HEALTH AND HUMAN PERFORMANCE (MS)

Program Director: Dennis Koch, PhD

Faculty: Khalid Bibi, PhD, EP-C; Paul Childress, MS, CSCS; Patrick Gannon, PharmD; Elizabeth Greenwald, MS, EP-C, CSCS, CIC; Michael Guzda, MS, CSCS; Garry Ladd, DHSc; Gregory Reeds, EdD; Daniel Smith, PhD, CRC, NCC, LMHC, BCC; Kaitlyn Summers, MS, RD, CDE; Arthur Taft, PhD, RRT, FAARC; Melva Visher, MA, RHIA; Sheryl Warren, MS, RD.

Degree: Master of Science

Introduction

The Master of Science degree program in Health and Human Performance at Canisius College trains students in the areas of rehabilitative and preventive health, and gives students options to specialize in cardiac rehabilitation, health promotion, or strength and conditioning. This degree is appropriate for people who hope to work in corporate wellness, fitness training, clinical exercise physiology, human performance/strength and conditioning, or research settings. The program prepares students to practice in clinical settings as part of a health care team, or to work in exercise and health-promotion programs with apparently healthy or high-risk populations. This program also offers a solid platform to go on to doctoral studies. Finally, some students have found this program to be helpful in preparing for medical school or doctor of physical therapy programs.

Offered in a hybrid format that includes some online and some face-to-face classes, the 34 to 35 credit hour MS program offers students the choice between an internship and a research (thesis) experience, the latter a preparation for doctoral programs. For out-of-town students, all face-to-face courses required for graduation can be completed in 1 semester in Buffalo, and the rest of the curriculum can be completed from anywhere.

The curriculum will provide students with appropriate course work and field experiences to prepare for the American College of Sports Medicine’s Certified Personal Trainer (ACSM-CPT), Certified Exercise Physiologist (ACSM-EP), and Certified Clinical Exercise Physiologist (ACSM-CEP) certification exams. There is also coursework geared towards preparing students for the Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist (CSCS) exam offered by the National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA).

Admission

Applications are processed on a rolling basis and are considered as they are received for each term. We recommend submitting all materials required for admission at least 30 days prior to the start of the term you wish to begin. Earlier application will ensure the best scheduling options, as some course sections may become unavailable. Terms are eight weeks in length, and students may start in the fall, spring, or summer semesters. The online application can be submitted with no application fee.

To qualify for admission, all students must:

- Complete the graduate admissions application.
- Complete a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution of higher learning with a minimum GPA of 2.70.
- Submit one (1) official undergraduate transcript from each institution attended with the degree posted from the degree-granting institution.
- Submit two (2) letters of recommendation.
- Provide evidence of sufficient college-level coursework in the areas of anatomy and physiology and exercise physiology. Students who do not meet prerequisites may be required to complete additional coursework.
- Provide a statement of purpose of approximately 500 words explaining your motivation for pursuing the MS in Health and Human Performance at Canisius College. The statement may be submitted in the essay section of the graduate application.

Transfer credit: Previous graduate level transfer credits will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Program Details

Academic Standing

Students must maintain a GPA of 3.00 to graduate from the program. If the GPA drops below 3.00, the student will be placed on academic probation. If the student does not bring his/her cumulative GPA above 3.00 by the end of the next term, the student may be dismissed from the program. A student may also be academically dismissed from the program by receiving more than 2 grades below B-. More information can be found at the program website (https://www.canisius.edu/academics/programs/health-human-performance/).

Curriculum

Total credit hours = 34 or 35, depending on specialty track chosen. Every student must complete 19 credit hours of core courses, each of the courses in one (1) of the specialty tracks, and 6 credit hours of internship or thesis.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALH 502</td>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HHP 506</td>
<td>Epidemiology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALH 520</td>
<td>Exercise Prescription</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>HHP 521</td>
<td>Exercise Testing</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ALH 582</td>
<td>Functional Conditioning</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ALH 631</td>
<td>Research Methods in Allied Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALH 632</td>
<td>Data Analysis and Statistics</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Specialty Track</td>
<td>9-10</td>
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</tbody>
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Additional Requirements

Select one of the following:

- ALH 689 or ALH 699
- HHP 603 or HHP 604

Total Credits = 34-35

1 Students will receive a grace period of 1 term to complete the thesis without having to register for ALH 700. However, any student who has not completed their final thesis/project by the end of the grace period will be registered for the 1-credit hour course, ALH 700 for that semester, and then for each subsequent semester until the project/thesis is complete.
Students will have the opportunity to:

- Evaluate fitness, and prescribe exercise.
- Safely and effectively assess patient status.

Learning Goal #2: Degree candidates in the M.S. program in Health and Human Performance will effectively assess patient status.

Learning Goal #3: Degree candidates in the M.S. program in Health and Human Performance will demonstrate appropriate dispositions in a professional setting.

Learning Goal #4: Degree candidates in the M.S. program in Health and Human Performance will demonstrate information literacy and critical thinking skills within their field of study.

Courses

In addition to the courses listed below, courses for this program with the Allied Health (ALH) prefix can be found on the Professional Studies page (http://catalog.canisius.edu/graduate/school-education-human-services/professional-studies/#courselistext).

- HHP 506 Epidemiology 1-2 Credits
  - The study of the distribution and determinants of health related states or events in a population and applications to control specific health problems. Emphasis will be placed on discussing evidence for the role of lifestyle choices in determining long-term health and chronic disease risk.
  - Offered: every fall, online only.

- HHP 521 Exercise Testing 3 Credits
  - Didactic instruction and practical training will be used to educate students in the various methodologies used to assess adult health and fitness. Practical experiences include the assessment of cardiovascular risk, coronary artery disease risk stratification, body composition assessment, functional capacity assessment and muscular fitness assessment.
  - Offered: every spring.

- HHP 565 Electrocardiography and Clinical Stress Testing 4 Credits
  - This course is designed to present the theoretical principles of electrocardiography. Topics include a review of cardiac physiology including the normal sequence of cardiac muscle depolarization and repolarization, determination of heart rate and rhythm, electrical axis and the diagnosis of cardiac rhythm in 12-lead ECG. Special emphasis will be placed on myocardial ischemia, myocardial infarction, treatment and clinical evaluation. Pharmacological interventions and the impact of the ECG, as well as exercise will be discussed. There will also be a laboratory component in which students will gain hands-on practical experience in ECG electrode placement and clinical stress testing, culminating in a practical exam in which students are expected to run an ECG stress test.
  - Offered: every spring.
HHP 583 Advanced Movement Analysis  
3 Credits
In this course, students will learn how to perform functional movement screens to evaluate movement patterns. Students will also learn how to interpret and analyze movement patterns to identify muscular weaknesses/imbalances as well as areas where flexibility limits proper execution of a movement. Finally, students will learn to customize an exercise/stretching routine to address the limitations of the athlete to both improve their athletic performance and reduce the risk of injury.
Prerequisite: ALH 582.
Offered: every spring.

HHP 603 Internship I  
3 Credits
A supervised part-time internship in clinical and non-clinical exercise programs or in clinical exercise testing laboratories. Includes clinical exercise testing, exercise prescription and/or exercise leadership experiences.
Requires students to complete a minimum of 120 hours.
Prerequisite: permission of program director & associate dean.
Offered: fall, spring & summer.

HHP 604 Internship II  
3 Credits
Continues HHP 603.
Prerequisite: HHP 603 & permission of program director.
Offered: fall, spring & summer.