Department of Physical Therapy

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The Department of Physical Therapy, a fully accredited program since 1967, offers an entry level Doctor of Physical Therapy. In 2011, we established a unique interdisciplinary PhD in Rehabilitation Science program in partnership with UAB Occupational Therapy.

We are housed in a state-of-the-art facility within a nationally ranked research-focused university. The department's research laboratories focus on clinically relevant studies of human motion and exercise physiology. Students and faculty participate in a variety of education and research endeavors throughout the UAB campus in collaboration with campus venues such as the UAB Research Collaborative, Center for Engagement in Disability Health and Rehabilitation Sciences (CEDHARS), National Center on Health, Physical Activity, and Disability (NCHPAD), Center for Exercise Medicine, and the Integrative Center for Aging Research.

Disability Studies and Rehabilitation Science

Program Director: Christopher Hurt, PhD

The central mission of the Disability Studies and Rehabilitation Science undergraduate major is to provide a vibrant student body with a diverse educational background toward maximizing academic, commercial and/or government employment opportunities. The Disability Studies and Rehabilitation Science major provides focus on disability inclusion science as well as prevention, health promotion, and wellness integrated across the entire curriculum. Our focus on disability inclusion science will prepare our graduates to be advocates for individuals with disability and chronic conditions. Our focus on prevention, health promotion and wellness will prepare our graduates to empower individuals with disability and chronic disease/s to lead healthier lifestyles. The Disability Studies and Rehabilitation Science curriculum prepares students for direct entry into rehabilitation-related professions such as therapeutic recreation, rehabilitation through health promotion or community health as well as health related professional degrees such as physical/occupational therapy or research related graduate degrees centered around rehabilitation science.

Disability Studies and Rehabilitation Science program leverages the significant expertise of faculty in the Department of Physical Therapy as well as throughout the UAB campus in disability studies, mobility, health promotion, and continuum and transitional care. Disability Studies and Rehabilitation Science program builds on the clinical practices and research strengths of our highly ranked Doctorate of Physical Therapy program. Students in the Disability Studies and Rehabilitation Science program will have a strong academic foundation as well as opportunities to be exposed to clinical and research related programming through seminars and educational activities through the Center for Engagement in Disability Health and Rehabilitation Sciences and other UAB Research Centers including the Center for Exercise Medicine, Integrated Center for Aging Research, and the Center for Clinical and Translational Science, for example.

Program Admission

The UAB Office of Undergraduate Admissions accepts applications to the Disability Studies and Rehabilitation Science program at any time. Students may begin the program at the start of any full academic term. Information and the online application for freshman, transfer, returning, and non-traditional admissions is available at https://www.uab.edu/students/admissions/apply.

- Students intending to enroll in the Disability Studies and Rehabilitation Science program must meet all undergraduate admission and academic requirements for UAB and the School of Health Professions.
- Entering freshmen are admitted directly to the Disability Studies and Rehabilitation Science program through the UAB Office of Undergraduate Admissions. Admission to the program from high school requires graduation from an accredited high school with a grade point average (GPA) of 2.75 or higher on a 4.0 scale. Transfer admissions from another college or university and UAB students changing their declared major to Disability Studies and Rehabilitation Science must have an overall GPA of 2.75 or higher and an institutional GPA of 2.75 or higher, if applicable.

Academic Requirements

The minimum overall and institutional GPA required for admission to the program (2.75) must be maintained for continued enrollment throughout the program. A student whose GPA falls below the minimum will be allowed two semesters to recover before dismissal from the major. A student who is dismissed from the Disability Studies and Rehabilitation Science major in such a manner may reapply once the student has raised his or her overall and institutional GPA to the program or track minimum. A letter grade of C or higher is required for each course in the program curriculum.

Bachelor of Science in Disability Studies and Rehabilitation Science

Requirements		Hours
Blazer Core Curriculum		**41**
HRP 101	Experience the University Transition	
MA 106	Pre-Calculus Trigonometry	
BY 123	Introductory Biology I	
PH 201 & 201L	College Physics I and College Physics Laboratory I	
Lower Level		
BY 115	Human Anatomy	4
BY 116	Introductory Human Physiology	4
BY 124	Introductory Biology II	4
CH 115 & CH 116	General Chemistry I and General Chemistry I Laboratory	4
CH 117 & CH 118	General Chemistry II and General Chemistry II Laboratory	4
HCM 350	Medical Terminology for Health Professionals	3
PH 202 & 202L	College Physics II and College Physics Laboratory II	4
MA 180	Introduction to Statistics	3
Major Coursework		
RHB 210	Introduction to Rehabilitation Science	3

RHB 220	Rehabilitation and Healthcare in the US	3
RHB 320	Environmental and Community Considerations of Mobility	3
RHB 330	Adapted Mobility and Exercise Interventions	3
RHB 340	Living with Disability	3
RHB 360	Scientific Inquiry	3
RHB 370	Tests and Measures in Rehabilitation Science	3
RHB 410	Aging in the Community	3
RHB 430	Current Trends in Rehabilitation Science	3
RHB 460	Leadership/Lifelong Learning and Rehabilitation Science	3
RHB 490	Quantitative Biomechanics of Injury and Rehabilitation	3
RHB 495	Senior Capstone for Rehabilitation Science	3
General Electives		**13**
Total Hours		**120**

Contact Information

Disability Studies and Rehabilitation Science
Department of Physical Therapy
School of Health Professions
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Proposed Program of Study for a Major in Disability Studies and Rehabilitation Science

Please note this is an example plan of study and it may be adjusted to meet students specific needs.

Freshman

First Term	Hours	Second Term	Hours
HRP 101	3	Blazer Core: Writing	3
Blazer Core: Writing	3	Blazer Core: Academic Foundations	3
Blazer Core: Academic Foundations	3	BY 123	4
MA 106	3	CH 117 & CH 118	4
CH 115 & CH 116	4		
	16		**14**

Sophomore

First Term	Hours	Second Term	Hours
BY 115	4	BY 116	4
PH 201	4	PH 202	4
BY 124	4	Blazer Core: Thinking Broadly	3
RHB 210	3	Blazer Core: City as a Classroom	3
		RHB 220	3
	15		**17**

Junior

First Term	Hours	Second Term	Hours
RHB 320	3	Blazer Core: Thinking Broadly	3
RHB 330	3	RHB Elective	3
RHB 340	3	HCM 350	3
MA 180	3	RHB 360	3
Blazer Core: Thinking Broadly	3	RHB 370	3
	15		**15**

Senior

First Term	Hours	Second Term	Hours
Blazer Core: Thinking Broadly	3	RHB Elective	3
RHB Elective	4	RHB Elective	3
RHB 410	3	RHB 460	3
RHB 430	3	RHB 490	3
		RHB 495	3
	13		**15**

Total credit hours: 120

Disability Studies and Rehabilitation Science Minor

Requirements		Hours
RHB 210	Introduction to Rehabilitation Science	3
RHB 220	Rehabilitation and Healthcare in the US	3
Disability Inclusion Science & Advocacy (Choose one)		**3**
RHB 320	Environmental and Community Considerations of Mobility	
RHB 340	Living with Disability	
RHB 460	Leadership/Lifelong Learning and Rehabilitation Science	
Scientific Literacy (Choose one)		**3**
RHB 360	Scientific Inquiry	
RHB 430	Current Trends in Rehabilitation Science	
RHB 370	Tests and Measures in Rehabilitation Science	
Disability Health & Function (Choose one)		**3**
RHB 330	Adapted Mobility and Exercise Interventions	
RHB 410	Aging in the Community	
RHB 490	Quantitative Biomechanics of Injury and Rehabilitation	
Additional course from one of the three study areas above		**3**
Total Hours		**18**

Courses

RHB 210. Introduction to Rehabilitation Science. 3 Hours.
Encapsulating science from the level of the cell and body structure to the person, family, community and society level, rehabilitation science serves as a foundation and the body of knowledge by which individuals may develop and evaluate current and emerging approaches to enhancing enablement and minimizing disability.

RHB 220. Rehabilitation and Healthcare in the US. 3 Hours.
Overview of history of rehabilitation and healthcare in the United States; impact of societal events and factors on the evolution of US healthcare; growth of specific health disciplines that contribute to or support rehabilitation healthcare teams.

RHB 320. Environmental and Community Considerations of Mobility. 3 Hours.
Factors that promote and hinder mobility for individuals with chronic disease and disability; issues concerning accessibility, safety, transportation, and occupation; resources, services, legal rights and policy issues that promote mobility. Course will include observational experiences in the community.

RHB 330. Adapted Mobility and Exercise Interventions. 3 Hours.
Health benefits of physical activity for people with disabilities; evidence-based exercise prescription, including strengthening, aerobic, and balance training; theory-driven physical activity promotion including behavioral coaching and intervention strategies to overcome barriers and support success.
Prerequisites: BY 115 [Min Grade: C] and BY 116 [Min Grade: C](Can be taken Concurrently)

RHB 340. Living with Disability. 3 Hours.
Psychosocial and health issues faced by individuals with disabilities; individual and societal views of people with disabilities; historical and current trends concerning disability rights. Resources, services, legal rights, and policy issues for people with disability that promote health, equity and inclusion.

RHB 360. Scientific Inquiry. 3 Hours.
Nature of research and application of the scientific approach to rehabilitation science topics; research design and method, interpretation of research findings and ethical considerations.
Prerequisites: MA 180 [Min Grade: C](Can be taken Concurrently)

RHB 370. Tests and Measures in Rehabilitation Science. 3 Hours.
Introduction to and application of tests and measures used to assess rehabilitation needs and outcomes related to body function and structure, activities, and participation, and physical, mental, and social issues; measurement theory and psychometric qualities.
Prerequisites: RHB 210 [Min Grade: C] and BY 115 [Min Grade: C](Can be taken Concurrently) and BY 116 [Min Grade: C](Can be taken Concurrently)

RHB 400. Introduction to Rehabilitation Science. 3 Hours.
Encapsulating science from the level of the cell and body structure to the person, family, community and society level, rehabilitation science serves as a foundation and the body of knowledge by which individuals may develop and evaluate current and emerging approaches to enhancing enablement and minimizing disability.

RHB 410. Aging in the Community. 3 Hours.
Overview of aging-related challenges to healthy living and function; individual and societal views of older adults along with historical and current trends concerning their rights. Principles for optimal aging including physical activity, nutrition, social function, and accessibility. Resources, services, legal rights and policy issues for older adults that promote health, equity and inclusion.
Prerequisites: RHB 320 [Min Grade: C](Can be taken Concurrently) and RHB 340 [Min Grade: C](Can be taken Concurrently)

RHB 430. Current Trends in Rehabilitation Science. 3 Hours.
Seminar course using speakers from within and outside of UAB will examine current issues/topics influencing rehabilitation science.

RHB 460. Leadership/Lifelong Learning and Rehabilitation Science. 3 Hours.
Personal leadership skills that target leading oneself, leading others, and leading change; effective self-directed skills for lifelong learning.
Prerequisites: RHB 210 [Min Grade: C]

RHB 475. Special Topics in Rehabilitation Sciences. 1-4 Hour.
Special Topics in Rehabilitation Sciences.

RHB 478. Special Topics in Rehabilitation Science. 1-4 Hour.
Exploration of current issues in Rehabilitation Science.

RHB 490. Quantitative Biomechanics of Injury and Rehabilitation. 3 Hours.
Material, mechanical, electrophysiological and energetic principles of human movement. Students will learn about the healthy non-impaired system and compare to systems impaired by injury or disability.
Prerequisites: PH 201 [Min Grade: C](Can be taken Concurrently) and BY 115 [Min Grade: C](Can be taken Concurrently) and BY 116 [Min Grade: C](Can be taken Concurrently)

RHB 495. Senior Capstone for Rehabilitation Science. 3-5 Hours.
This course summarizes, evaluates, and integrates coursework completed by students to assure optimal application in future employment and/or graduate studies, with content tailored to students' personal career plans and goals. Students engage in group and independent educational activities.