BIOBEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Degree Requirements

Master of Science (M.S.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-600 Research Degree Policies. (https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/)

BBH does not offer a terminal Master's Degree. A minimum of 33 credits at the 400, 500, 600, or 800 level is required, with at least 18 credits at the 500 and 600 level, combined. All M.S. degree candidates must complete a formal master's thesis or a scholarly paper. Students selecting the thesis option must complete an additional 6 credits of master's thesis research (BBH 600). Students selecting the scholarly paper option must complete an additional 6 credits of individual studies (BBH 596) and at least 18 credits at the 500 level. The master's thesis will typically describe original research. The scholarly paper may describe original research, but may also involve a substantial review of the literature, or a substantial description of a new research-related procedure. The choice of thesis or scholarly paper options will be made by the student in consultation with the adviser. The student's advisory committee judges the quality and acceptability of the scholarly paper or thesis. In the case of the scholarly paper, the paper must be accepted by the advisers and/or committee members, and the head of the graduate program. In the case of the master's thesis, the paper must be accepted by the advisers and/or committee members, the head of the graduate program, and the Graduate School.

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
BBH 501	Biobehavioral Systems in Health and Development: Theory and Processes	3
BBH 502	Health: Biobehavioral Perspectives	3
BBH 503	Biobehavioral Systems in Health and Development: Processes and Integration	3
BBH 504	Behavioral Health Intervention Strategies	3
BBH 505	Behavioral Health Research Strategies	3
12 additional credits in methods individually designed in consultation with and with the approval of their adviser and committee		12
Culminating Experience		
BBH 600	Thesis Research	6
or BBH 596	Individual Studies	
Total Credits		**33**

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-600 Research Degree Policies. (https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/)

All doctoral students must take the following courses to develop doctoral-level competence in biobehavioral health and one or more related specialized areas:

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
BBH 501	Biobehavioral Systems in Health and Development: Theory and Processes	3
BBH 502	Health: Biobehavioral Perspectives	3
BBH 503	Biobehavioral Systems in Health and Development: Processes and Integration	3
BBH 504	Behavioral Health Intervention Strategies	3
BBH 505	Behavioral Health Research Strategies	3
12 additional credits in research methods individually designed in consultation with the student's adviser and Ph.D. committee (and with approval of the PIC of the Graduate Program)		12
Total Credits		**27**

All doctoral students must demonstrate competency in college-level teaching by completing two semesters in the role of a teaching assistant; the professional development seminar provides support and mentoring to facilitate development of competency in college-level teaching.

Ph.D. degree requirements include successful completion of the following: approved graduate course work, English Competence requirements, a comprehensive examination, and a final oral examination (the dissertation defense). To earn the Ph.D. degree, doctoral candidates must write a dissertation that is accepted by the Ph.D. committee, the head of the graduate program, and the Graduate School.