Doctor of Philosophy in Rehabilitation Science

The doctorate in rehabilitation science program is designed to prepare suitably qualified individuals for leadership positions in research and academia. A major focus of the program is to advance the science of rehabilitation, and to elucidate the scientific basis for the procedures and processes used in clinical practice.

Areas of research emphasis include human and animal studies designed to (1) promote an understanding of the pathophysiology of injury, disease, functional impairment, and associated disabilities, and (2) espouse the rationale for therapies designed to alleviate impaired human function and related physical and mental disabilities.

The program is open to students with a bachelor's degree. Applicants are not required to be physical therapists or to have degrees in physical therapy but are encouraged to have broad backgrounds in a health-related science (e.g., anatomy, physiology, biology, neuroscience, exercise science, biochemistry, genetics, molecular and cell biology) and statistics.

To be eligible for admission, the following are required:

1. **Degree.** A bachelor's degree must be completed before the start of the program. Students with degrees from universities outside the U.S. may be considered if they meet requirements (http://www.kumc.edu/school-of-health-professions/information-for-international-applicants.html) equivalent to a bachelor's degree from a program in the U.S.

2. **Graduate Record Examination Score.** Students must submit scores for Verbal Reasoning, Quantitative Reasoning and Analytical Writing sections of the GRE. **Note:** the GRE must have been taken within 5 years of the first semester of enrollment in this program.

3. **Grade-Point Average.** An overall minimum 3.0 GPA on a 4.0-scale is required.

A background check (http://www.kumc.edu/school-of-health-professions/background-checks.html) is required during the admission process; the result may affect the student's eligibility for admission to the program.

International students or those for whom English is a second language must meet minimum English proficiency (http://catalog.ku.edu/graduate-studies/kumc/#admissioncontext) requirements. International students may have additional requirements for visa, residency, and citizenship status. Students should contact the KU Medical Center Office of International Programs (http://www.kumc.edu/international) for guidance regarding these issues during the application process.

Prospective students must first meet the program's eligibility requirements (http://www.kumc.edu/school-of-health-professions/physical-therapy-and-rehabilitation-science/phd-in-rehabilitation-science/eligibility-and-requirements.html). When ready to apply, please review the complete list of application requirements (http://www.kumc.edu/school-of-health-professions/physical-therapy-and-rehabilitation-science/phd-in-rehabilitation-science/how-to-apply.html).

Students in this program must meet the general requirements of the university including the research skills and responsible scholarship requirement (https://documents.ku.edu/policies/Graduate_Studies/Research_Skills_and_Responsible_Scholarship.htm) and fulfill the basic program requirements to receive the Ph.D. degree. The student must be enrolled in REHS 990 Dissertation in Rehabilitation Science the semester they defend the dissertation.

The basic program requirements include the following:

- Successful completion of a minimum of 51 credit hours of course work, including 21 credit hours of core courses, 8 credit hours of research tools courses, 12 credit hours of doctoral dissertation research, and 6 credit hours of cognate elective courses.
- Demonstration of skills necessary for conducting original research investigation by passing the qualifying examination, which usually takes place after a majority of the core and research tools course work has been completed.
- Demonstration of competence in the core areas of study by successfully completing the comprehensive examination.
- Satisfactory completion of a dissertation based on an original research work.
- Successful oral defense of the dissertation.

Research includes human and animal studies that promote an understanding of the pathophysiology of injury, disease, functional impairment, and associated disabilities and espouse the rationale for therapies that alleviate impaired human function.

At least 4 years of full-time study is usually needed to fulfill these requirements.