs from many doctoral programs in this area in that it allows students to develop and pursue broader research interests that may be outside the typical focus on public health, demography and service management.

The Program

The PhD in Health & Society takes 4 years to complete. Students are required to complete course work (five courses) in their first year of study:

- HLTH AGE 714: Qualitative Research Methods
- HLTH AGE 715: Critical Perspectives in Health & Society
- HLTH AGE 716: Quantitative Research Methods
- Two graduate elective courses

All doctoral students will be required to participate in a non-credit research and professional development seminar.

Students will take a comprehensive exam in their area of concentration in Health & Society. The purpose of the exam is to ensure that the student has a sufficient grasp of the relevant scholarly literature in her/his area of research interest and that she/he is able to synthesize and communicate this literature in a critically insightful way. The comprehensive exam will consist

of a written examination, an oral examination, and a research proposal (which is also evaluated during the oral examination).

Candidates for the Ph.D. degree will present a thesis which shows competence in original research and will be required to defend it during a final oral examination.

Admissions

Applications will be accepted starting in October. Admission to the PhD program requires an average of B+ or better, in a Master's degree in a related health and/or social sciences discipline. Applicants normally have demonstrated interest and experience in critical approaches to health. Admission to the Ph.D. program in Health & Society will normally be on a full-time basis only.

Applicants are encouraged to contact faculty members in the Department regarding potential PhD supervision as well as the PhD program.

TO APPLY, VISIT:

healthagingandsociety.mcmaster.ca

(Click "Programs").

All applications will be submitted to the Department's Graduate Admissions Committee. You will be expected to include: (1) all academic transcripts sent directly from the issuing institution; (2) two confidential letters of recommendation from instructors most familiar with your academic work; (3) statement of interest (3-4 pages maximum); (4) a sample of writing; (5) resumé/CV. If English is not your native language, an official copy of your TOEFL score or other evidence of competency in English must also be submitted.

Faculty Research

Faculty members in the Department of Health, Aging & Society are actively involved in a wide range of different research areas relevant to Health & Society, including: (1) social-cultural dimensions of health; (2) systems, services and policy; (3) environments and inequalities; (4) diversity and inclusion

Examples of faculty research projects include:

- Indigenous understandings of health & health policy
- Negotiating health care decisions by people with chronic illness
- Media representations of health and illness
- Socio-economic status, income inequality and population health
- Housing, neighbourhoods and (mental) health
- Equity in health care use and health policy
- Intervention research to improve health equity in urban populations
- Community-based health activism, care and support
- Complementary and alternative forms of health care
- The relationship between the arts and health
- Theory development in health & aging research
- Animal-based interventions for health & well-being
- Experiences of living with mental illness & anxiety disorders
- Mental health, social media, and relationships across the life course

Please feel free to contact individual faculty members about their research (see the list of faculty and their contact information on this brochure).

Students can follow their own empirical research interests throughout their studies.