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.

Applications for this program are submitted online. Detailed instructions on how to apply are available on the Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science (http://www.kumc.edu/school-of-health-professions/physical-therapy-and-rehabilitation-science/phd-in-rehabilitation-science/how-to-apply.html) website. Students are admitted for the fall semester only. Applications for the fall semester must be received by February 1 for consideration.

Admission Requirements:

- A bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited institution is required and must be documented by submission of official transcript indicating the degree has been conferred before entering the program. A master’s or other advanced degree is preferable. Official transcripts for all courses taken at any institution are also required. Applicants are not required to be physical therapists or possess a degree in physical therapy. Applicants are encouraged to have a broad background in biological sciences, including anatomy, physiology, neuroscience, exercise science, biochemistry, genetics, molecular and cell biology, as well as statistics.

- Students with degrees from outside the U.S. may be subject to transcript evaluation indicating the degree is equivalent to a U.S. degree and meets the minimum cumulative grade-point average requirement.

- Applicants must possess a cumulative grade-point average of at least a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale for his or her bachelor’s degree program.

- Applicants who are not native speakers of English, whether domestic or international, must demonstrate they meet the minimum English proficiency requirement.

- A background check is required during the admission process; it may affect the student’s eligibility to enter the program.

- An official copy of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores is required and must be sent from Educational Testing Service to KU Medical Center using ETS institutional code 6895. Students must submit scores for Verbal Reasoning, Quantitative Reasoning and Analytical Writing sections of the GRE. Note: the GRE must have been taken within five (5) years of the first semester of enrollment in this program.

- A current resume or curriculum vitae is required and must include information on the applicant’s educational, professional, and research background. The following information will be critical to evaluate the applicant: research experience (including publications and abstracts), professional presentations, awards and honors, intellectual pursuits (continuing education, seminars attended, lectures, etc.), teaching/mentoring experiences and leadership roles.

- In the online application, a purpose of study will be submitted that provides a succinct explanation of relevant background information and experience indicated on the resume/curriculum vitae. Additionally, applicants are encouraged to identify research areas of interest they wish to pursue in the program. It is recommended, though not required, to identify one or more potential research mentors from the faculty of the Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science (http://www.kumc.edu/school-of-health-professions/physical-therapy-and-rehabilitation-science/our-faculty.html) whose research programs are related to the applicant’s field of interest.

- Three letters of recommendation are required. The recommendations should come from either a faculty member, advisor, employer or other person who is familiar with the applicant’s work and character and can comment meaningfully on the applicant’s performance in an academic and professional setting. At least one of the three letters of recommendation should come from the applicant’s current place of employment or academic program. Letters may not be obtained from family members, friends, etc.

Applicant will be assessed based on these requirements. After an applicant has been admitted, a program may defer an applicant’s admission for one year after which time the applicant must submit a new application.

Admission requirements are subject to change. In most cases, the catalog of the year student entered the program is used. Other years’ catalogs are available online. The program consists of coursework, research experience, and completion of a doctoral dissertation including its oral defense. Relevant prior graduate work is taken into consideration in setting up individual programs of study leading to the Ph.D. degree.

Degree Requirements:

- Degree requirements are normally completed within 4-5 years of admission to the program although a maximum of 8 years is allowed.

- Cumulative grade-point average (GPA) of at least a 3.0 for all KU graduate coursework.

- Successful completion of the University’s Research Skills and Responsible Scholarship (http://catalog.ku.edu/graduate-studies/kumc/#programstext) requirement prior to the semester the Oral Comprehensive Examination is scheduled.

- Successful completion of the following courses meets the Research Skills requirement:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REHS 856</td>
<td>Research Design and Methods I</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REHS 857</td>
<td>Research Design and Methods II</td>
<td>2</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- Successful completion of the following courses meets the Responsible Scholarship requirement:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REHS 856</td>
<td>Research Design and Methods I</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REHS 857</td>
<td>Research Design and Methods II</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRVM 853</td>
<td>Responsible Conduct of Research</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Successful completion of the Residence Requirement (http://catalog.ku.edu/graduate-studies/kumc/#programstext) prior to the semester the Oral Comprehensive Examination is scheduled. The
Successful completion of the Qualifying Examination. This examination takes place after the first year of full time course work. The goal of this examination is to assess that a doctoral aspirant has the necessary analytical, communication and writing skills to successfully complete a Ph.D. degree.

Successful completion of the Oral Comprehensive Examination (http://catalog.ku.edu/graduate-studies/kumc/#programstext). This examination is an oral defense of a dissertation proposal written in a research grant format. The following skills are assessed as a part of the examination: the ability to critically synthesize literature on a specific topic, identify gaps in knowledge and design a significant research question to address the gaps, execute an independent research project, understand and use methodology and data analysis techniques and anticipate experimental outcomes. Students are recognized as formal doctoral candidates after they have passed the comprehensive examination.

Successful completion of the Post-Comprehensive Enrollment (http://catalog.ku.edu/graduate-studies/kumc/#programstext) requirement.

Enrollment in a minimum of one (1) credit hour of REHS 990 Dissertation in Rehabilitation Science the semester the student will defend dissertation and graduate.

Successful completion of the Final Oral Examination (http://catalog.ku.edu/graduate-studies/kumc/#programstext) (dissertation defense). For this examination, the PhD candidate defends their written dissertation in an oral forum. The written dissertation consists of an introduction chapter, three experimental chapters (on average), and a chapter for the conclusions, clinical application and future directions. The dissertation should be composted at the level of a high quality scholarly work, with experimental chapters being suitable for peer reviewed publishing as separate manuscripts.

Successful Dissertation Submission and Publication (http://catalog.ku.edu/graduate-studies/kumc/#programstext) (according to Office of Graduate Studies policy).

Successful completion of the following core courses. The specific number of credit hours for REHS 870, REHS 873 and REHS 980 is determined in consultation with the student's academic advisor.

- Successful completion of a minimum of 9 credit hours of research tools courses as determined in consultation with the student’s academic advisor. BIOS 714, BIOS 720, and BIOS 730 or equivalents are mandatory.

### Code | Title | Hours
--- | --- | ---
REHS 760 | Introduction to Matlab Programming | 1
REHS 970 | Instrumented Analysis of Human Biomechanical Function | 3
BIOS 714 | Fundamentals of Biostatistics I | 3
BIOS 720 | Analysis of Variance | 3
BIOS 730 | Applied Linear Regression | 3
EPSY 710 | Introduction to Statistical Analysis | 3
EPSY 711 | Lab for Introduction to Statistical Analysis | 1
EPSY 810 | Regression and ANOVA: General Linear Models | 3

- Successful completion of a minimum of 6 credit hours of elective courses as determined in consultation with the student's academic advisor. Electives may be chosen from this list but are not limited to:

### Code | Title | Hours
--- | --- | ---
REHS 865 | Independent Study (The specific number of credit hours for this course is determined in consultation with the student's academic advisor.) | 1-3
REHS 884 | Motor Control and Learning | 3
REHS 886 | Musculoskeletal Rehabilitation | 3
REHS 887 | Neurorehabilitation | 3
HSES 805 | Laboratory Experiments and Analysis--Exercise Physiology | 3
HSES 810 | Advanced Exercise Physiology | 3
HSES 825 | Skeletal Muscle Physiology | 3
HSES 872 | Exercise and the Cardiovascular System | 3
NRSG 870 | Designing a Student Learning Environment | 3
NRSG 871 | Curriculum/Program Planning and Evaluation | 3
NRSG 873 | Teaching with Technologies | 3
NRSG 874 | Health Professions Educator Preceptorship | 3
PHSL 842 | Comprehensive Human Physiology | 5
PHSL 844 | Neurophysiology | 3
PHSL 846 | Advanced Neuroscience | 5
PRVM 868 | Biomedical Informatics Driven Clinical Research | 3

- Successful completion of a minimum of 12 credit hours of REHS 990 Dissertation in Rehabilitation Science. The specific number of credit hours for this course taken in a specific semester is determined in consultation with the student's academic advisor.

Degree requirements and course descriptions are subject to change. Any courses taken as an equivalent must be approved by the Graduate Director and the Office of Graduate Studies. In most cases, use the catalog of the year student entered the program. Other years’ catalogs—.

Students may enter this program beginning with the fall semester. This plan of study suggests a typical progression through the program.
Students will develop a specific plan of study in consultation with his or her academic advisor. Note: semester credit hours will vary based on elective courses taken.

### Typical Plan of Study

**Year 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Summer</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REHS 803</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>REHS 803 or 873</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>REHS 866</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>REHS 805</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>REHS 805</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>REHS 873</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REHS 856</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>REHS 857</td>
<td>2 Qualifying Examination must be taken before Year 2 Fall semester starts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>REHS 862</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>REHS 864</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>REHS 970</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>BIOS 720</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOS 714</td>
<td>3</td>
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| Total | 12 | 10 | 3 |

**Year 2**

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<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Summer</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REHS 805</td>
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<td>REHS 805</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>REHS 980</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REHS 884 (elective)</td>
<td>3 REHS 870 (may be taken any semester)</td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REHS 886 (elective)</td>
<td>3 REHS 887</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>REHS 980</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>REHS 889</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOS 730</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>REHS 980</td>
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<tr>
<td>GSMC 803</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PRVM 853</td>
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</table>

| Total | 13 | 9-11 | 3 |

**Year 3**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Summer</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REHS 805</td>
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<td>REHS 805</td>
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<td>REHS 980</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>REHS 980</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>REHS 980</td>
<td>5 Oral Comprehensive Examination must be taken before Year 4 Fall semester starts.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRSG 870 (elective)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

| Total | 6 | 6 | 3 |

**Year 4**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Summer</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REHS 990</td>
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<td>REHS 990</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>REHS 990</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total | 6 | 6 | 3 |

**Year 5**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Fall</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REHS 990</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>REHS 990</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Eligible for reduced enrollment if 18 hour postcomprehensive enrollment completed.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Final Oral Examination (dissertation defense) is taken if approved by committee to defend and graduate.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours 82-84**

### Technical Standards

The graduate of this program must have the knowledge and skills to function in a broad variety of clinical, research, academic and industrial settings. Although not all students will have the same experiences or require the same skills (some students may not work with laboratory chemicals or assist patients in transfers), it is still important that each student have the technical skills necessary, in case they are placed in that situation. Therefore, the following abilities and expectations must be met by all students of the program with or without reasonable accommodations.

1. **Essential Observational Requirements:**
   - The PhD student must be able to:
     - Observe and perform laboratory and/or clinical tests in which human subjects, chemical, and/or biological (body fluids, culture materials, and tissue sections) are tested for their physical attributes including, but not limited to, movement, force, texture, color, sound, odor, viscosity, immunological, microbiological and histochemical components.
     - Read and comprehend text, numbers, and graphs displayed in print and on video.
     - Perform comparative observations of text, movement, shapes, graphs, colors etc.

2. **Essential Movement Requirements:**
   - The PhD student must be able to:
     - Move freely and safely about a laboratory and clinic.
     - Lift a minimum of 25 pounds (depending on the PhD dissertation project chosen by the student, some projects may not require any lifting, while others may require a minimum of 25 pounds weight lifting).
     - Travel to numerous laboratory/clinical sites.
     - Perform moderately taxing continuous physical work.
     - Control equipment and adjust instruments to perform laboratory procedures.
     - Manipulate a computer keyboard.

3. **Essential Communication Requirements:**
   - The PhD student must be able to:
     - Comprehend technical and professional materials.
     - Follow verbal and written instructions.
     - Effectively, confidently, and sensitively converse with human research subjects.
     - Communicate effectively and efficiently with faculty members, fellow students, staff, and other members of research and health care community to convey information essential for studying and conducting research.

4. **Essential Intellectual Requirements:**
The PhD student must:

- Possess these intellectual skills: comprehension, measurement, mathematical calculations, problem solving, reasoning, integration, analysis, comparison, self-expression, and criticism.
- Be able to exercise sufficient judgment to recognize and correct performance deviations.

5. **Essential Behavioral Requirements:**

The PhD student must:

- Be able to manage the use of time and be able to systematize actions in order to complete professional and technical tasks within realistic constraints.
- Possess the emotional health necessary to effectively employ intellect and exercise appropriate judgment.
- Be able to provide professional and technical services while experiencing the stresses of heavy workloads, task-related uncertainty, emergent demands, and a distracting environment.
- Be flexible and creative and adapt to professional and technical change.
- Recognize potentially hazardous material, equipment, and situations and proceed safely in order to minimize risk of injury to human subjects, self, and other individuals.
- Support and promote the activities of fellow students and of health care and research professionals. Promotion of peers helps to furnish a team approach to learning, task completion, problem solving, and patient care.
- Be honest, compassionate, ethical, and responsible. The student must be forthright about errors or uncertainty. The student must be able to critically evaluate her or his own performance, accept constructive criticism, and look for ways to improve. The student must be able to evaluate the performance of fellow students and tactfully offer constructive comments.

It is the student’s responsibility to notify the department if there is any reason they cannot meet the expectations of students in the PhD in Rehabilitation Science program, with or without reasonable accommodations. Reasonable accommodation will be considered and may be made to qualified students who disclose a disability, so long as such accommodation does not significantly alter the essential requirements of the curriculum and the training program, or significantly affect the safety of others. Students may contact KU Office for Academic Accommodations (http://www.kumc.edu/student-services/academic-accommodation-services.html) to discuss accommodations.

**Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply to the program.** Applicants whose response indicates that they cannot meet one or more of the expectations will be reviewed further by the KU Office for Academic Accommodations (http://www.kumc.edu/student-services/academic-accommodation-services.html), with applicant and faculty input, to determine if any reasonable accommodations are possible to facilitate successful completion of the program requirements.