About the Program

The Health and Health Care Research (HHCR) program is a one-year (two semester) master’s degree program (M.Sc.) designed for clinicians who want to gain expertise in health policy, the sociocultural determinants of health, and an array of methods relevant to health services research.

Eligibility

A limited number of clinicians are accepted every year to the tuition-based master’s program and study alongside scholars admitted to the two-year IHPI National Clinician Scholars Programs. Total class size is limited to 20.

Application Process

Interested applicants should contact the Program Coordinators, Brenette Logan (brenette@umich.edu) and Brittany Weatherwax (bweather@umich.edu) as soon as possible to schedule a meeting with the Program Director. They will also need to have a mentor from their department contact the Program Director to discuss the curriculum and program expectations. Applicants will then be notified by email regarding the next steps in the admission process for enrollment in the fall.

Leadership and Faculty

**Director:** Tammy Chang, M.D., M.P.H., M.S.

**Co-Directors:** Milisa Manojlovich, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN; Renu Tipirneni, M.D., M.Sc.

**Senior Associate Directors:** Joel Howell, M.D., Ph.D.; Laurence McMahon, M.D., M.P.H.

**Associate Directors:** Andrew Admon, M.D., M.P.H.; Barbara Brush, Ph.D., ANP-BC, FAAN; Rodney Hayward, M.D.; Michele Heisler, M.D., M.P.A.; Tim Hofer, M.D., M.Sc.; Patricia Hurn, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN; Minal Patel, Ph.D., M.P.H.; Erica Solway, Ph.D., M.D., M.S.W., M.P.H.; Thomas Valley, M.D., M.Sc.

**Core Faculty:** HwaJung Choi, Ph.D.; Melissa DeJonckheere, Ph.D.; Mark Fendrick, M.D.; Jane Forman, Sc.D., M.H.S.; Rodney Hayward, M.D.; Tim Hofer, M.D., M.Sc.; Joel Howell, M.D., Ph.D.; Joyce Lee, M.D, M.P.H.; Minal Patel, Ph.D., M.P.H.; Mary Rogers, Ph.D., M.S.; Erica Solway, Ph.D., M.S.W., M.P.H.; Renu Tipirneni, M.D., M.Sc.; Tony Tsai, M.B.A; Sandeep Vijan, M.D., M.S.; Brian Zikmund-Fisher, Ph.D., M.A.

Courses

The following courses make up the required curriculum for the HHCR master’s degree:

- **Social & Cultural Aspects of Research on Health & Society**
- **Research Design & Analysis**
- **Laboratory in Research Methods & Analysis**
- **Leadership & Career Development**
- **Research Practica**

Program Requirements

A minimum of 32 credit hours is required for the master’s degree, 16 credits taken in both the fall and winter terms.

The master’s degree program is administered by the University of Michigan Rackham School of Graduate Studies. The program follows the University of Michigan academic calendar. Classes typically begin in late August and conclude in April.
The accompanying laboratory enables students to master the use of statistical and qualitative methods software. Specific modules emphasize independent problem solving and generation of analysis plans, converting study objectives into a specific and actionable analytic design.

720. Lab Res Meth&Analy 1. (3 credits)
721. Lab Res Meth&Analy 2. Advisory pre-requisite: Completion of the Lab Research Methods & Analysis 1 (720) or equivalent, with instructor approval. (3 credits)

This course introduces students to methods for evaluating critical issues in health and health care from a behavioral, societal, and cultural perspective. Students examine the use of the behavioral and social sciences and humanities to study health and health care, including evaluations of past research and suggestions for future work. The class is an introduction to essential themes and approaches, not a comprehensive analysis of a single discipline.

700. Res Hlth&Soc 1. (3 credits)

Students develop competency in research design and data analysis using state-of-the-art methods for health services and health policy research.

710. Res Des&Analysis 1. Advisory pre-requisite: Completion of the Clinician Scholars Program (CSP) summer course, or equivalent with instructor approval. (3 credits)
711. Res Des&Analysis 2. Advisory pre-requisite: Completion of Research Design & Analysis 1 (710) or equivalent, with instructor approval. (3 credits)

This course develops students’ leadership purpose and skills to impact health care at a systems level. The leadership curriculum is designed to guide students in identifying strategic goals for impact in their chosen area by focusing on their individual strengths, honing skills in oral and written communication, and navigating change in complex systems.

730. Lead&Career Dev 1. (1 credit)
731. Lead&Career Dev 2. Advisory pre-requisite: Completion of Leadership & Career Development Skills 1 (730). (1 credit)
In this independent study course, students progress from crafting an initial research question to analyzing secondary data to designing and presenting a research plan.

750. Research Practica 1. (4 credits)
751. Research Practica 2. (4 credits)

998. Independent Study. (3 to 12 credits)

Research Practica

If you are a clinician who wants to make an impact on health policy, this program has all the tools you need to get you there. Building on a foundation of quantitative health services research methods, the program also provides relevant and focused training in health policy, leadership and communication, and the social and cultural determinants of health—with just the right level of detail for a clinician with no time to waste. It also provides access to the unparalleled University of Michigan environment, as well as the local and national policy communities. Finally, the program creates a close-knit group of colleagues and mentors and an interdisciplinary community for personal and academic growth. I could not recommend it more highly.

Karan Chhabra, M.D., M.Sc.

The U-M Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation, where this program is based, is the nation’s largest university-based group of health services researchers. Founded in 2011, IHPI brings together more than 650 faculty from across all three U-M campuses, and offers services and programs to help advance research and collaboration. IHPI’s mission is to foster innovative, interdisciplinary research to inform policies and practices that advance the equity, quality, safety, and affordability of healthcare, and improve health for individuals, families, and communities.

The U-M Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation

The IHPI master’s degree program in HHCR opened the door for me to be an independent researcher. It gave me the skills both from an analytic standpoint and a leadership standpoint to launch my career as a surgeon-scientist. The collaboration among health care providers led me to think about the delivery of health care from a new perspective.

Jessica Billig, M.D., M.Sc.