

University of Michigan

Master's Degree Program in Health & Health Care Research



"Collaborating and learning from my fellow scholars has really opened my eyes to different questions that I can ask and ways I can make a difference."

Catherine Jensen,
M.D., M.S.



"The program has really prepared me to not only conduct sound and rigorous research but also to take that research to inform policy and affect change."

Terrence Liu,
M.D., M.S.

About the Program

The one-year master's degree program in Health and Health Care Research (HRCR) is 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 Program](#). Total class size is limited to 20.

Application Process

Interested applicants should contact the Program Coordinator, Brenette Logan (brenette@umich.edu) as early in the calendar year as possible to schedule a meeting with the Program Director, Tammy Chang (tachang@umich.edu). They will also need to have a mentor from their department contact the Program Director to discuss the curriculum and program expectations. In the spring, applicants will be notified by email regarding the next steps in the admission process for enrollment in the fall.

Program Requirements

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

Master's students must commit to full participation in the program for the entire academic year. This includes regular attendance and active engagement in all classes which are taught seminar-style. Classes are held all day on Wednesdays and Thursdays and on Friday mornings. Given these expectations, master's students cannot spend more than 30% of their time doing clinical work during the program.

The student's faculty mentor must agree to oversee their progress and development, including providing career advice and mentorship for their research projects during the master's program.

For information on tuition, please refer to the University of Michigan Rackham Graduate School website.

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.

Leadership and Faculty

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

Faculty and Mentors: Geoffrey Barnes, M.D., M.Sc.; Sue Anne Bell, Ph.D., FNP-BC, FAAN; Mark Bicket, M.D., Ph.D.; Tammy Chang, M.D., M.P.H., M.S.; Joshua Ehrlich, M.D., M.P.H.; Rodney Hayward, M.D.; Tim Hofer, M.D., M.Sc.; Ryan Howard, M.D., M.S.; Pooja Lagisetty, M.D., M.Sc.; Milisa Manojlovich, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN; Minal Patel, Ph.D., M.P.H.; Missy Plegue, M.A.; Sheria Robinson-Lane, Ph.D., M.S.N., M.H.A., R.N.; Erica Solway, Ph.D., M.S.W., M.P.H.; Scott Stonington, M.D., Ph.D.; Pasithorn (Amy) Suwanabol, M.D.; Renu Tipirneni, M.D., M.Sc.; Tony Tsai, M.B.A.

Courses

Social & Cultural Aspects of Research on Health & Society (2 semesters)

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.

Research Design & Analysis (2 semesters)

During this course, students develop competency in research design and data analysis using state-of-the-art methods for health services and health policy research.

Laboratory in Research Methods & Analysis (2 semesters)

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.

Leadership & Career Development

(2 semesters)

This course aims to help students develop their leadership purpose and skills to impact health care at a systems level. The leadership curriculum is designed to augment the scholarship curriculum so that learners will have the motivation and foundational knowledge to advance their research to create positive change for health care and society.

Research on Health Care Delivery, Financing & Policy (2 semesters)

This course presents and stimulates investigation and discussion of a broad array of topics in health care and health policy to provide clinician-researchers with extensive context for their aspirations and efforts. The course aims to provide students with rigorous training in health policy analysis and illustrate how meaningful, timely research can inform policymaking.

Research Practica (2 semesters)

In this independent study course, students progress from crafting an initial research question to analyzing secondary data to designing and presenting a research plan.

Scan to see what alumni say about the program



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UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

The Institute for Healthcare Policy & Innovation is the nation's largest university-based community of health services researchers. Our 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.

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