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Visit us online:
healthagingandsociety.mcmaster.ca
The PhD in Health Studies 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 Studies 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 Studies 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 Studies 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 PhD in Health Studies takes 4 years to complete. Students are required to complete course work (six courses) in their first year of study. 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 Studies. 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 also have an oral component (defence of the written answers) and will be assessed by the supervisory committee.

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.

Applications will be accepted starting in November. 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 Studies 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 “Graduate Program”).

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) résumé/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.

Please send all supporting documents to:

Department of Health, Aging & Society
Kenneth Taylor Hall 226
McMaster University
1280 Main Street West
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Canada

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 PhD program, please contact Kristine Espiritu (Graduate Administrative Assistant): espirit@mcmaster.ca or 905.525.9140 x27035.