



Prevention Science Graduate Program

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Graduate Student Handbook

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HANDBOOK OVERVIEW

Welcome to the Prevention Science Graduate Program. This handbook will help you make the most of your experience as a student, acquaint you with the workings of our program, and clarify questions you might have about expectations or procedures.

While not exhaustive, this handbook is one of many resources you can consult when you have questions about the program. Other resources include your mentor, fellow students, your peer mentor, Program Coordinator, Program Director, Graduate and Professional Student Organization, and Human Resources.

Please note, the information that follows is based on the Prevention Science and Graduate School policies as of the date the handbook was updated. To ensure that you are following the most up-to-date requirements and procedures, check the [Prevention Science](#) and [Graduate School's websites](#) as you progress through the program.

Below are a few tips for using this handbook:

- The content is organized according to the typical progression through the Prevention Science program for a full-time student. When applicable, we provide guidance for part-time students; however, if you are a part-time student and/or a full-time WSU employee, please consult with your advisor and the "Part-time Student Tips & Tricks" in the [Appendix](#) for additional considerations.
- If you are using an electronic version of the handbook, you can navigate directly to a specific section of interest from the [Table of Contents](#) and through the hyperlinks.
- Hyperlinks to locations within the handbook and to external sites are in blue and underlined.
- The [Appendix](#) contains several helpful documents, including a list of important [websites](#), [sample curricula](#), and checklists for each of the major milestones: [Master's Thesis](#), [Preliminary Exam](#), and [Dissertation](#).
- Pay special attention to the information contained in the shaded boxes.
- Because this handbook is updated periodically, make sure you use the most recent version, which is posted on the Prevention Science [website](#).

Please note: The Graduate School establishes the minimum requirements for all graduate degrees. The Prevention Science Program may adopt additional program-specific requirements, including but not limited to coursework, credit-hour expectations, and examination procedures, provided that such requirements are consistent with Graduate School policies. In instances where apparent discrepancies arise between Graduate School and program requirements, the matter will be reviewed and resolved on a case-by-case basis by the appropriate program and Graduate School authorities.

PROGRAM INTRODUCTION

What is Prevention Science?

Prevention Science is an interdisciplinary field that applies basic research on individuals, families, and their communities to the development, evaluation, and dissemination of scientifically based programs to promote the physical, social, and psychological well-being of individuals and their families. Prevention scientists:

- Conduct basic research on risk and protective factors
- Design research-based prevention programs
- Evaluate programs under natural and controlled conditions
- Make recommendations for social policy and the improvement of existing programs.

Prevention Science Careers

Students with a doctoral degree in Prevention Science are well qualified for a range of positions in several professional settings. Graduates can work as program evaluators, research analysts, and administrators in government; for private research institutes (e.g., Rand Corporation), social service agencies, and consulting firms; as foundation program officers and grant evaluators; as tenure-track faculty members in departments of child development, communication, developmental psychology, educational psychology, family studies, human development, public health, nursing, sociology, and social work; as research associates and program coordinators for grant-funded projects; and as university extension faculty. Career opportunities in Prevention Science can be found at the [Society for Prevention Research](#).

Prevention Science Graduate Program at WSU

The Prevention Science Graduate Program is an interdisciplinary Ph.D. program involving the [Department of Human Development](#), the [College of Communication](#), the [College of Education](#), the [College of Nursing](#), the [College of Medicine](#), as well as the [Department of Psychology](#) and [WSU Extension](#). It involves faculty and students from the Pullman, Vancouver, Spokane, and Tri-Cities campuses and Extension. It is administrated by the Department of Human Development, with the Program Director being a faculty member in Human Development. Through coursework and research experiences, students are given numerous opportunities to engage in prevention-related outreach activities through our partnership with WSU Extension. Students are required to take courses across disciplines and to have faculty members from multiple disciplines on their M.S. and Ph.D. committees.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR



Dr. Sammy Perone is an Associate Professor of Human Development and the Prevention Science Program Director. Please contact him with any questions regarding the Prevention Science Graduate Program.

Office: 515 Johnson Tower

Email: sammy.perone@wsu.edu

Phone: 509-335-8659

PROGRAM COORDINATOR



Please contact Callee Daily if you have any administrative questions, including those related to registering for courses, Graduate School policies, forms, and procedures. All forms should be processed through the Program Coordinator.

Office: 501 Johnson Tower

Email: callee.beebe@wsu.edu

Phone: 509-335-8439

All Graduate School forms should be submitted to the Program Coordinator prior to being submitted to the Graduate School to (a) assure that they are correct, and (b) so that the Prevention Science program can maintain a record of their submission. For a list of the required forms by stage in the program and our paperwork submission protocol, please see the [Appendix](#).

The Program Coordinator will also assist students in notifying Prevention Science faculty and students about the date, time, and location of their proposal defense meetings (dissertation only) and final defense meetings (thesis and dissertation) at least 10 working days prior to the meeting. Only the Prevention Science faculty will be notified about the prelims defense meeting. To expedite this process, please email the meeting information to the Program Coordinator, who will email it to the appropriate listservs.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The curriculum for the Prevention Science Graduate Program is designed to ensure that students (a) receive broad, interdisciplinary training in prevention science; and (b) develop specialized expertise through the selection of electives, research, and outreach activities. Competencies are developed and evaluated through core coursework, thesis or dissertation research, and formal assessment during the preliminary examination process.

Graduates of this program will have the following competencies:

1. Demonstrated proficiency in theory and basic research on human development in the contexts of family, peers, school, and community.
2. An understanding of 1) individual, family, and environmental risk and protective factors and how they relate to optimal human development; and 2) the epidemiological approach to assessment of their prevalence.
3. The skills to conduct rigorous basic and/or applied research in prevention science, with a demonstrated mastery of scholarship and the ability to perform original research that advances knowledge in a specialized discipline, chosen in consultation with a student's committee.
4. The ability to apply theory and research findings to the design of programs that promote optimal development and prevent poor physical, social, and emotional outcomes.
5. The ability to design and conduct scientific tests of program efficacy and effectiveness.
6. The ability to conduct dissemination and implementation research and translate findings into practice to enhance the quality implementation, sustainment, and scalability of prevention programs, focusing on implementation, outcomes, dissemination cost, and sustainability (moving programs from research to practice).
7. Effective written and oral communication skills, enabling the effective dissemination of research findings to diverse audiences and influencing evidence-based policy decisions.
8. The ability to write successful grant and contract proposals to fund prevention science research and programming.
9. Knowledge of and experience with effective teaching and/or mentoring strategies from classroom to community contexts.
10. Proficiency in quantitative and qualitative research designs, methods, measures, and outcomes for application in a variety of settings.

ADVISING AND COMMITTEES

The advisor-advisee relationship is a critical dimension of your graduate studies. You need to find someone with whom you can work well, who is interested in your field of study, and who has the expertise necessary to guide you successfully through the thesis and dissertation process. The same advisor might serve as the chairperson of both the M.S. and Ph.D. committees, or a student may have a different advisor for the thesis and dissertation. If a Prevention Science faculty member with a clinical appointment chairs a committee, he/she/they must co-chair the committee with a tenure-track member of the Prevention Science faculty.

When you enter the graduate program, you will be assigned an advisor. This assignment is based on both the perceived match between student and advisor interests and advisor availability. If, however, you realize over time that a switch in advisors might make sense, this can easily be done. To initiate this process, speak with your advisor and the Prevention Science Program Director.

As soon as you have an idea of your thesis or dissertation research topic, you should form a Thesis or Ph.D. Committee. Students are required to have faculty members from multiple disciplines on their M.S. and Ph.D. committees. The M.S. and Ph.D. committees are responsible for advising your [Program of Study](#) and evaluating your progress toward completion of the program, thesis, and/or dissertation. All committees must be approved by the Prevention Science Program Director. See the [Master's Thesis](#) and [Preliminary Doctoral Exam](#) sections below for more details.

Members of the committees can be:

- 1) Members of the Prevention Science Graduate Faculty – for a current list, see the Prevention Science [website](#).
- 2) Members of other graduate programs at WSU; or
- 3) Other individuals with the appropriate training and expertise who are approved by the Prevention Science Program Director, and in some cases, the Dean of the Graduate School.

All committees are defined by the individuals listed on your [Program of Study](#): you must have one program of study for your M.S. and one for your PhD. If you have to change either committee after filing the Program of Study, you can do so by submitting a Committee Change form, which can be found on the Graduate School [web-site](#).

Remember, all Graduate School forms should be submitted to the Program Coordinator, who will then submit them to the Graduate School.

We encourage students to consider faculty members from various WSU locations across the state (e.g., regional campuses, research and extension centers, and county extension offices). These individuals often bring a wealth of relevant expertise and experience to graduate student committees. Specific requirements for graduate committee members not on the Prevention Science Graduate Faculty are described in the following excerpt from the Prevention Science Graduate Program Bylaws:

1. **Individual Committee Members Internal to WSU (Members of the Graduate Faculty of other Ph.D. Programs):** Faculty members not officially participating as Graduate Faculty within Prevention Science (for example, a faculty member from another WSU program) may serve on graduate committees for graduate students as long as the faculty member is a member of the Graduate Faculty in his or her own program or discipline and his or her committee appointment is approved by the Program Director of the Prevention Science Ph.D. program.
2. **Individual Committee Members Internal to WSU (Non-PrevSci faculty with a Ph.D. at WSU):** Faculty members not officially participating as Graduate Faculty within Prevention Science and not a member of another graduate faculty, (for example, county-based Extension faculty, clinical faculty from another WSU program), may serve on a Master's graduate committee; faculty with a Ph.D. or equivalent can serve on a doctoral committee.
3. **External Individual Committee Members:** Individuals outside of WSU not officially participating as a Graduate Faculty member in any graduate program at WSU (e.g., a faculty member from another university or a research entity) may be approved to serve as a thesis/dissertation committee member for an individual student on a case-by-case basis. The committee chair for that student should forward the name and curriculum vitae of the desired committee member to the Prevention Science Program Director. With the Program Director's approval, the nomination is forwarded to the Dean of the Graduate School for final approval.

PREVENTION SCIENCE COLLOQUIUM

The Prevention Science graduate program hosts a colloquium series throughout the academic year. It is held on Fridays for one hour and includes research and professional development talks from faculty, graduate students, and invited external guests. The colloquium contributes to the development of graduate students' skills and knowledge in the field, and therefore, **regular attendance is required for all full-time Prevention Science Ph.D. students unless they have an advisor-approved academic or work conflict at the time of the colloquium. Part-time students are also encouraged to attend the colloquium series as much as their schedule allows.** All Prevention Science faculty are

strongly encouraged to attend.

The colloquium is an excellent opportunity to build community among Prevention Science students and faculty, and to learn about ongoing research. Our learning community depends on meaningful engagement across both in-person and virtual spaces. In the same way that we would see and interact with one another in a physical classroom or meeting room, participants joining remotely are expected to have their cameras on during classes, meetings, colloquia, and other program events. Visible presence helps create a lively, connected, and collaborative environment that supports relationship-building, discussion, and a strong sense of community.

ASSISTANTSHIPS

Research assistantships (RA) and teaching assistantships (TA), if offered to full-time students, are typically provided by the department of the student's advisor, not the Prevention Science program. Therefore, you should consult with the appropriate department for further information on RA and TA opportunities, including specific duties and responsibilities. Students may also apply for Graduate assistantships (GA), which are offered by other WSU entities (e.g., WSU Center for Civic Engagement, Health Clinic). See the [finances page](#) at the Graduate School for more information.

Our goal is to fund students who come in with their Masters for up to 3 years and for those coming in with their Bachelor's for up to 5 years. **However, assistantships are not guaranteed, as they are contingent on funding availability and student progress in the program.** Student progress is assessed annually (e.g., annual review) as well as by semester (e.g., satisfactory progress in PREV_SCI 700 and 800-level credits).

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT

Out-of-state students on research, teaching, or graduate assistantships, upon joining the graduate program will receive an out-of-state tuition waiver during their first year of study. During this time, out-of-state students must establish Washington State residency by living in the state of Washington for one year and then submitting the paperwork to establish residency by the 30th day of classes in the fall semester of their second year. International students on assistantships cannot establish residency, so they will receive an out-of-state waiver for their entire time in the Ph.D. program. Please see the [residency questionnaire](#) for more information.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM POLICIES

Although the Prevention Science faculty expects all students who enter the program to succeed in their academic pursuits, it is necessary to have policies regarding continuance in the program and a process for evaluating student progress.

In general, Graduate School policies establish the minimum institutional standards, while program-specific requirements may impose additional or more specialized expectations. When discrepancies arise, the program's requirements will typically take precedence, provided they meet or exceed Graduate School standards. In situations where interpretation or application is unclear, discrepancies should be addressed on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the student's advisor, the Graduate Program Director, and the program coordinator. Clear guidance should be provided to students and faculty to ensure consistent interpretation and application of these policies.

Progress Toward Degree

Continuance in the Prevention Science program is contingent on making satisfactory progress toward the degree as determined by the Graduate School, the Prevention Science Graduate Program Committee (i.e., Steering Committee), and the student's advisor. Grounds for termination of participation in the graduate program include, but are not limited to, the following:

- **Failure to make satisfactory progress.**

Satisfactory progress is defined as:

- Maintaining a "B" average. Students who fail to maintain an average of 3.0 will be placed on probation.
- Completing any "Incomplete" grades within one semester.
- Completing 800-level credits with Satisfactory Performance (i.e., receiving no more than 1 Unsatisfactory Performance ratings)
- For full-time students:
 - Completing requirements for the Ph.D. within 5 years.
- For part-time students:
 - Completing requirements by the Graduate School requirements (see note below)

- **Failure to actively pursue the degree.**

- Full-time students are expected to enroll in a full-semester course load (minimum of 10 credits) during the fall and spring semesters.
- Part-time students are expected to enroll in a minimum of 3 credits (recommended 6 credits) during the fall and spring semesters.
- Receiving 2 or more semesters of "Unsatisfactory Performance" ratings in 800-level credits.

- **Failure to remove deficiencies.**

- Provisional Admittance: Students who have been provisionally admitted must satisfy provisions within the prescribed period.
- Academic Probation: Students who have been placed on academic probation (e.g., due to low GPA) must meet probationary criteria for continuance as determined by the Prevention Science program on a case-by-case basis.
- Students who have received 2 or more semesters of “Unsatisfactory Performance” ratings in 800-level credits must satisfy a remediation plan, developed by advisor and/or Program Director, within the prescribed period.

Please note: It is also important to be aware of the Graduate School requirements. Keep the following deadlines in mind as you plan your next steps to finish your dissertation.

- The maximum time allowed for completion of a master's degree is 6 years from the beginning date of the earliest course applied toward the degree. For additional details, see the Graduate School Policies and Procedures page, [Chapter 7](#)
- The maximum time allowed for completion of a doctoral degree is 10 years from the beginning date of the earliest course applied toward the degree. For additional details, see the Graduate School Policies and Procedures page, [Chapter 8](#)
- All requirements for the degree, including defense of the dissertation, must be completed within four years of the date of the satisfactory completion of the preliminary examination. However, the courses on the program of study remain valid only for 10 years from the earliest date of the course(s) applied toward the degree. It is imperative that students work closely with their programs to develop a timeline for completion that successfully accommodates both of these deadlines. At least four months must elapse between preliminary and final examinations for doctoral degrees.

Evaluation of Student Progress

You are required to complete a self-evaluation each year (i.e., Annual Student Review), which captures five domains:

- Course Progress
- Progress Toward Degree Milestones
- Professional Development
- Financial Support
- Additional Documents
 - professional accomplishments statement of your academic and professional growth and involvement
 - up-to-date curriculum vitae (CV)

This evaluation helps you reflect on your own progress and goals and aids the program in assessing each student's progress toward their degree. Student evaluations

are based upon students' performance in their classes, their research, and their assistantship. To assist with this, your advisor, research/teaching assistant mentors, and faculty instructors will complete an evaluation of your performance.

Please note that data from the Annual Student Review survey, in addition to supervisors' feedback and review comments, may inform decisions related to funding for the next academic year.

A CV template can be found in the forms folder on the Prevention Science PhD Student Resources shared server. You should regularly update your CV with your professional accomplishments, including publications, conference presentations, service (e.g., PSGSO), and teaching (e.g., mentoring undergraduates, teaching assistantships).

When directed by the Prevention Science Program Director, you should complete the self-evaluation form, update your CV, and meet with your advisor to talk about your progress. During this meeting:

- Your advisor will indicate on the Evaluation of Progress Toward Degree Form whether you are making satisfactory progress in the program or if they have some concerns about your progress.
- You and your advisor will discuss and agree on goals for the next academic year.

The Program Director will bring the signed evaluation forms to a meeting of the Prevention Science Graduate Program Committee (i.e., Steering Committee). The committee will discuss any students not making satisfactory progress or for whom there are some concerns (based on assessments from the advisor, the Program Director, or another Prevention Science faculty member), and they will outline specific expectations for these students' future progress and a time frame for meeting these expectations.

After the meeting, the Program Director will send each Prevention Science graduate student a letter informing them of the Graduate Committee's assessment of his/her progress (i.e., satisfactory, unsatisfactory, or some concerns). If you are not making satisfactory progress (or there are some concerns), the letter will outline specific expectations for your progress and a time frame for meeting these expectations.

Student Grievance Policies

Should a graduate student have any grievances regarding the program or their graduate experience, they should discuss this with the Program Director (or another trusted faculty member). The director will advise the student on formal grievance procedures should such steps be necessary.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS & TIMELINE

To earn a Ph.D. in Prevention Science, you must:

- 1) Complete the [required courses](#),
- 2) Complete and successfully defend your [Master's Thesis](#),
- 3) Complete and successfully defend your [Preliminary Exam](#), and
- 4) Complete and successfully defend your [Doctoral Dissertation](#).

Below is a list of program milestones to be completed in route to your degree in approximately the order they should be completed, which may differ based on the individual student's status (e.g., transferred master's thesis, part-time status). A detailed [recommended timeline](#) is provided in the Appendix.

Program Milestones

MS Thesis Topic Decided

MS Thesis Committee Formed

MS Program of Study Submitted to Graduate School

MS Thesis Proposal Meeting Scheduled

MS Thesis Proposal Successfully Defended

IRB Application Submitted for MS Thesis

MS Thesis Data Collected and/or Analyzed

MS Thesis Defense Meeting Scheduled

MS Thesis Successfully Defended

PhD Committee Formed (typically this is the same committee for the Preliminary Exam)

PhD Program of Study Submitted to Graduate School

Core Prevention Science Courses Completed

Preliminary Exam Proposal Submitted to Director

Preliminary Exam Proposal Approved

Preliminary Exam Successfully Completed

PhD Dissertation Topic Decided

PhD Dissertation Proposal Meeting Scheduled

PhD Dissertation Proposal Successfully Defended

IRB Application Submitted for PhD Dissertation

PhD Dissertation Data Collected and/or Analyzed

PhD Dissertation Defense Meeting Scheduled

PhD Dissertation Successfully Defended

1. Course Requirements

CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

Students on assistantships must maintain full-time enrollment (minimum 10 credits; average is 10-12 credits per semester). Part-time students must be registered for at least 2 credits per semester. You will consult with your advisor each semester before determining which class(es) you take. Also, see the [Schedule of Classes](#) and [University Catalog](#) for more detailed information, including when the course is typically offered.

Over the course of your degree(s), you must meet the following credit requirements. See Appendix for a [sample curriculum](#) demonstrating one way to fulfill these requirements.

Requirements for completing the M.S. degree (on the way to your Ph.D.) are:

- 18 core curriculum credits
- 6 elective credits
- 6 thesis credits, minimum (i.e., PREV_SCI 700)
 - These credits will apply only to the M.S. degree and will not count toward the 72 hours required for the Ph.D. *For this reason, it is highly recommended that students do NOT sign up for more than 6 hours of PREV_SCI 700 during their time in the program.*

30 credits total (24 of which must be graded credits – i.e., not “Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory”) to earn a M.S. in Prevention Science

Requirements for completing the Ph.D. degree are:

- 25-27 core curriculum credits (as described below in [Table 1](#)) / 28-31 core curriculum credits beginning academic year 2022-2023
- 20 dissertation credits, minimum (i.e., PREV_SCI 800)
- 27 electives or other credits / 24 electives or other credits beginning academic year 2022-2023

72 credits total (in addition to your PREV_SCI 700 credits) to earn a Ph.D. in Prevention Science

Additional Notes & Recommendations for 600, 700, and 800-level credits:

- For all 600, 700, and 800-level credits, students must identify a specific faculty supervisor. When they register, they will be asked to choose which “section” of 600, 700, or 800-level credits they are enrolling in. This is where you will indicate the specific faculty member who is supervising (and therefore determining a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grade for those credits) for your work related to those credits. **Students and faculty are expected to complete the Template**

agreement each semester. This [template](#) can be found in the forms folder on the Prevention Science PhD Student Resources shared server.

- When to use PREV_SCI 600, 700, or 800-level credits?
 - 600 credits should be used when students are completing an independent study project with a specific faculty member. For example, if you are working with an HD faculty member to collect, analyze, and/or write up data from a research project that is separate from your thesis/dissertation research, you may want to register for HD 600 credits.
 - 700 credits should be used when students are working toward the completion of their Master's Thesis. Typically, students register for 1-2 PREV_SCI 700 credits in each of their first 4 semesters. In total, you must complete at least 6 PREV_SCI 700 credits to receive your M.S. in Prevention Science. Please see above and the [Master's Thesis](#) section for additional details and requirements about 700 credits.
 - 800 credits should be used when students are working toward the completion of their Dissertation. Typically, after students complete their Master's Thesis, and begin preparation for their Prelims exam, they will register for 3-4 800 credits in each semester until they graduate. In total, you must complete at least 20 PREV_SCI 800 credits to receive your Ph.D. in Prevention Science. Please see above and the [Prelims](#) and [Dissertation](#) sections for additional details and requirements about 800 credits.

CORE CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

[Table 1](#) summarizes the required courses making up the Prevention Science curriculum. The range of options within the required curriculum makes it easy for a student entering from any of the disciplines to pursue the Ph.D. and to tailor their program of study to their area of interest. See the [Appendix](#) for [sample curricula](#).

There are three core competency areas:

- 1) Developmental Epidemiology and Public Health
- 2) Research Methodology & Statistics
- 3) Program Development, Implementation, and Institutionalization

Over the course of your degree, you must take a core of 28-31 graded credits in these areas, and you must take classes in at least three disciplines (e.g., Communication, Education, Human Development, and/or Nursing). You should take additional electives as well.

Table 1. Prevention Science Core Curriculum. For each core area, choose one class from each category*

Core Area 1. Developmental Epidemiology and Public Health

1A. Theoretical Foundations

PrevSci 511 Introduction to Prevention Science

1B. Family Relationships

HD 550 Seminar on Family Relationships

NURS 414 Child and Family Health: Theory

1C. Development

HD 560 Child Development

HD 520 Adolescent Development

HD 570 Adult Development & Aging

Core Area 2. Research Methods and Statistics

2A. Research Methods

PrevSci 513 Research Methods in Prevention Science

2B1. Methods 1: Quantitative

EdPsych 508 Educational Statistics

Nurs 527 Association, Group Difference & Regression Techniques for Health Services

Psych 511 Analysis of Variance and Experimental Design

2B2. Methods 1: Qualitative

EdPsych 507 Foundations of Qualitative Research

2C. Methods 2

EdRes 564 Qualitative Research

EdRes 565 Quantitative Research

Nurs 528 Multivariate Statistical Techniques for Health Sciences

Psych 512 Regression & Quasi-Experimental Design

Core Area 3. Program Development, Implementation, and Evaluation

3A. Program Development

PrevSci 535 Program Development in Prevention Science
(formerly Effective Prevention Strategies I)

3B. Program Implementation

PrevSci 538: Dissemination & Implementation Science
(formerly Program Implementation)

3C. Program Evaluation

PrevSci 540 Program Evaluation in Prevention Science
(formerly Effective Prevention Strategies II)

*The curriculum requirements shown were put into place beginning the 2023-2024 academic year. Prior curriculum requirements for students who began the program prior can be found on the last page of the handbook.

All 1st-year, 1st-semester students should take PREV_SCI 511 and 513 unless approved by their advisor and the Prevention Science Director to do otherwise. Many courses have required prerequisites. Some of these may be waived or fulfilled by Prevention

Please note that all courses are not necessarily available on all campuses (Pullman, Vancouver, and Spokane). Pay special attention to where the class is being taught. If it does not indicate that it will be available via Zoom, you should contact the instructor to determine if you can take the course from a distance.

Science core courses. Students should contact the department's Academic Coordinator for a specific course to discuss waivers, and request permission from individual instructors before registering.

RECOMMENDED ELECTIVES

Students should take elective courses to help build strengths in their areas of interest. Courses listed in [Table 1](#) that were not taken as core classes can be taken as elective courses. Other recommended elective courses are listed below.

Research Methodology & Statistics courses such as:

- Ed Psych 564: Qualitative Research
- Ed Psych 569: Seminar in Quantitative Techniques in Education (Rotating Topics)
- Ed Psych 568: Quasi-experimental Design
- Ed Psych 572: Introduction to Systematic Literature Reviews & Meta-Analyses
- Psych 515: Multilevel and Synthesized Data
- Psych 516: Applied Structural Equation Modeling with Current Software
- Nurs 587: Research Inquiry: Qualitative Methods
- PrevSci 508: Structural Equation Modeling
- PrevSci 510: Multilevel Modeling
- PrevSci 512: Finite Mixture Modeling

Human Development courses such as:

- HD 520: Adolescence
- HD 560: Child Development
- HD 570: Adulthood and Aging
- HD 580: Families, Community, and Public Policy

Communication courses such as:

- Com 506: Persuasion and Social Influence
- Com 507: Communication Ethics Seminar
- Com 514: Health Communication Theories and Campaigns
- Com 516: Health Communication and Society
- Com 571: Theoretical Perspectives on Media and Society
- Com 572: Mass Media, Social Control, and Social Change

Nursing courses such as:

- Nurs 564: Health Promotion in Nursing Practice

PROGRAM OF STUDY

You must submit a program of study form to the graduate school and an internal program of study form to the Program Coordinator, listing the courses you plan to take to meet your degree requirements. If you do not enter the program with a Master's degree with an approved Master's thesis, you will need to submit two programs of study in accordance with Graduate School policies — one for your M.S. degree and one for your Ph.D. after you have successfully completed your M.S. degree requirements. See the [Graduate School website](#) for more information.

The **Program of Study for the Master's Degree** should be submitted by the end of your first year in the program. You must submit the [Graduate School's Program of Study form](#) to the Program Coordinator and the [Internal Prevention Science Program of Study form](#). Note graduate school [deadlines](#) for submission. It should include:

- Thesis topic or general area
- Members of the M.S. Committee (minimum of 3 required)
List of courses and research credits for M.S. degree (see Course Requirements section)

The **Program of Study for the Doctoral Degree** should be submitted after completing the M.S. and prior to the preliminary exam. You must submit the [Graduate School's Program of Study form](#) and the [Internal Prevention Science Program of Study form](#) to the Program Coordinator. Check the graduate school website for the deadline. The Doctoral Form should include:

- Dissertation topic
- Members of Ph.D. committee (minimum of 4 required)
- List of courses and research credits for Ph.D. degree (see Course Requirements section)

TRANSFER CREDITS & COURSE SUBSTITUTIONS

Students who were enrolled at another graduate school can have up to 12 transfer credits count towards the Prevention Science degree requirements. If you believe that a course taken elsewhere fulfills a specific Prevention Science course requirement, you should complete the [Course Substitution Form](#) (select replace core requirement with similar content), obtain approval from your advisor, and then share the Course Substitution Form and syllabus with the current instructor of the WSU course to see if they believes that the transferring course is an appropriate substitution. The current WSU instructor will then forward the syllabus and his/her/their recommendation as indicated on the Course Substitution Form to the Prevention Science Director, who will decide about the substitution. If you are requesting that the

course be transferred as an *elective*, discuss the substitution with your advisor and the Prevention Science Director (no need to contact a current instructor).

If you are requesting a course requirement be replaced with an alternate course, complete the Course Substitution Form (select replace core requirement course with alternate course), including a statement of rationale for how the course satisfies the intent of the course requirement. Instructions are provided on the form. Obtain approval from your advisor and submit the [Course Substitution Form](#) and syllabus to the Prevention Science Director, who will decide about the substitution.

All course substitutions listed in your M.S. and Ph.D. Program of Study forms must be approved by the current instructor of the course, if it is for a *required* course, the Prevention Science Director, and the Graduate School. Once you have approval, which may take anywhere from 6 - 8 weeks, you should include the transfer courses on your Program of Study form. As described in the [Graduate School transfer policy](#), you may need to attach a transcript, a catalog description of the courses, and in some cases course syllabi.

- It is important to note that the time to degree (expected graduation time) for the Ph.D. is 10 years from the oldest coursework on the program of study, including transfer credit. For example, if the courses listed from Fall 2016 are transferred to count toward your Prevention Science Ph.D. degree, then your expected graduation semester would be Fall 2026 (10 years).
- The Graduate School requires that (a) you must have received a B or better in a course that is transferred, and (b) the course must have been completed no more than 10 years prior to your graduation from WSU.

INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD (IRB) REQUIREMENTS

Federal and University regulations require that all research involving human participants conducted by WSU faculty and students be approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB). The intent of the policy is to ensure that participants are treated in an ethical manner. For anyone involved with human subjects research, Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) has become a national standard in regards to preparing researchers with the proper ethical, logistical, and regulatory training for research specific purposes. WSU maintains a subscription with CITI that allows WSU faculty, students, staff, and affiliates to complete trainings as necessary, free of charge. See the [WSU CITI Training website](#) for more details. For general information about Human Research Protection Program and the IRB, see the [WSU HRPP/IRB website](#).

To help you complete your thesis and dissertation requirements in a timely manner, it is strongly recommended that you take the following steps:

- 1) **M.S. and Ph.D. Committee Approval:** Prior to applying for IRB approval, you

must have the approval of the members of your M.S. or Ph.D. committee. You should be prepared to justify to the members of their M.S. or Ph.D. committee your research protocol (e.g., proposed data collection, description of the sample, use of deception, potential risks to participants, and expected benefits to participants and society). Once the members of your committee have approved the research protocol, you can then complete the appropriate WSU IRB application, submitted via the electronic IRB system (eIRB) within [myResearch](#). Note that when the IRB materials are submitted, the thesis or dissertation chair is listed as the principal investigator, not the student, so the faculty advisor must submit the IRB form.

- 2) **IRB Approval:** When you submit your application to the IRB, you must determine which type of review is appropriate: exempt, expedited, or full board. See the [WSU IRB website](#) for guidance on making this determination. Exempt and expedited reviews usually take several weeks for approval. Full board reviews are held at monthly IRB meetings (except during summer months). If a full board review is required, you will be contacted if you need to attend the IRB meeting to answer any concerns IRB members may have about the proposed research. Once your research protocol is approved, you can begin recruitment and data collection for your research project.

2. Master's Thesis

All students must complete a Master's Thesis as part of the Ph.D. in Prevention Science. If you enter the Ph.D. program with a Bachelor's degree, you must complete a Master's thesis on your way to the Ph.D. The M.S. degree will be awarded in Prevention Science, but it is not a terminal M.S. degree. In other words, we expect that all students in good standing who complete their M.S. degree will continue to complete the Ph.D. in Prevention Science.

TRANSFERRING A THESIS

If you enter the Ph.D. program with a Master's degree from another program, you can request that this thesis be approved as fulfilling the M.S. requirement for the Prevention Science Ph.D. program. To do this:

- During your first semester as a degree-seeking student in the Prevention Science Ph.D. program, you must send your advisor: a) the completed thesis, and b) a 1-3 page written statement that describes how the thesis aligns with the field of Prevention Science.
- Your advisor will create a committee of three members of the Prevention Science faculty (two members plus the advisor) who will evaluate the thesis. Before this committee receives the thesis, its membership must be approved by Prevention Science Director.
- The committee will review it to determine if (a) the topic is in the prevention area, broadly defined, (b) the thesis involves the collection and/or analysis of

data—quantitative and/or qualitative, and (c) the thesis meets the quality standards of other M.S. theses in the Prevention Science program.

- If the consensus of the committee is that the thesis fulfills these requirements, then your advisor will forward the thesis to the Prevention Science Director for final approval.
- If it does not meet these standards, then the advisor will submit the thesis to the Prevention Science Director with a brief explanation for why it does not meet the program's thesis requirements, and the student will have to complete an M.S. thesis at WSU before moving on to the Preliminary Doctoral Examination.

COMPLETE AND SUCCESSFULLY DEFEND YOUR MASTER'S THESIS.

There are four major steps to completing the Master's Thesis.

- 1) **Select Topic & Committee:** Work in collaboration with your advisor, and in PREV_SCI 513 (Research Methods), to choose a topic, develop research questions, and a plan for your Master's Thesis. Select a M.S. Committee according to the following requirements.
 - a. Minimum of three faculty, including advisor (i.e., committee chair)
 - b. If a Prevention Science faculty member with a clinical appointment chairs a committee, he or she must co-chair the committee with a tenure-track member of the Prevention Science faculty.
 - c. Chair and at least half of the committee must be Prevention Science faculty.
 - d. Members must come from at least two (preferably three) disciplines (e.g., Human Development and Educational Psychology).
 - e. At least two members must have a Ph.D. or equivalent.
 - f. All committees must be approved by the Prevention Science Director.
- 2) **Preliminary Meeting:** You are strongly encouraged to meet informally with your committee members before scheduling a formal proposal meeting. These meetings may be one-on-one or in a larger group. This gives you the opportunity to ask committee members for advice and feedback on your proposed research before the formal proposal meeting, while allowing them to ask for clarification and voice any concerns about the proposed study.
- 3) **Proposal Meeting:** A formal proposal meeting is required for the Master's Thesis. However, unlike at the Dissertation Proposal meeting, only you and your committee will attend. You will submit a fully written thesis proposal, including introduction, literature review, methods, data analysis plan, and reference sections, to your committee approximately one month prior to when you would like to hold your official proposal meeting. Your committee has two weeks to review your proposal and determine if it is of sufficient quality to proceed with scheduling the proposal meeting. Below is a description of the typical protocol for this meeting, which should last approximately 1.5-2 hours.
 - Committee meets briefly without the student.

- Student gives a 20-30 minute presentation outlining the proposed project.
- Committee asks student questions about the proposed project.
- Committee asks student to leave the room.
- Student returns and the committee gives their assessment, including any needed edits, revisions, or modifications to the proposed project.
- Final approval of the proposal comes in the form of a signed agreement between you and your committee members (see [Prevention Science Thesis Proposal Approval Form](#) in the [Appendix](#)). The signed agreement indicates that you agree to carry out the thesis project as discussed in the proposal meeting. Any subsequent substantial changes in the design of the thesis may require re-approval from committee members.
- After completing the approval form, please submit it to the Prevention Science Program Coordinator.

4) **Final Thesis Defense Meeting:** A formal thesis defense (also known as an oral examination) is required. Below are several important requirements for this meeting. Please note that the Graduate School has very firm deadlines for scheduling the thesis defense. You must submit a complete, final version of your thesis to your committee approximately one month prior to when you would like to hold your final thesis defense meeting. Your committee has two weeks to review your thesis and determine if it is of sufficient quality to proceed with scheduling the defense meeting. The defense can then be scheduled two weeks thereafter. Keep these requirements and deadlines in mind as you plan for scheduling your thesis defense. If you have concerns that you won't make the deadline, don't rush the defense—it is much better to postpone it until the next semester. See [Appendix](#) for a more detailed description of these steps in the Master's Thesis Student [Checklist](#).

- Proposal and final defense meetings must be scheduled in different semesters.
- Students must be registered for a minimum of 2 credits of Prev_Sci 700 during the semester or summer session in which the final defense takes place.
- The final defense meeting is open to the entire University community, and therefore, it must be announced to the Prevention Science faculty and students at least 14 days in advance of the scheduled defense date. Students may also invite others to the defense, such as family and friends. Email the date, time, location, and thesis title to the Prevention Science Program Coordinator several days before the 14-day deadline to ensure the information is distributed to faculty and students at least 14 days before the scheduled defense date.
- The Graduate School requires signatures from all committee members on the [Examination Scheduling Form](#) before the final defense can be officially scheduled. Signing this form indicates that committee members

believe the student will be ready to defend his/her/their work at the scheduled defense. The Graduate School requires that the defense be scheduled at least two weeks prior to the actual defense date; the thesis must be ready to be defended two weeks prior to your defense date, and therefore, no major changes should be made within the two weeks prior to the defense.

- At the time the defense meeting is announced (at least two weeks before the defense date), an electronic copy of the completed thesis must be emailed to the Program Coordinator to make it available for review by all faculty and students. Your thesis must be uploaded to ProQuest (for formatting approved by a member of the Graduate School) no later than 10 business days before the examination. Details in the "Thesis/Dissertation Submission and Formatting Requirements" document on the graduate school website.
- The final oral examination cannot proceed until all other requirements for the degree have been met.
- Your committee members may attend by video conference. All members will vote on whether you have passed.
- The examination centers around the thesis, but you should be prepared to address related substantive and theoretical issues emerging from the document. The examining committee includes the student's thesis committee, whose chair presides, and any other member of the Prevention Science Graduate Faculty in attendance.
- The Committee Chair submits signed ballots indicating whether you "passed" or "failed" the defense to the Program Coordinator, who will submit them to the Graduate School within 5 working days. Students are not allowed to handle the signed ballots.
- At the conclusion of the examination, the committee may stipulate changes before certifying to the Graduate School that you have met the requirements for the degree (i.e., signing off on the thesis). You are required to make the requested written changes and give copies to each committee member before the committee can sign off on the document. According to Graduate School policy, the revisions and final approval must be received within 5 working days of the oral defense.
- Once the committee has so certified, it is your responsibility to prepare the required forms and comply with the Graduate School's guidelines regarding submission of the final version of the thesis. The Program Coordinator is also available to assist, especially for those students not physically located in Pullman. You update your ProQuest submission with a final, revised version of your thesis after a successful thesis defense.
- As of Spring 2020, the Graduate School has replaced the requirement for hard copies (on 100% cotton pages, with ink signatures) for the front pages of theses and dissertations with an electronic process. All students must submit a copy of the title page, abstract page, and signature

page through the Graduate Records Management (GRM) system in myWSU, where it will be forwarded to all advisory committee members for electronic approval

- If you do not pass the defense, you will have one more chance to successfully defend your thesis (i.e., retake the oral examination). This defense meeting must be scheduled at least three months after the initial defense, and according to Graduate School policy, you are required to submit the scheduling form at least 15 working days in advance of the meeting.

For more detailed information, consult the:

- [Theses and Dissertation Standards](#) section.
- [Appendix](#) for the Master's Thesis Student [Checklist](#) and a list of required [forms](#) for students at the Master's Thesis stage.
- Graduate School website for the latest rules and regulations for Master's Theses: <http://www.gradsch.wsu.edu/>

You can view examples of past Prevention Science students' theses on the shared *Prevention Science Ph.D. Student Resources* TEAMS folder. Please contact the Program Coordinator for access.

3. Preliminary Doctoral Exam

Once you have completed your M.S. thesis and core coursework, you will prepare for and take your Preliminary Exam, also referred to as prelims. The goal of prelims is to determine if you:

- a. have a solid disciplinary foundation of the Prevention Science field and your chosen specialty area, and
- b. are ready to conduct independent dissertation research under the supervision of a mentor.

Your Preliminary Exam Committee will develop exam questions, which are tailored to your specific program of interest and test your competency in the three core components of the Prevention Science curriculum. Therefore, although each student's exam will cover the core competencies covered in our core curriculum and [outlined by the Society for Prevention Research](#), it will consist of a unique set of four questions. The committee should ensure the questions can be successfully answered based on the knowledge obtained from the assigned reading list. Students are free to cite works that are outside of the agreed-upon list, but this is not an expectation.

There are two major components to prelims: the written exam and the oral defense. The written component is a take-home exam. You will have two weeks to write 10-15 page responses (not including references) to each of the four questions (double-spaced, 12-point font, APA style references and citations) in the following areas:

- 1) Developmental Epidemiology and Public Health;
- 2) Research Methodology & Statistics;
- 3) Program Development, Implementation, and Institutionalization; and
- 4) Your chosen specialty area.

SELECT YOUR PRELIMINARY EXAM COMMITTEE

To begin this process, you and your advisor should read the Preliminary Doctoral Exam section of the Graduate Handbook and review the [Advisor Checklist](#). You must then select your Preliminary Exam Committee, which is normally your Ph.D. committee. This committee will write your questions and will help you prepare reading lists for each of the four areas. The committee must adhere to the following requirements:

- Minimum of four faculty, including advisor (i.e., committee chair)
- The members must come from at least two disciplines (preferably three), and at least three committee members must be Prevention Science faculty (including the committee chair).
- All members must have a Ph.D. or equivalent
- All committees must be approved by the Prevention Science Director

Students must be registered for at least two hours of PREV_SCI 800 during the semester that they take their preliminary exam. For more detailed information about this and other requirements for prelims, consult the:

- [Appendix](#) for the Preliminary Doctoral Exam [Student Checklist](#), [Advisor Checklist](#), and a list of required [forms](#) for students at the prelims stage.
- Graduate School website for the latest rules and regulations for Doctoral Dissertations: <http://www.gradsch.wsu.edu/>

You can view examples of past Prevention Science students' prelims proposals and exam questions on the *Prevention Science Ph.D. Student Resources* TEAMS folder. Please contact the Program Coordinator for access.

COMPLETE YOUR PRELIMINARY EXAM

There are five major steps to completing the Preliminary Exam.

1) Develop a Prelims Proposal in consultation with your committee, and compile:

- A reading list containing approximately 80-100 readings total,
 - i. 20-30 readings for each of the three Prevention Science core competency areas: Developmental Epidemiology and Public Health; Research Methodology & Statistics; Program Development, Implementation, and Institutionalization
 - ii. 20-30 readings in your specialty area
 - iii. The entire committee will review the list before the materials are submitted to the steering committee
- A research statement describing your specialty area, 2-3 pages, double-spaced
 - i. The "Research Statement" should describe what the student wants to pursue in their research, the importance of their work to the existing literature, and its connection to Prevention Science. The statement should identify the theoretical grounding of the proposed work, populations of interest, and specify the basic methodological approach.
- Three suggested exam questions for your *specialty area*. Please note that your committee will select or revise and combine one or more of these questions to be included on your exam for your specialty.

Note: While students may start developing preliminary exam materials prior to completing all their core classes, students are expected to have completed the core courses prior to taking their preliminary exam, as students are expected to demonstrate knowledge from all core courses.

- 2) Submit Prelims Proposal for Approval:** After receiving final approval from your Ph.D. Committee, your advisor will email your Prelims Proposal and Advisor Checklist to the Prevention Science Director for approval from the Prevention Science Graduate Program Committee (i.e., Steering Committee). This should be done in the semester (i.e., by the last day of the final exams period of the fall, spring, or summer) prior to the semester you would like to begin writing the exam. Please note that if you want to take prelims in the fall, you can submit these materials for approval in either the prior spring or the summer semester. Students do not need to be enrolled in the summer to submit these materials, and they will not be reviewed until the fall semester.

Process for Approval: Preliminary exam materials will be under review with members of the Steering Committee between **4 - 6 weeks** before feedback is sent back to the student. This process generally requires at least one round of revision and resubmission before approval.

Reviewers are encouraged to focus feedback on the core competencies being assessed in the preliminary exam, rather than on elements that are typically developed and evaluated at the proposal stage. When feedback extends to proposal-level detail, students are encouraged to review and thoughtfully consider these suggestions, earmark them for future development, and briefly indicate in their response how they plan to incorporate this feedback at the dissertation proposal stage.

After the student addresses the feedback, they submit their materials to the Director and depending on the extent of requested revisions, the packet may be sent back to the Steering Committee for review or reviewed by the program director for approval. **Time from initial submission of materials to final approval from the program director is between 6 and 12 weeks** (longer in cases where materials are submitted during the summer).

If necessary, students can submit their request for exception to hold their exam in the same semester the materials were approved, only after preliminary exam materials have been approved.

- 3) **Prepare for the Exam:** Once approved by the Prevention Science Graduate Program Committee (i.e., Steering Committee), you should complete the readings and prepare for the exam. Between the time that your prelims proposal is approved and you take the exam, your Ph.D. Committee, led by your advisor, will write your exam questions (i.e., the Developmental Epidemiology and Public Health question; the Research Methodology & Statistics question; and the Program Development, Implementation, and Institutionalization question) along with your final specialty question. In writing the specialty question, your committee will either choose one of the questions you wrote or modify/combine your questions in some way. Besides the specialty area question, students should not develop the other questions – **the advisor and committee are expected to develop your exam questions**. This is crucial to maintain our goal of equity and transparency in the preliminary exam experience.
- 4) **Schedule the Exam:** In consultation with your committee and in accordance with Graduate School policy, schedule your exam. There are two dates that must be scheduled:
 - the day/time you will receive the prelims questions and begin writing your written responses (you have two weeks to complete your written

responses and submit them to your committee) (e.g., if sent at 9am on a Monday; exam is due to your committee by 9am on Monday, two-weeks later)

and

- the day and time you hold the oral defense of your written responses (ideally this should take place at least 1 week, but no more than 2 weeks following submission of the completed exam responses, but according to Graduate School policy can occur up to 30 days after turning in your written exam).

The oral defense meeting is open to all Prevention Science Faculty members, and therefore, it must be announced to them at least 10 business days in advance of the scheduled defense date. Email the date, time, and location to the Prevention Science Program Coordinator several days before the 10-day deadline to ensure it is distributed to faculty in advance of the scheduled defense date. Also, you must submit the completed [Examination Scheduling Form](#) to the Program Coordinator early enough so that she can upload/submit it to the Graduate School at least 10 business days before the date of the oral defense of your prelims.

- 5) **Take the Exam:** Finally, you will write your written responses and orally defend them according to the above requirements. All members of your Ph.D. Committee must be convened, either physically or video conference/zoom. All members will vote on whether you have passed each of the four questions. Other members of the Prevention Science faculty may be present at this meeting and may vote as well. Below is a description of the typical protocol for this meeting, which should last approximately 2.5 hours.

- Committee meets briefly without the student or non-committee faculty.
- Committee asks student questions.
- Committee asks student to leave the room.
- Student returns and committee gives their assessment.
- Committee signs Graduate School ballots to indicate their final approval.
- The Committee Chair submits signed ballots indicating whether you “passed” or “failed” the exam to the Program Coordinator, who will submit them to the Graduate School within 5 working days. Students are not allowed to handle the signed ballots.

It is important to discuss the use of AI with your advisor and committee members. Program-level guidance about AI use during prelims will be provided, soon.

If you do not pass all four prelims questions, you will be given one additional chance, at least three months later, to answer new questions in the area(s) that you did not pass. As detailed in the WSU Graduate School Policies and Procedures document, if

you do not pass all questions on this second exam, your enrollment in the Graduate School will be terminated.

KEY PREVENTION SCIENCE CONCEPTS

Consult the syllabi from required core Prevention Science courses for key concepts you can expect to be addressed in the exam, depending on the graduate courses the student has taken and in consultation with the committee. They include, but are not limited to:

Developmental Epidemiology and Public Health

- Understand the basic elements of the public health model -- population- level health, risk and protective factor framework -- as they apply to prevention of emotional, mental and behavioral disorders
- Identify risk and protective factors related to positive and negative health- related outcomes in a population (generally and student's specific area of interest)
- Identify prevention needs and targets for intervention by describing the incidence and prevalence of these factors and outcomes across stages of development, populations, and geographic areas
- Understand how identified risk, promotive, or protective factors, processes and mechanisms are related to positive and negative health-related outcomes (e.g., as mediators and moderators)
- Understand the distribution of risk, promotive, and protective factors across stages of development, populations, and geographic areas
- Understand major developmental and motivational theories applied in the study of prevention:
 - Developmental: Ecological, biopsychosocial, developmental psychopathology, social learning theory, social development theory
 - Motivational: Stages of change, social cognitive, self-determination theory, transtheoretical model, health behavior change model
- Identify major strands in the history of the development of the field:
 - Public health
 - Community psychology
 - Clinical psychology
 - Human development and family studies
 - Developmental psychology

Research Methodology & Statistics

- Describe when and why to use the following analytic techniques, and describe their basic assumptions:
 - Regression (hierarchical, univariate, multivariate)
 - ANOVA and MANOVA
 - Multilevel modeling/hierarchical linear modeling
 - For nested data

- For longitudinal data
 - Structural equation modeling
 - Confirmatory and exploratory factor analysis
 - Propensity scoring
 - Multiple imputation
- Understand and describe the following terms and concepts:
 - Reliability and construct validity
 - Internal validity, including threats to validity
 - Latent vs. manifest/observed variables
 - Person-centered vs. variable-centered approaches
 - Population vs. sample
 - Parameter vs. statistic
 - Parametric vs. non-parametric methods
 - Effect size and power
 - Research vs. program evaluation
- Describe differences between these study designs; understand strengths, weaknesses, and when each design is most appropriate:
 - Basic survey methodology and sampling techniques
 - Experimental, quasi-experimental, and observational study designs
 - Economic analysis (Cost-benefit analysis)

It is essential that Students are expected to demonstrate in-depth competency in areas that align with their proposed methodology in their research statement, but all students are expected to have a broad understanding of concepts from quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods paradigms.

Program Development, Implementation, and Institutionalization

- Describe different phases of prevention research (program development, implementation, adaptation, dissemination, sustainability)
- Understand how to apply theory and basic research findings to development of prevention programs
- Describe the criteria used to determine whether a program is considered “evidence based”
- Describe differences between efficacy and effectiveness trials
- Describe how to engage stakeholders and why stakeholder/community participation in various phases of prevention research is important
- Describe major theoretical approaches to understanding and evaluating prevention programs:
 - Diffusion of innovation theory
 - Glasgow’s RE-AIM model
 - Utilization-focused program evaluation
 - Community participatory evaluation
- Describe translational research and how it differs from other phases of prevention research

4. Doctoral Dissertation

Once you have passed your prelims, you will begin work on your Doctoral Dissertation. **The four major steps to completing the Dissertation are the same as your Master's Thesis, with a few minor differences noted below in bold italics.**

- 1) **Select Topic & Committee:** Work in collaboration with your advisor, to choose a topic, and develop research questions and a plan for your Dissertation. ***Typically, your Ph.D. Committee is the same as your Prelims Committee, but you should make changes if necessary. To do that, you must complete a [Committee Change Form](#). A signed copy should be submitted to the Program Coordinator who will submit it to the Graduate School.***
- 2) **Preliminary Meeting:** You are strongly encouraged to meet informally with the members of your committee prior to scheduling a formal proposal meeting. These meetings may be one-on-one or in a group. This gives you the opportunity to ask committee members for advice and feedback about your proposed research before the formal proposal meeting, while allowing committee members an opportunity to ask for clarification and voice any concerns about the proposed study.
- 3) **Proposal Meeting:** A formal proposal meeting is required for the Dissertation and, unlike the Master's proposal meeting, ***it is open to other faculty and students.*** You will submit a fully written dissertation proposal including introduction, literature review, methods, data analysis plan, and reference sections (***Note: If you are doing the Three Manuscript option, the sections will vary – see [Appendix](#) for guidance***) to your committee approximately one month prior to when you would like to hold your official proposal meeting. Your committee has two weeks to review your proposal and determine if it is of sufficient quality to proceed with scheduling the proposal meeting. Below is a description of the typical protocol for this meeting, which should last approximately 1.5-2 hours.
 - Committee meets briefly without the student ***or non-committee attendees.***
 - Student gives ***30–45-minute*** presentation outlining the proposed project.
 - Committee ***and non-committee attendees*** ask student questions about the proposed project.
 - ***Committee dismisses non-committee attendees, such as the public or those invited by students.***
 - ***Committee asks student any remaining questions (without non-committee attendees present).***
 - Committee asks student to leave the room.
 - Student returns and committee gives their assessment, including any needed edits, revisions, or modifications to the proposed project.
 - Final approval of the proposal comes in the form of a signed agreement between you and your committee members (see [Prevention Science Dissertation Proposal Approval Form](#) in the [Appendix](#)). The signed agreement indicates that you agree to carry out the dissertation project as discussed

in the proposal meeting. Any subsequent substantial changes in the design of the dissertation may require re-approval from committee members.

- After completing the approval form, please submit it to the Prevention Science Program Coordinator.

It is possible that this form will not be signed at the end of the proposal meeting. There are two conditions under which you will not pass the proposal meeting: (a) you do not adequately prepare the materials and/or fail to demonstrate that you are ready to move forward with the research; and/or (b) the committee recommends significant changes during the course of the proposal meeting. If this happens, you, under the direction of the primary advisor, should schedule a second proposal meeting at a later date.

4) **Final Dissertation Defense Meeting:** A formal dissertation defense (also known as an oral examination) is required. Below are several important requirements for this meeting. See [Appendix](#) for a more detailed description of these steps in the [Doctoral Dissertation Student Checklist](#).

- ✓ Proposal and final defense meetings must be scheduled in different semesters.
- ✓ Students must be registered for a minimum of 2 credits of Prev_Sci 800 at the beginning of the semester or summer session in which the final defense takes place.
- ✓ The final defense meeting is open to the entire University community, and therefore, it must be announced to the Prevention Science faculty and students at least 14 days in advance of the scheduled defense date. Email the date, time, location, and thesis title to the Prevention Science Program Coordinator several days before the 14-day deadline to ensure the information is distributed to faculty and students at least 14 days before the scheduled defense date.
- ✓ You must submit a complete, final version of your dissertation to your committee approximately one month prior to when you would like to hold your final dissertation defense meeting. Your committee has two weeks to review your dissertation and determine if it is of sufficient quality to proceed with scheduling the final dissertation defense meeting.
- ✓ The Graduate School requires signatures from all committee members before the final defense can be officially scheduled ([Examination Scheduling Form](#)). Signing this form indicates that committee members believe the student will be ready to defend his/her/their work at the scheduled defense. The Graduate School requires that the defense be scheduled at least two weeks prior to the actual defense date; the dissertation must be ready to defend two weeks prior to your defense date and therefore no major changes should be made within the two weeks prior to the defense.

- ✓ At the time the defense meeting is announced (at least two weeks before the defense date), an electronic PDF copy of the completed dissertation must be emailed to the Program Coordinator to make it available for review by all faculty and students.
- ✓ The final oral examination cannot proceed until all other requirements for the degree have been met.
- ✓ Committee members may attend by video conference. All members will vote on whether you have passed.
- ✓ The examination centers around the dissertation, but you should be prepared to address related substantive and theoretical issues emerging from the document. The examining committee includes the student's Ph.D. Committee, whose chair presides, and any other member of the Prevention Science Graduate Faculty in attendance.
- ✓ Committee members ballot within myWSU. Ballots are available to the committee at 5am the day of the exam. External members must send an email to the committee chair.
- ✓ At the conclusion of the examination, the committee may stipulate changes before certifying to the Graduate School that you have met the requirements for the degree (i.e., signing off on the dissertation). You are required to make the requested written changes and give copies to each committee member before the committee can sign off on the document. According to Graduate School policy, the revisions and final approval must be received within 5 working days of the oral defense.
- ✓ The Committee Chair will submit the ballot memo to the Graduate School after all faculty on committee have voted. The ballot memo is due 5 business days after the exam.
- ✓ Once the committee has so certified, it is your responsibility to prepare the required forms and comply with the Graduate School's guidelines regarding submission of the final version of the dissertation.
- ✓ Following a successful defense, the following documents must be submitted no later than **10 business days** after the defense occurs:
 - [A final copy of your Dissertation](#)
 - Thesis/Dissertation [Approval Form](#)
 - [Hold Harmless form](#)
 - [Survey of Earned Doctorates \(SED\)](#) completion confirmation – this is emailed to you after completion of the survey.

A copy of your final Dissertation, once any minor edits are completed post-defense, must be uploaded to ProQuest. For instructions on uploading to ProQuest please visit the [Graduate School's Dissertation/Theses Page](#). The Approval Form is uploaded into MyWSU, instructions for how to do this are found on the [Approval Form PDF](#) on the [Grad School Forms page](#). The Hold Harmless form and a link to access the SED website can also be found on the Graduate School Forms page. The Hold Harmless and SED can be either uploaded into MyWSU the same way the Approval form is or emailed directly to the graduate

school (gradschool@wsu.edu) make sure you include your Student ID Number in your email.

- ✓ If you do not pass the defense, you will have one more chance to successfully defend your dissertation (i.e., retake the oral examination). This defense meeting must be scheduled at least three months after the initial defense and according to Graduate School policy, you are required to submit the scheduling form at least 15 working days in advance of the meeting.
- ✓ According to WSU Graduate School policy, the Ph.D. requirements (including a successful dissertation defense) must be completed within three years of the date of the satisfactory completion of the preliminary examination and within 10 years of when the first course was applied toward the degree.

For more detailed information, consult the:

- [Theses and Dissertation Standards](#) section.
- [Appendix](#) for the Dissertation Student [Checklist](#) and a list of required [forms](#) for students at the Dissertation stage.
- Graduate School website for the latest rules and regulations for Dissertation: <http://www.gradsch.wsu.edu/>
- For Forms required by the graduate school please visit their [forms page](#)

You can view examples of past Prevention Science students' dissertations on the shared *Prevention Science Ph.D. Student Resources* TEAMS folder. Please contact the

THESIS & DISSERTATION STANDARDS

Using these standards, you should work with your advisor to create a format that works best for your specific thesis or dissertation. These are general guidelines – your advisor may want you to adjust the order of sections, page limits, or the placement of material in sections. Also note that the Graduate School has additional specific formatting requirements that students must adhere to. The following forms can be found on the graduate school website to help guide formatting: “Thesis and Dissertation Formatting and Submission Requirements” and “Thesis and Dissertation Word Template.” In general, you should organize the sections of your thesis/dissertation to answer the following questions:

- **Introduction:** What did you do and why does it matter?
- **Literature Review:** How does your study fit in with previous research and theory in the area? What are your research questions and (if applicable), what are your hypotheses?
- **Method:** How did you conduct the research?
- **Results:** What did you find?
- **Discussion:** What do your findings mean?

The following broad suggestions may also help:

- Is there enough detail?
- Does the thesis or dissertation flow logically from section to section?
- Include sufficient information so that the reader can evaluate your work without referring to another source.
- Readers appreciate brevity and clarity of presentation. Be specific, informative, and avoid redundancy.
- Headings and figures usually help the reader follow your arguments more easily.
- The length of single-study theses and dissertations varies, but they are often roughly 40-70 pages of text (excluding references, tables, etc.), depending on the complexity of the design and results. Use APA format throughout, including non-sexist language.

For more information, you are strongly encouraged to read the most recent edition of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*. Below is also a description of what should be included in each section of the thesis/dissertation.

Note that the graduate school also has very specific formatting requirements that students must adhere to. The following forms can be found on the graduate school [website](#) to help guide formatting: “Thesis and Dissertation Formatting and Submission Requirements” and “Thesis and Dissertation Word Template”.

Introduction

Briefly sketch the background that informs the present research, critically evaluating existing knowledge in summary form, and specifically identifying the gaps that your project was intended to fill. Try to include a specific statement of the research question either in a sentence or two, or in question form (e.g., in what ways do distressed and non-distressed couples differ in structure of their social interaction?). Typically, theses and dissertations involve one or two research questions with several hypotheses. This section typically does not exceed 2-3 pages.

Literature Review

You can expect that your literature review will be between 15 and 25 pages in length. It must include the research questions, the theoretical rationale for your study, conceptual definitions of key constructs and variables, a review of the related research, and finally, your hypotheses.

Related Research and Theoretical Rationale: What is the theoretical or conceptual base for your study? Clearly describe the theoretical or conceptual basis for your study. Have you described your theoretical foundation clearly and indicated its relation to your research question? Exactly what concepts and propositions have you taken from the theory or conceptual framework? How does your study test theory or contribute to its extension in some way?

Science is cumulative. In this section, you must place your research question, concepts, and hypotheses in the context of previous work. Discuss your study in relation to previous research. Indicate how your study will expand and extend knowledge about your content area. In the context of previous research and theory, what is the unique contribution of your study? How does previous research and theory justify your research question, concepts, and hypotheses? Specifically, you should:

- 1) **Summarize the Pertinent Research:** You should read primary sources rather than rely on someone else's summary or review of that work. Have you selected and reviewed the literature that most directly bears on your research problem? Do you include the most recent literature in both the content and the methods? Cite works that explain and legitimize your research question, major concepts, hypotheses, and method.
- 2) **Review the Literature Selectively:** Use the research literature to support and explain the choices you made for your study, not to show that you have read every book and article in your research area. If there is little literature that is directly relevant to your research question, have you identified and discussed the studies closest to the question? Do you demonstrate that you have made a scholarly attempt to find relevant previous research?
- 3) **Synthesize the Previous Research:** Do not organize your review study-by-study or paper-by-paper. That is, do not have a paragraph that summarizes Singh

(1990), followed by a paragraph that summarizes Jones (1992), and on and on. Integrate material so you can draw conclusions across studies. Some studies are so important that you will need to cover them in greater detail. You should have no more than about five studies that deserve such attention. The other material should be presented by integrating studies together to support your general conclusions.

- 4) **Critically Evaluate the Previous Research:** Is there consistency or inconsistency across studies? Can you explain any inconsistencies? Are there gaps in the knowledge or limitations in previous conceptualizations? Are there problems with measurement, data collection procedures, sampling, or interpretation of results? Point out what will be distinctive or different about the proposed research compared with previous research. Have you indicated how you will avoid their flaws?
- 5) **Organize your Review Thematically with Headings:** Headings help you organize your thoughts and help the reader follow your reasoning. Also, the material does not overwhelm the reader if you use enough headings. A good general rule is that if you cannot break down your review into sections with headings, you have not thought about the material long enough.

Research Questions and Hypotheses: Your hypotheses should flow logically from your research questions and your review of the literature and theory. A common problem with theses and dissertations is that research questions and hypotheses do not flow from the discussion of theory and the review of the literature. You may find it easier to integrate your research questions and hypotheses into your literature review rather than present them in a separate section. If you do not have specific hypotheses (i.e., if you are conducting an exploratory study), state this explicitly and make sure that you have justified why an exploratory study is needed.

Method

The purpose of this section is to tell the reader how you achieved your specific aims. You should give readers sufficient detail so that another investigator could replicate your study's procedures, sampling, design, and measurement of variables. Be thorough but succinct. The method section will often be about 10 to 15 pages long and should include the following subsections:

- 1) **Participants:** Describe the population from which you drew your sample, the method of sampling, and the rationale for the sampling method. Then describe the characteristics of your sample—the sample size and demographic characteristics such as gender, age, ethnicity, marital status, socioeconomic status, etc.
- 2) **Measures:** Operationally define all variables under study. In other words, how did you measure your variables? If it is a quantitative study, how did you come up with a score for every variable in your study? If you are using someone else's measure, reference it and provide information about reliability and validity. If you developed your own measures, describe your procedures for

doing so and give sample items here, while including full versions of measures you developed in an Appendix. How did you assess the reliability and validity of your new measures? Describe any pilot work you conducted with your measures. If it is a qualitative study, describe how you obtained qualitative data. For example, if you conducted an interview, describe the questions you used, the protocol for conducting the interview, and the rationale. Include a description of how you coded the participants' responses, such as extracting excerpts, choosing and assigning codes, identification of themes, triangulation, and any software you used to assist in coding.

- 3) **Procedures:** This section includes instructions to participants, interviewers, observers, whatever is appropriate. How did you distribute questionnaires, record observations, etc.? Were participants compensated for their time and trouble? Remember, this section has to be written clearly enough so someone else can replicate it.

Results

In this section, present the results of your analyses. For quantitative studies, first present descriptive statistics (such as means and standard deviations) for all relevant variables in a separate section. Next, for all studies, present the results addressing your study hypotheses. It is often helpful to the reader if you restate your hypotheses in this section. Provide a detailed description of the statistical analyses you conducted, along with the findings. When possible, and if appropriate, present your results in tables, including n's, means, standard deviations, statistics, effect sizes when appropriate, and probability values.

Follow APA guidelines for formatting tables and presenting these results. Put all tables as separate pages in the text within the results section, not grouped together at the end of the thesis. For all tables, refer to the relevant findings from tables in the text, but do not just repeat information from the tables in the text—don't be redundant. For example, if your prevention program was more effective in reducing aggression in boys than in girls, state that this was the case, but do not report the means for boys and girls in the text that are already in the table. When figures help clarify the findings (especially for statistical interactions), use figures, but present the data in table form as well so that n's, means, and standard deviations are available for all groups.

For qualitative studies, your results section will vary depending on which methodological approach you have taken. Be sure you have explained that clearly in the methods section and use a means of analysis that is appropriate for the specific kind of qualitative study you have conducted. The layout of your results section will vary depending on your analytical approach but be sure you are clear and specific about how you have analyzed your data, you provide appropriate references for your analytic method, and that you use enough examples from your data to support your hypothesis or research questions.

Only report the results of your analyses in the results section—leave interpretation and explanation for the discussion. Make sure that you clearly link your results to the hypotheses that they were intended to test; if you provide additional results that are not associated with a hypothesis, justify their inclusion.

Discussion

In this section, you should consider your findings in the context of your hypotheses. When doing this, however, refer to ideas and constructs rather than to specific procedures and measures. For example, if you found that the frequency of parental criticism during an experimental task was positively correlated with teacher ratings of child internalizing symptoms on the CBCL, write something like, “as predicted, parental criticism during joint problem solving was the strongest predictor of teacher reports of children’s internalizing symptoms,” but not “the frequency of parental criticism was associated with CBCL scores.” Make it clear which of your hypotheses were supported and which were not. When writing about your hypotheses, consider each in relation to the literature in the area. That is, show how the results of your study contribute to the existing literature. Did they replicate the literature? Why or why not? How did they extend the literature? Then talk about limitations of your study, strengths of your study, directions for future research, and implications for policy and practice. Don’t dwell on the study limitations (no study is perfect) but be honest about them and use them to point to directions for future research. After reading your discussion section, the reader should be left with a clear sense of your study’s results and their implications, both in clarifying previous research and in informing future research directions.

References

Format the in-text citations and reference list according to the most recent version of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*.

Appendices

Typically, we put things in appendices that must be included in the thesis/dissertation, but that would otherwise interrupt the flow of the writing. A reader should be able to understand what you did and found without reading the Appendix. Include copies of all measures used in the study; if measures are not publicly available, provide details about how you obtained permission to use the measures. Also include copies of consent letters, etc. A copy of your IRB approval will also go in an Appendix.

Three Manuscript Dissertation Option

Students can choose to complete a three-manuscript option for their dissertation. Unlike a traditional dissertation with extensive literature review and discussion sections, the three-manuscript option consists of three related manuscripts in journal publication form with additional overarching introductory and conclusion sections that tie the three manuscripts together. Each manuscript has separate introduction, methods, results, and discussion sections written and formatted in APA style. If you are interested in pursuing this option, talk with your dissertation advisor to see if your proposed research plans would fit into this option. Also, see the [Appendix](#) for further details and guidance.

APPENDIX

On the pages that follow, you will find:

- 1) A list of important websites for Prevention Science Ph.D. students.
- 2) A sample curriculum for the Prevention Science Ph.D. program.
- 3) TA & RA Responsibilities and Guidelines
- 4) Prevention Science/Human Development Course Rotation Schedule
- 5) Checklists to help guide you through the following milestones in the Prevention Science Ph.D. program.
 - a. 1st Semester
 - b. Master's Thesis
 - c. Preliminary Doctoral Exam
 - d. Doctoral Dissertation
- 6) Three Manuscript Dissertation Guidance
- 7) Part-Time Student Tips & Tricks
- 8) Protocol for Applying for Student Travel Funding
- 9) Required Forms by Stage in Program
- 10) Paperwork Submission Protocol
- 11) Annual Prevention Science Poster Session and Rotation
- 12) Prevention Science Thesis and Dissertation Proposal Approval Forms
- 13) Preliminary Exam Advisor Checklist
- 14) Course Substitution/Replacement Form
- 15) Recommended Timeline
- 16) Internal Program of Study Forms

FRIENDLY REMINDER:

All Graduate School forms should be submitted to the Program Coordinator prior to being submitted to the Graduate School to (a) assure that they are correct, and (b) so that the Prevention Science program can maintain a record of their submission. For a list of the required forms by stage in the program and our paperwork submission protocol, please see the [Required Forms by Stage in the Program](#) page in this appendix.

The Program Coordinator will also assist students in notifying Prevention Science faculty and students about the date, time, and location of their proposal defense meetings (dissertation only) and final defense meetings (thesis and dissertation) at least 10 working days prior to the meeting. Only the Prevention Science faculty will be notified about the prelims defense meeting. To expedite this process, please email the meeting information to the Program Coordinator, who will email it to the appropriate listservs.

Important Websites for Prevention Science Students

Below is a list of important WSU websites. We recommend that you bookmark and familiarize yourself with these websites. They will be very helpful as you progress through the Prevention Science Ph.D. program.

- The Prevention Science Graduate Program: <http://hd.wsu.edu/prevention-science/>
- The Graduate School: <http://gradschool.wsu.edu/>
- Graduate School Forms: <http://gradschool.wsu.edu/facultystaff-resources/18-2/>
- Graduate School Policies & Procedures Page: <http://gradschool.wsu.edu/policies-procedures/>

Academic units participating in the Prevention Science Graduate Program:

- Department of Human Development: <http://hd.wsu.edu/>
- College of Communication: <http://murrow.wsu.edu/>
- College of Education: <http://education.wsu.edu/>
- College of Nursing: <http://nursing.wsu.edu/>
- College of Medicine: <https://medicine.wsu.edu/>
- WSU Extension: <https://extension.wsu.edu/>

The Internal Review Board: <http://www.irb.wsu.edu/>

Course information:

- University Catalog: <http://www.catalog.wsu.edu/>
- Schedule of Classes: <http://www.schedules.wsu.edu/>

Health Insurance for Graduate Students on an Assistantship:

- Cougar Health Services: <https://cougarhealth.wsu.edu/studentinsurance/graduate-students/>

Accommodations and services to incoming and current WSU students with disabilities, psychological or medical conditions, or temporary injuries that limit their access to the WSU environment

- Access Center: <https://accesscenter.wsu.edu/students/application-processes/>

WSU libraries has a library guide for Human Development.

- Human Development LibGuide: <https://libguides.libraries.wsu.edu/HumanDevelopment>

CAHNRS IT can help you with technology, such as software or hardware updates.

- CAHNRS IT: <https://it.cahnrs.wsu.edu/>

WSU uses Workday to manage personnel records, including logging hours.

- Workday: <https://workday.wsu.edu>

Prevention Science Ph.D. Sample Curriculum

(For full-time students entering without an approved M.S. thesis or transfer credits)

Year 1

Fall (Semester 1)

Courses	Credits
PrevSci 511: Intro to Prevention Science	3
PrevSci 513: Research Methods	3
Ed_Psy 508: Educational Statistics	3
Prev_Sci 700: Master's Thesis Research	1

Core Curriculum Credits = 9

Total Credits = 10

Spring (Semester 2)

Courses	Credits
HD 550: Seminar on Family Relationships	3
HD520: Adolescent Development	3
Ed_Psych 565: Quantitative Research	3
Prev_Sci 700: Master's Thesis Research	1

Core Curriculum Credits = 9

Total Credits = 10

Year 2

Fall (Semester 3)

Courses	Credits
PrevSci 538: Dissemination & Implementation Science	3
Ed_Psych 507: Foundations of Qualitative Research	3
<i>Elective of your choosing</i>	3
Prev_Sci 700: Master's Research	2

Core Curriculum Credits = 6

Total Credits = 11

Spring (Semester 4)

Courses	Credits
PrevSci 540: Program Evaluation in Prevention Science	3
<i>Elective of your choosing</i>	3
<i>Elective of your choosing</i>	3
Prev_Sci 700: Master's Research	2

Core Curriculum Credits = 3

Total Credits = 11

Year 3

Fall (Semester 5)

Courses	Credits
PrevSci 535: Program Development in Prevention Science	3
Prev_Sci 800: Dissertation Research	8

Core Curriculum Credits = 3

Total Credits = 11

Spring (Semester 6)

Courses	Credits
<i>Elective of your choosing</i>	3
Prev_Sci 800: Dissertation Research	8

Total Credits = 11

Year 4

Fall (Semester 7)

Courses	Credits
Prev_Sci 800: Dissertation Research	2

Total Credits = 2

Spring (Semester 8)

Courses	Credits
Prev_Sci 800: Dissertation Research	2

Total Credits = 2

Credit Totals

6 = Total Thesis Credits* (Prev_Sci 700) (minimum required = 6)

**Please note these do not count towards the minimum 60 credits required for the Ph.D.*

30 = Total Core Curriculum Credits

12 = Total Elective Credits

20 = Total Dissertation Credits (Prev_Sci 800) (minimum required = 20)

62 = Total Credits (minimum required for the Ph.D. by the Graduate School = 60)

TA & RA Responsibilities and Guidelines

Teaching assistantships (TAs) are usually assigned through the department with large courses where demands on the faculty instructors are high. Most Prevention Science students with TAs are assigned through the Department of Human Development (HD). TAs help make it possible for our department to provide a world-class education to undergraduate HD students at Washington State University. Research assistantships (RAs) are assigned to the faculty member who received the external grant or contract through which they are paid. RAs make it possible for our faculty to conduct cutting-edge research in the field. Both TAs and RAs provide opportunities for the mentoring and professional development of Prevention Science graduate students.

The following guidelines were written to help yield maximum benefits to our “customers” (undergraduate students in HD courses, participants in research studies), as well as to help ensure a positive experience for both you and your faculty supervisor(s).

1. TA and RA assignments are typically half-time positions. Half-time TAs and RAs are expected to work an average of 20 hours per week. Typically, 10 hours of TA support are assigned to individual classes, so a TA is usually responsible for two courses. RAs usually work with one research team for about 20 hours per week. Depending upon teaching assignments, TAs work with one or two professors.

Here are typical responsibilities associated with teaching assistantships (TA):

- Attend lectures (if instructor wishes)
- Help with preparation of class lectures (e.g., readying video clips or other visual materials)
- Proctor exams
- Contribute to development of exams
- Lecture occasionally
- Grade papers, exams and other assignments
- Set up and maintain grade sheets and rosters
- Enter student grades
- Hold regular office hours
- Develop and/or copy class handouts
- Conduct library searches and retrieval for faculty member
- Respond to student posts in online courses
- Perform other instructional-related work as requested

It is important to understand that different professors work with their TAs in different ways, so it is likely that your TA experience will vary considerably depending on your faculty supervisor and the courses to which you are assigned. If your assignments are in the categories listed above and do not exceed the assigned hours (usually 10 hours per class), your instructor is following departmental guidelines for TA expectations. Because TA experiences vary so widely across faculty supervisors, it is usually not meaningful or helpful to compare your experience to those of other graduate students in the program.

Here are typical responsibilities associated with research assistantships (RA):

- Conduct literature reviews
 - Photocopy articles
 - Assist in research design (e.g., help write questionnaires, help develop observational coding systems)
 - Assist in preparation of IRB (human subjects) applications
 - Recruit and schedule participants
 - Meet with individuals from participating organizations
 - Prepare research materials (e.g., copy questionnaires, set up observational lab)
 - Collect data (e.g., conduct interviews, run focus groups, videotape participants, administer standardized assessments)
 - Prepare data for analysis (e.g., code interviews, code videotapes, prepare data for input into computer, input data into computer)
 - Analyze data (e.g., run statistical programs, prepare outputs)
 - Assist in writing papers for presentation or publication
 - Prepare posters or PowerPoints for presentations
 - Attend conferences
 - Perform other research-related activities as required
2. Teaching and research assistantships are professional positions that we assign to graduate students who are well qualified and well prepared for the tasks required of them. You should always treat your TA/RA position like any other job that requires professional behavior. We expect all of our TAs/RAs to demonstrate reliability, responsiveness, initiative, and effective communication in their work with their faculty supervisor.
 3. TAs/RAs are representatives of the department and therefore should always act professionally in their interactions with students and research participants. Students and participants should be treated with responsiveness and respect.
 4. Maintaining confidentiality is an important part of teaching and research. In research, you should follow the IRB protocol to ensure the protection of the confidentiality of research participants. All graduate students must complete the IRB training upon entering the program. In teaching, you should

only share information about a student's grades or progress in a course with the student or with your supervising instructor. Even parents should not be given access to student grade information, unless the supervising instructor has written permission from the student to do so. All TAs should complete the online FERPA training before serving as a TA.

5. You need to make your faculty supervisor aware of any problems that arise with students or in the research project. Also, if you are having trouble resolving an issue or run across a problem that you aren't sure how to solve, talk to your faculty supervisor—don't try to solve it yourself. Remember, your faculty supervisor is ultimately responsible for the course and/or research project, and he or she needs to be aware of any issues that arise.
6. Your contract as a TA or RA usually lasts from August 16th to May 15th. RAs may have summer appointments as well. Each semester, you are required to work for your faculty supervisor from one week before classes start until one week after finals. RA schedules may be somewhat different. Make sure that you set up a meeting at least one week before classes start to discuss your responsibilities and plan to stay in town until at least one week after finals, unless other arrangements have been made. This means that both TAs and RAs should be on campus by August 15th for the fall semester and on campus one week before classes start for the spring semester.
7. At the beginning of each semester, meet with your faculty supervisor and discuss your responsibilities/expectations for the semester. Talk specifically about what you would like to get out of the TA/RA experience that semester and discuss the faculty member's expectations for the TA/RA assignment. At this meeting, clarify communication issues regarding phone and email communication. The department's expectation is that if a faculty supervisor emails you an assignment, you should:
 - Email the faculty member back promptly (i.e., same working day) that you received the assignment and let them know when you will complete it.
 - Email the faculty member once the task is completed.You should also discuss with the faculty member during that meeting the expectations for phone calls and text messages, especially calls and texts in the evening and on weekends.
8. Faculty members in our department understand that TAs/RAs are fulfilling their duties to support themselves while pursuing their PhD degree. They understand that students have multiple demands on their time and that students must learn to balance the demands of their own coursework with their responsibilities as TAs/RAs. Faculty members have extensive experience balancing multiple demands and can be quite helpful to graduate students, mentoring them through this process. Take advantage of this opportunity to

get input from the faculty on balancing your workload and managing your time.

9. Occasionally, due to the demands of a course or research project, faculty members may place demands on their TAs/RAs that exceed departmental expectations. Here are our departmental expectations for faculty regarding TA/RA assignments:
 - The average workload of the activities assigned to a TA/RA should not exceed the assigned hours (i.e., an average of 20 hours per week for an RA or a TA assigned to two classes; 10 hours per week per instructor if the TA is splitting responsibilities between two instructors).
 - TAs/RAs should realize that all weeks will not be equal (e.g., some weeks will be less than 20 hours and some weeks more than 20 hours), but the average time per week should be right around the assigned time.
 - Faculty and TAs/RAs should communicate regularly about workload so that this average is achieved.
10. The key to success as a TA/RA is to treat your responsibilities seriously (as you would with any job) and to have frequent and clear patterns of communication with the supervising faculty. If any of the following problems arise and you can't resolve them by talking with the faculty member, make an appointment to talk with the department chair, who will work with you and the faculty member to get the issue resolved:
 - Your workload consistently exceeds your departmental assignment.
 - You experience repeated teaching or research "emergencies" that are the fault of the faculty member and require that you repeatedly drop what you are doing and complete tasks for the faculty member.
 - You are treated in an unprofessional manner
 - You are asked to complete tasks not related to the instructor's instructional duties (e.g., getting coffee, watching children).
 - The faculty member repeatedly violates your agreement about after-hours and weekend phone calls and text messages in non-emergency situations.

The following additional issues refer primarily to TA assignments:

11. At your meeting with your faculty supervisor before the beginning of the semester, be sure to cover the following issues:
 - Class attendance
 - Office hours
 - Textbook and other materials

- Nature of assignments to be graded (go over syllabus)
- Test/assignment development process
- Test/assignment preparation and distribution process
- Test grading process
- Opportunities for TA lecturing and/or participation in class
- Dates of major responsibilities
- Methods for entering and computing grades
- Instructional technology (make sure that you get the necessary training)
- Competing demands on the TA—classes, thesis, research responsibilities, other TA responsibilities (look over all course syllabuses if assigned to multiple courses or instructors)

12. During the semester, remember that your TA assignment is part of a mentoring process. This is your opportunity to learn more about college instruction and to help you develop skills that will be useful to you whether or not you decide to pursue an academic career. So, talk to your supervising instructor about opportunities to do some or all the following:

- Help develop course learning objectives
- Help develop instructional strategies and materials (e.g., lectures, class activities, homework assignments, study guides)
- Help develop assessments of student learning
- Help develop assignments and evaluations (e.g., quizzes, tests, papers, activities)
- Help develop grading rubrics
- Help run in-class activities
- Help run classes or develop and give lectures

13. Remember that student learning and assessment is ultimately the responsibility of the instructor, so your instructor should provide you with sufficient levels of guidance. If you are not getting sufficient guidance, ask. The department expects faculty members to provide the following:

- Before assigning grading, faculty should make sure that you understand fully the material to be assessed, the purpose of the assessment, and the grading process. This is best accomplished by the following:
 - Providing specific guidelines for how the assignment should

be graded. This is best accomplished with a grading rubric.

- Recommending about how much time should be spent grading each student's work and the nature and the amount of written feedback that he or she should provide on each assignment.
 - If possible, providing strategies for how to organize and grade assignments—especially if a large number of students are being assessed.
 - Communicating how much a particular assignment contributes to the student's grade in the course.
- For major assignments that contribute substantially to the student's overall grade in the course, faculty members should not simply “hand off” the grading to their TAs. Instead, when TAs are involved in grading major assignments, the faculty member should grade some subset of the assignments to assess student learning, the quality of the assignment, and to ensure consistency between TA and faculty grading. Ideally, the faculty member and TA should grade a small subset of the assignments either independently or together to calibrate the grading.
 - The faculty member should develop with the TA a system for student grade appeals and ensure that the faculty member is ultimately responsible for the determination of the final grade.
 - Faculty members should provide appropriate and developmental levels of guidance and support to TAs in the other instructional activities listed above (e.g., developing assignments and grading rubrics; developing and running in-class activities; giving lectures). If the TA will be giving a lecture, faculty members should work up to this gradually (e.g., have the TA run some in-class activities first), and then attend the lecture to give them feedback.
14. The following Human Development policies are in place to help graduate students balance their TA responsibilities along with their other responsibilities (e.g., their own coursework, research responsibilities):
- Faculty members should give their TAs plenty of time to complete assignments for their classes (e.g., preparing exams) and provide sufficient advance notice. The amount of advance notice, of course, depends upon the complexity of the task. Part of your job as TA is to

monitor the syllabus and to ask about upcoming assignments if the instructor neglects to mention them.

- TAs should be given realistic turn-around time expectations for how quickly assignments should be graded. The number of assignments and the turn-around times should be appropriate given the hours the TA has been assigned. If the turn-around times are unrealistic in your opinion, then you should discuss this with the instructor.
- If a “teaching emergency” arises due to an error on the part of the instructor (e.g., he or she forgets to give you a test and it needs to be copied at the last minute), realize that everyone makes mistakes and try to do what you can to help out. If you can’t help because of other demands on your time, be honest with the faculty member about the situation. (Multiple “emergencies” are discussed below. If an emergency arises due to your own error (e.g., you forget to copy a test), then it is your responsibility to address the issue.

15. As a TA, you need to be aware of “boundary issues” that arise in interactions with students in your courses. Because TAs are often very close in age to the students in your courses, sometimes boundaries “blur” and TAs become too involved in the personal lives of their students. TAs need to keep a healthy professional distance from the students in their classes. Hanging out with, becoming friends with, or dating students in your classes can cause problems and is almost always inappropriate (dating is always inappropriate). This issue and others regarding interpersonal issues between TAs and students is covered in the required sexual harassment training you must complete before you become a TA.

16. Always keep in mind that because TAs and faculty members are part of instructional “teams,” students in HD courses should receive consistent messages from their faculty members and TA. It is unprofessional to criticize a faculty member to a student—if you disagree with the faculty member about something, talk to the faculty member directly—not to the students.

Prevention Science & Human Development

Graduate Course Rotation Schedule

Course schedules are subject to change. Please check the [WSU Course Schedule](#) to confirm when these courses are being offered.

	Fall	Spring
2026-2027	PrevSci 508 Structural Equation Modeling PrevSci 511 Introduction to PrevSci PrevSci 513 Research Methods in PrevSci PrevSci 535 Program Development in PrevSci	PrevSci 512 Finite Mixture Modeling HD 520 Adolescence HD 550 Seminar on Family Relationships
2027-2028	PrevSci 510 Multi-level Modeling PrevSci 511 Introduction to PrevSci PrevSci 513 Research Methods in PrevSci PrevSci 538 Dissemination & Implementation Science	PrevSci 540 Program Evaluation in PrevSci HD 550: Seminar on Family Relationships HD 560: Child Development
2028-2029	PrevSci 508 Structural Equation Modeling PrevSci 511 Introduction to PrevSci PrevSci 513 Research Methods in PrevSci PrevSci 535 Program Development in PrevSci	PrevSci 512 Finite Mixture Modeling HD 570 Adult Development HD 580 Families, Communities, and Public Policy
2029-2030	PrevSci 510 Multi-level Modeling PrevSci 511 Introduction to PrevSci PrevSci 513 Research Methods in PrevSci PrevSci 538 Dissemination & Implementation Science	PrevSci 540 Program Evaluation in PrevSci HD 570 Adult Development

Prevention Science 1st Semester Student Checklist

Welcome to WSU and to the Prevention Science Graduate Program! Below is a list of tasks you should complete within the first few weeks of your first semester. For more detailed information about the Ph.D. program, please see the Graduate Handbook on the [Prevention Science website](#).

- Complete the online [Graduate School orientation modules](#)
- If you haven't done so already, please introduce yourself to [Angela Merrill](#) and [Callee Daily](#), our fantastic administrative support!
- If you don't already know where your office will be located, contact the following individuals, depending on your home campus.
 - Pullman: contact your advisor or [Callee Daily](#)
 - Vancouver: contact your advisor
 - Spokane: contact your advisor
- Students on assistantship must maintain full-time enrollment (10 credit minimum; 10-12 credits is average). You will consult with your advisor each semester before determining which classes you should sign up for, but for this first semester most full-time students will take at least the following:
 - PREV_SCI 511 (3 credits): Introduction to Prevention Science
 - PREV_SCI 513 (3 credits): Research Methods
 - PREV_SCI 700 (2-3 credits): Master's Thesis Research with faculty advisor
 - A statistics course (talk to your advisor about which one is appropriate).
For some of these courses, you will need to contact the instructor and/or the department's academic coordinator directly to get permission to register.
- Students enrolled part-time should consult with their advisor each semester before determining which classes to sign up for, but for this first semester, part-time students are encouraged to take two core courses:
 - PREV_SCI 511 (3 credits): Introduction to Prevention Science
 - PREV_SCI 513 (3 credits): Research Methods
- You can access the [Schedule of Classes](#) on the Registrar's page.
- If you are on assistantship, please review the [TA & RA Responsibilities and Guidelines](#). If you have specific questions about your TA or RA roles and responsibilities, please speak directly with your TA/RA supervisor.
- Sign-in to your [myWSU account](#)
 - Confirm you are registered in the correct classes. If you have questions or concerns about how to drop or add classes, contact [Callee Daily](#), the

- Program Coordinator.
 - Update your local address. If you move, change phone numbers or e-mail addresses, please make sure they are updated in [my.WSU](#).
 - Add information for your emergency contacts.
- Visit the University's [Academic Calendar](#) for important dates and deadlines in each semester.
- Meet with your assigned advisor to get to know them and discuss expectations.
- If you have a TA, meet with the instructor for your assigned class(es).
- Complete the *Discrimination and Sexual Harassment Prevention Training* by viewing the instructions on the [Human Resources website](#).
- Complete the [Responsible Conduct of Research Training](#) by September 30.
- Once you have completed these trainings, please email proof of their successful completion to [Callee Daily](#) the Program Coordinator.
- Become familiar with the [Prevention Science Ph.D. Graduate Handbook](#)
 - The handbook is updated periodically so we recommend bookmarking this link to assure you are reviewing the most updated information.
- Become familiar with the Graduate School [website](#) (including available resources and important deadlines and forms):
 - Pay special attention to the [Deadlines and Procedures for Master's Degrees](#) and [Deadlines and Procedures for Doctoral Degrees](#) documents.
- For those admitted as non-resident and on assistantship, you will be provided with an out-of-state tuition waiver during your first year of study; however, the out-of-state tuition waiver cannot be guaranteed beyond one year. You must begin the process of establishing residency immediately upon arrival as documentation must in place for one year. See the Graduate School's [Establishing Residency website](#).
- If you would like to have a Master's thesis from a different graduate program reviewed to determine whether it will fulfill the M.S. requirement for the Prevention Science Ph.D. program, please review the guidelines [here](#). This process must be initiated during your first semester.

Master's Thesis Student Checklist

Below is a list of tasks you must complete for the Master's Thesis in Prevention Science. Tasks are listed in the approximate order they should be completed, but they may vary in some circumstances. For more detailed information, please review Master's Thesis Degree Requirement & Timeline section (starting on p.20) and the [Graduate School website](#).

- ☐ Consult the [Required forms by Stage in Program page](#) in the [Appendix](#) for a list of required forms for students at the Master's Thesis stage.
- ☐ Consult the [Paperwork Submission Protocol](#) page in the [Appendix](#) for more information on how to submit forms and required paperwork.
- ☐ Select M.S. Committee according to the following requirements. See the handbook for more details. This committee must be listed on [Program of Study Request](#) form for the Master's Degree.
 - Minimum of three faculty, including advisor (i.e., committee chair)
 - If a Prevention Science faculty member with a clinical appointment chairs a committee, he or she must co-chair the committee with a tenure track member of the Prevention Science faculty.
 - Chair and at least half of the committee must be Prevention Science faculty
 - Members must come from at least two (preferably three) disciplines
 - At least two members must have their Ph.D. or equivalent
 - All committees must be approved by the Prevention Science Director
- ☐ Submit the [Program of Study Request](#) form and the Internal Program of Study form for the Master's Degree to the Program Coordinator at the beginning of the spring semester of your **first year** in the program.
 - The deadline for submission is listed in the document [Deadlines and Procedures for Master's Degree](#). It is typically very early in the semester.
 - The Program Coordinator will submit it to the Graduate School but it is your responsibility to confirm it was approved by monitoring your email for a final confirmation from the Graduate School.
- ☐ As a Ph.D. student, you also must submit your [Program of Study Request](#) form and Internal Program of Study form for the Doctoral Degree to the Program Coordinator during the fall semester of your **second year** in the program (i.e., your third semester in the program).
 - This deadline is typically one month after the Master's Program of Study deadline but check the [Deadlines and Procedures for the Doctoral Degree](#) document to be sure.
 - The Program Coordinator will submit it to the Graduate School, but it is your responsibility to confirm it was approved by monitoring your email for a final confirmation from the Graduate School.

- Draft thesis proposal (introduction, literature review, methods, data analysis plan, and reference list) in consultation with your advisor.
 - Please note that several rounds of revisions between you and your advisor are expected before submitting a draft to your committee.
 - If you have thesis co-chairs, involve both faculty members in the development of the proposal, and have them both approve your document before you send it to the rest of your committee.
- You are strongly encouraged to schedule and hold an informal, preliminary thesis proposal meeting with the members of your committee prior to scheduling a formal proposal meeting. These meetings may be one-on-one or in a larger group. These meetings give you the opportunity to ask committee members for advice and feedback about your proposed research before the formal proposal meeting, while allowing committee members an opportunity to ask for clarification and voice any concerns about the proposed study.
- Submit a completed thesis proposal to your M.S. Committee. They should be given at least two weeks to review it and determine if you are prepared to schedule the proposal defense.
 - Please note that since the defense must be scheduled at least two weeks in advance, this essentially means you must submit your proposal to the committee one month in advance of when you would like to defend.
- With the approval of the committee, schedule the proposal defense with the Program Coordinator, at least two weeks prior to the scheduled meeting (no form required).
 - Please note that the Program Coordinator will NOT announce this to other faculty and students because only you and your committee will attend the Master's Thesis Proposal Meeting.
- Conduct thesis proposal defense meeting. The student and M.S. Committee are the only ones who attend this meeting (no outside students or faculty). Below is a description of the typical protocol for this meeting, which should last approximately 1.5-2 hours.
 - Committee meets briefly without the student.
 - Student gives 20-30 minute presentation outlining the proposed project.
 - Committee asks student questions about the proposed project.
 - Committee asks student to leave the room.
 - Student returns and committee gives their assessment, including any needed edits, revisions, or modifications to the proposed project.
 - Committee signs the [Prevention Science Thesis Proposal Approval Form](#) to indicate their final approval. The signed agreement indicates that you agree to carry out the theses project as discussed in the proposal meeting. Any subsequent substantial changes in the design of the theses may require re-approval from committee members.

- After completing the approval form, please submit it to the Prevention Science Program Coordinator.
- Complete and submit IRB application. Please note that your committee must approve your research protocol before submitting the application. The M.S. Committee chair is listed as PI and must submit the application for the student. See [IRB website](#) for more details.
- After receiving IRB approval, collect (if applicable) and analyze data.
- Draft results and discussion sections. Review and revise all sections as needed.
 - Please note that several rounds of revisions between you and your advisor/chair are expected before submitting the final version to your committee.
 - If you have thesis co-chairs, involve both faculty members in the completion of the thesis, and have them both approve your document before you send it to the rest of your committee.
- Register for a minimum of 2 credits of Prev_Sci 700 at the beginning of the semester or summer session in which the final defense takes place.
- Apply to graduate online through the Graduate School (in the semester you plan to graduate). See specific instructions for how to [Apply to Graduate through myWSU](#) and broader graduation requirements on the [Graduate School Website](#).
 - This involves paying a fee.
 - Make sure you follow the guidelines on the [Graduation Checklist](#).
- Submit completed thesis to M.S. Committee. They should be given at least two weeks to review it and determine if you are prepared to schedule the thesis defense.
 - Please note that since the defense must be scheduled at least two weeks in advance, this essentially means you must submit your completed thesis to the committee one month in advance of when you would like to defend. You also must adhere to graduate school deadlines for defense (typically two weeks in advance of the end of the semester). For example, for Spring 2023, the last day for final exams was 4/22/23; this means you must turn in your final draft to your committee for review by 3/22/23.
- With the approval of the committee, schedule the thesis defense.
 - Proposal and final defense meetings must be scheduled in different semesters.

Please note that the Graduate School has very firm deadlines for scheduling the thesis defense. These are listed in the [Deadlines and Procedures for Master's Degree](#) form. Keep these deadlines in mind as you plan for scheduling your thesis

defense. If you have concerns that you won't make the deadline, don't rush the defense—it is much better to postpone it until the next semester.

- Complete the [Scheduling Exam: Master's Form \(Routing\)](#) and submit to the Program Coordinator at least 10 working days before your thesis defense date. The Program Coordinator will submit it to the Graduate School, but it is your responsibility to confirm it was approved by monitoring your email for final confirmation from the Graduate School. You have two options for submitting your exam scheduling form:
 - **The Routing Form (recommended):** Submit via the online [Scheduling Exam: Doctoral/Thesis Final \(Routing\)](#). This will automatically collect approvals from your committee chair and members via email approval. Once all members have signed, it generates a PDF for department review, Director approval and submission within MyWSU by the Program Coordinator. You can check the status of this process to see who has signed by using the [Student Form Center](#). You will need to create a free Smart-sheet account tied to your wsu.edu email.

OR

- **The traditional PDF Form:** Fill out the form online using the [Scheduling Exam: Doctoral/Thesis Final](#) link on the Graduate School Forms page. Once the form is filled out, you submit it and it will provide you with a PDF copy of your exam scheduling form that you may email to your chair and committee members for signatures. Once completed you must then email it to the Program Coordinator.
- Submit an electronic draft of the thesis to ProQuest for the Graduate School and the Program Coordinator at the time you submit your exam scheduling form. A copy of the completed thesis must be made available electronically to faculty by the Program Coordinator.
 - Make sure that you follow the Graduate Schools [Thesis and Dissertation Formatting and Submission Requirements](#) or use the provided [Thesis/Dissertation Templates](#) on the Graduate School Forms page.
- The Program Coordinator will send an announcement with the defense date, time, and location or zoom link to all Prevention Science faculty and students, who are welcome to attend the meeting, once the Graduate School has approved your exam scheduling form.
- Following a successful defense, the following documents must be submitted no later than **10 business days** after the defense occurs:
 - [A final copy of your Thesis](#) uploaded into ProQuest
 - Thesis/Dissertation [Approval Form](#)
 - [Hold Harmless form](#)

- A copy of your final Thesis, once any minor edits are completed post-defense, must be uploaded to ProQuest. For instructions on uploading to ProQuest please visit the [Graduate School's Dissertation/Theses Page](#). The Approval Form is uploaded into MyWSU, instructions for how to do this are found under the [Approval Form PDF](#) on the [Grad School Forms page](#). The Hold Harmless form can also be found on the [Graduate School Forms page](#). The Hold Harmless can be either uploaded into MyWSU the same way the Approval form is or emailed directly to the graduate school (gradschool@wsu.edu) make sure you include your Student ID Number in your email.
- Conduct thesis defense meeting. Below is a description of the typical protocol for this meeting, which should last approximately 1.5-2 hours.
 - Committee meets briefly without the student or non-committee attendees.
 - Student gives 30-45 minute presentation describing the thesis project.
 - Committee and non-committee attendees ask student questions.
 - Committee dismisses non-committee attendees.
 - Committee asks student any remaining questions (without non-committee attendees present).
 - Committee asks student to leave the room.
 - Student returns and committee gives their assessment, including any needed edits or revisions to the thesis document.
 - Committee will ballot within MyWSU to indicate their final approval and also electronically signs the signature page for your thesis.
 - The Committee Chair submits the ballot memo within MyWSU. The memo is due 5 business days after exam.
- Make final revisions per committee instructions.
 - Please note that the Graduate School requires that students complete any revisions within 10 working days following the defense meeting.
- Submit a final completed thesis within 10 working days to the Graduate School and to the Program Coordinator. Make sure that you follow the [Thesis and Dissertation Formatting and Submission Requirements](#) and the [Dissertation/Thesis Final Acceptance Checklist](#).
- If you plan to attend commencement, make sure you register by the deadline on the [Commencement website](#).

Preliminary Doctoral Exam Student Checklist

Below is a list of tasks you must complete for the Preliminary Doctoral Exam in Prevention Science, also known as prelims. Tasks are listed in the approximate order they should be completed, but they may vary in some circumstances. For more detailed information, please consult the [Prevention Science Ph.D. Graduate Website and Handbook](#) and the [Graduate School website](#).

- ☐ Consult the [Appendix](#) for a list of required forms for students at the prelims stage.
- ☐ Consult the [Appendix](#) for the Paperwork Submission Protocol.
- ☐ Select Ph.D. Committee according to the following requirements. Please note that in most cases you will have the same committee for prelims and for your dissertation. See the handbook for more details.
 - Minimum of four faculty, including advisor (i.e., committee chair)
 - If a Prevention Science faculty member with a clinical appointment chairs a committee, he or she must co-chair the committee with a tenure track member of the Prevention Science faculty.
 - Chair and at least two members of the committee must be Prevention Science faculty
 - Members must come from at least two (preferably three) disciplines
 - All members must have their Ph.D. or equivalent
 - All committees must be approved by the Prevention Science Program Director
- ☐ As a Ph.D. student, you must submit your [Program of Study Request](#) form and Internal Program of Study form to the Program Coordinator during the fall semester of your **second year** in the program (i.e., your third semester in the program). If you completed a Prevention Science Master's degree, you need to submit a second program of study for your Doctoral degree program.
 - This deadline is typically one month after the Master's Program of Study deadline but check the [Deadlines and Procedures for the Doctoral Degree](#) document to be sure.
 - The Program Coordinator will submit the form to the Graduate School, but it is your responsibility to confirm it was approved by monitoring your email for a final confirmation from the Graduate School.
- ☐ Complete all core Prevention Science coursework, including the required courses in the three core competency areas – Developmental Epidemiology and Public Health; Research Methodology & Statistics; and Program Development, Implementation, and Institutionalization. See the handbook for more details.
- ☐ In consultation with your committee chair, review the [Preliminary Exam Advisor Checklist](#) and develop a draft of your Prelims Proposal which includes the following:

- Reading list containing approximately 80-100 readings total; 20-30 readings for each of the three Prevention Science competency areas and your specialty area.
 - 2-3 page (double-spaced) research statement describing your specialty area.
 - Three suggested exam questions for your specialty area.
- Submit a draft of your Prelims Proposal to your Ph.D. Committee. They should be given at least two weeks to review it and give their feedback on its contents, including suggested readings to add to the list.
 - Incorporate revisions from the Ph.D. Committee and finalize your Prelims Proposal.
 - Have your advisor submit your Prelims Proposal to the Prevention Science Program Director along with the [Preliminary Exam Advisor Checklist](#). The Director will send it to the Prevention Science Graduate Committee (i.e., Steering Committee) for final approval. This should be done by the last day of the semester (i.e., the last day of the final exam period) prior to the semester you would like to begin writing the exam. The Steering Committee will review and send their requested revisions (if any) within approximately 2-3 weeks from when the proposal is submitted.
 - Once approved by the Prevention Science Graduate Committee (i.e., Steering Committee), begin reading and preparing for the exam.
 - Register for a minimum of 2 credits of Prev_Sci 800 at the beginning of the semester or summer session in which the prelims defense takes place.
 - Schedule prelims oral defense meeting with the Ph.D. Committee. Please note that according to Graduate School policy, if the examination is administered via video conference, at least one member of the doctoral committee must be physically present in the room with the student, preferably the Committee Chair.
 - Complete the [Scheduling Exam: Preliminary Exam Form](#) (this requires signatures from all committee members).
 - The Program Coordinator will submit the form to the Graduate School, but it is your responsibility to confirm it was approved by monitoring your email for a final confirmation from the Graduate School.
 - The Graduate School requires you to submit the form to them at least 10 working days prior to the oral defense of your prelims.
 - To do this, we recommend identifying the date for the oral defense and then working backwards to determine the day you will receive the prelim questions for the written exam.
 - Prelims can be held any day of the semester except during final exam

week. Prelims must be taken at least 4 months (one semester) prior to the final dissertation defense.

- You must adhere to the following requirements: (1) Once you receive your exam questions, you will have two weeks to complete and submit your written responses and an APA-formatted reference list to your committee-chair and to the Program Coordinator, and (2) The oral defense ideally should take place at least 1 week, but no more than 2 weeks following submission of the completed written exam responses, but according to Graduate School policy can occur up to 30 days after turning in your written exam.
- Send meeting information (date, time, location) to the Program Coordinator. The Program Coordinator will send an announcement about the oral defense to all Prevention Science faculty who are welcome to attend the meeting. Other than the student being tested, no students are allowed to attend.
- You will receive your prelims exam questions by email from either your advisor, the Program Coordinator, or another pre-determined Prevention Science faculty member on the scheduled date and will have two weeks to complete the exam. Responses should be approximately 10-15, double-spaced pages per question. You should also include an APA-formatted reference list for each question (this is not included in the 10-15 per question page limit).
- Submit an electronic copy of the completed written exam to your committee chair and to the Program Coordinator on the due date (two weeks after receiving your questions).
- Conduct prelims defense meeting. Below is a description of the typical protocol for this meeting, which should last approximately 2.5 hours.
 - Committee meets briefly without the student or non-committee faculty.
 - Committee asks student questions.
 - Committee asks student to leave the room.
 - Student returns and committee gives their assessment.
 - Committee will ballot within MyWSU to indicate their final approval.
 - The Committee Chair submits the ballot memo within MyWSU. The memo is due 5 business days after exam.
- If a student does not pass all questions, they must wait a minimum of three months from the first defense to reschedule and retake the portion of the exam they did not pass. In this case, the form must be submitted to the Graduate School at least three weeks (15 working days) in advance of re-taking the exam the second time.

Doctoral Dissertation Student Checklist

Below is a list of tasks you must complete for the Doctoral Dissertation in Prevention Science. Tasks are listed in the approximate order they should be completed, but they vary in some circumstances. For more detailed information, please consult the [Prevention Science Ph.D. Graduate Website and Handbook](#) and the [Graduate School website](#).

- ☐ Consult the [Appendix](#) for a list of required forms for students at the dissertation stage.
- ☐ Consult the [Appendix](#) for the Paperwork Submission Protocol.
- ☐ Draft dissertation proposal (introduction, literature review, methods, data analysis plan, and reference list – if you are doing the Three Manuscript option, this structure will vary – see [Appendix](#) for guidance) in consultation with your advisor (i.e., committee chair).
 - Please note that several rounds of revisions between you and your advisor are expected before submitting a draft to your committee.
 - If you have dissertation co-chairs, involve both faculty members in the development of the proposal, and have them both approve your document before you send it to the rest of your committee.
- ☐ You are strongly encouraged to schedule and hold an informal, preliminary dissertation proposal meeting with the members of your Ph.D. Committee prior to scheduling a formal proposal meeting. These meetings may be one-on-one or in a larger group. These meetings give you the opportunity to ask committee members for advice and feedback about your proposed research before the formal proposal meeting, while allowing committee members an opportunity to ask for clarification and voice any concerns about the proposed study.
- ☐ Submit completed dissertation proposal to Ph.D. Committee. They should be given at least two weeks to review it and determine if you are prepared to schedule the proposal defense.
 - Please note that since the defense must be scheduled at least two weeks in advance, this essentially means you must submit your proposal to the committee one month in advance of when you would like to defend.
- ☐ With the approval of the committee, schedule the **proposal defense** with the Program Coordinator at least two weeks prior to the scheduled meeting (no form required).
- ☐ Send meeting information (date, time, location, dissertation title) to the Program Coordinator. The Program Coordinator will send an announcement about the defense to all Prevention Science faculty and students who are welcome to

attend the meeting.

- Conduct dissertation proposal defense meeting. Below is a description of the typical protocol for this meeting, which should last approximately 1.5-2 hours.
 - Committee meets briefly without the student or non-committee attendees.
 - Student gives 20-30 minute presentation describing the proposed project.
 - Committee and non-committee attendees ask student questions.
 - Committee dismisses non-committee attendees.
 - Committee asks student any remaining questions (without non-committee attendees present).
 - Committee asks student to leave the room.
 - Student returns and committee gives their assessment, including any needed edits, revisions, or modifications to the proposed project.
 - Committee signs the [Prevention Science Dissertation Proposal Approval Form](#) to indicate their final approval. The signed agreement indicates that you agree to carry out the dissertation project as discussed in the proposal meeting. Any subsequent substantial changes in the design of the dissertation may require re-approval from committee members.
 - After completing the approval form, please submit it to the Prevention Science Program Coordinator.
- Complete and submit IRB application. Please note that your committee must approve your research protocol before submitting the application. The Ph.D. Committee chair is listed as PI and must submit the application for the student. See [IRB website](#) for more details.
- After receiving IRB approval, collect (if applicable) and analyze data.
- Draft results and discussion sections (if you are doing the Three Manuscript option, this structure will vary – see [Appendix](#) for guidance). Review and revise all sections as needed.
 - Please note that several rounds of revisions between you and your committee chair are expected before submitting the final version to your committee.
 - If you have dissertation co-chairs, involve both faculty members in the completion of the dissertation, and have them both approve your document before you send it to the rest of your committee.
- Submit completed dissertation to Ph.D. Committee. They should be given at least two weeks to review it and determine if you are prepared to schedule the dissertation defense.
 - Please note that since the defense must be scheduled at least two weeks in advance, this essentially means you must submit your completed dissertation to the committee one month in advance of when you would like to defend. You also must adhere to graduate school deadlines for defense (typically two weeks in advance of the end of the semester). For example, for Spring

2026, the last day for final exams was 4/24/26; this means you must turn in your final draft to your committee for review by 3/24/26.

- Register for a minimum of 2 credits of Prev_Sci 800 at the beginning of the semester or summer session in which the final defense takes place.
- Apply to graduate online through the Graduate School (in the semester you plan to graduate). See specific instructions for how to [Apply to Graduate through myWSU](#) and broader graduation requirements on the [Graduate School Website](#).
 - This involves paying a fee.
 - Make sure you follow the guidelines on the [Graduation Checklist](#).
- With the approval of the committee, schedule the dissertation defense.
 - Proposal and final defense meetings must be scheduled in different semesters.
 - Please note that the Graduate School has very firm deadlines for scheduling the dissertation defense. These are listed in the [Deadlines and Procedures for Doctoral Degree](#) form. Keep these deadlines in mind as you plan for scheduling your dissertation defense. If you have concerns that you won't make the deadline, don't rush the defense—it is much better to postpone it until the next semester.
- Complete the [Scheduling Exam: Doctoral Form \(Routing\)](#) and submit to the Program Coordinator at least 10 working days before your thesis defense date. The Program Coordinator will submit it to the Graduate School, but it is your responsibility to confirm it was approved by monitoring your email for final confirmation from the Graduate School. You have two options for submitting your exam scheduling form:
 - **The Routing Form (recommended):** Submit via the online [Scheduling Exam: Doctoral/Thesis Final \(Routing\)](#). This will automatically collect approvals from your committee chair and members via email approval. Once all members have signed, it generates a PDF for department review, Director approval and submission within MyWSU by the Program Coordinator. You can check the status of this process to see who has signed by using the [Student Form Center](#). You will need to create a free Smartsheet account tied to your wsu.edu email.

OR

- **Use the traditional PDF Form:** Fill out the form online using the [Scheduling Exam: Doctoral/Thesis Final](#) link on the Graduate School Forms page. Once the form is filled out, you submit it and it will provide you with a PDF copy of your exam scheduling form that you may email to your chair and committee members for signatures. Once completed you must then email it to the Program Coordinator.
- **Submit an electronic draft of the thesis** to ProQuest for the Graduate School and the Program Coordinator at the time you submit your exam.

- scheduling form. A copy of the completed thesis must be made available electronically to faculty by the Program Coordinator.
- Make sure that you follow the Graduate Schools [Thesis and Dissertation Formatting and Submission Requirements](#) or use the provided [Thesis/Dissertation Templates](#) on the Graduate School Forms page.
- The Program Coordinator will send an announcement with the defense date, time, and location or zoom link to all Prevention Science faculty and students, who are welcome to attend the meeting, once the Graduate School has approved your exam scheduling form.
 - Conduct dissertation defense meeting. Below is a description of the typical protocol for this meeting, which should last approximately 1.5-2 hours.
 - Committee meets briefly without the student or non-committee attendees.
 - Student gives 30-45 minute presentation describing the dissertation project.
 - Committee and non-committee attendees ask student questions.
 - Committee dismisses non-committee attendees.
 - Committee asks student any remaining questions (without non-committee attendees present).
 - Committee asks student to leave the room.
 - Student returns and committee gives their assessment, including any needed edits or revisions to the dissertation document.
 - Committee will ballot within MyWSU to indicate their final approval and will electronically sign the signature page for your dissertation.
 - The Committee Chair submits the ballot memo within MyWSU. The memo is due 5 business days after exam
 - Make final revisions per committee instructions.
 - Please note that the Graduate School requires that students complete any revisions and submit additional documents (see list below) within 10 business days following the defense meeting.
 - Following a successful defense, the following documents must also be submitted along with any revisions no later than **10 business days** after the defense occurs:
 - [A final copy of your Dissertation](#) uploaded into ProQuest
 - Thesis/Dissertation [Approval Form](#)
 - [Hold Harmless form](#)
 - [Survey of Earned Doctorates \(SED\)](#) completion confirmation – this is emailed to you after completion of the survey.
 - A copy of your final Dissertation, once any revisions are completed post-defense, must be uploaded to ProQuest. For instructions on uploading to ProQuest please visit the [Graduate School's Dissertation/Theses Page](#). The Approval Form is uploaded into MyWSU, instructions for how to do this are found on the [Approval Form](#)

[PDF](#) on the [Grad School Forms page](#). The Hold Harmless form and a link to access the SED website can also be found on the Graduate School Forms page. The Hold Harmless and SED can be either uploaded into MyWSU the same way the Approval form is or emailed directly to the graduate school (gradschool@wsu.edu) make sure you include your Student ID Number in your email.

- ☐ If you plan to attend commencement, make sure you register by the deadline: <http://commencement.wsu.edu/>
- ☐ Before graduation, provide your personal email to the Program Coordinator so we can stay in touch with you in the future.

Three Manuscript Dissertation Guidance

The following information is meant to help provide additional guidance on the content and structure of the three-manuscript dissertation option. Students should consult their dissertation committee members for additional guidance.

The 3-manuscript dissertation should consist of:

- Overarching, comprehensive introduction
- 3 original (i.e. not already submitted for publication) papers (at least two should be empirical)
 - An overarching conclusion
 - Appendix (if needed)

The proposal for the 3-manuscript dissertation should consist of:

- Overarching, comprehensive introduction
- Plan for each of the 3 original (i.e. not already submitted for publication) papers (at least two of which should be empirical) that clearly articulates the background/purpose, theory, methods (data collection, analysis plan, etc.) and research questions for each paper
 - How these 3 papers fit together into one cohesive research agenda

Below is additional guidance for students and faculty about what can be included in each of the major sections of the 3-manuscript dissertation.

- 1) Overarching introduction
 - a. Provide the overall background for the work as a whole
 - i. Literature review
 - ii. Theoretical foundation(s)
 - b. Describe what the state of the field is, what overarching social issues the three papers are addressing, what the committee will read about (briefly describe what you will do), and how these three papers contribute to the field
 - c. Provide the conceptual justification for the papers, how they fit together into one cohesive research agenda
 - d. Should not be redundant with any of the 3 individual papers
 - e. Should meet all other introduction criteria of the traditional dissertation option
- 2) 3 papers

- a. At least two of the papers should be empirical. Examples of types of papers that count as empirical: quantitative study, qualitative study, meta- analysis, psychometric/measurement paper.
- b. Examples of types of papers that count as not empirical, but may be suitable for a 3rd paper: Systematic review/state of the field review (not just a literature review), theoretical paper
- c. If the committee feels strongly that only two papers should be acceptable for a student to meet their dissertation requirement, the committee chair should propose this to the Prevention Science Steering Committee who will vote on and approve this. This should be a rare occurrence and have strong justification for why this should be allowed.
- d. The committee should play an active role in shaping all 3 papers –they should not be an idea already conceptualized prior to committee involvement and approved without committee input.
- e. The 3 papers should be complete, ready-to-publish papers with their own introduction, methods, results, and discussion sections, and anything else that would go into the papers to make them ready-to-publish
- f. When deciding if a paper qualifies as an independent paper, the student and committee should consider whether the paper is publishable as a stand-alone paper or if it would need to be combined with other content to be a full, independent paper.
- g. All 3 papers should be first authored by the student
- h. If paper is co-authored, student must have conceptualized and formulated the paper/study and completed all the writing and data analysis for the paper
- i. Co-authors can help with data collection, study/paper/ survey design, and data coding
- j. Students should identify the journal targets and journal selection standards as part of the proposal process, and write the articles in accordance with those journals' formatting requirements
- k. The three papers should be new, unique contributions to the literature.
 - i. The three papers should complement each other and contribute to a cohesive research agenda, tied together by an overarching comprehensive introduction and conclusion that is separate from those in the articles themselves
 - ii. The papers should be distinct from each other but theoretically or conceptually connected
 - iii. They should not:

1. Be a paper the student has already written/published in the past (as this does not allow for the committee to provide input or guidance into the student's process)
 2. Be multiple versions of the same approach (for example, 3 papers on predictors of adolescent substance abuse, and each paper uses the same approach but examines a different predictor)
 3. The three papers should not be contingent on one another, due to the possibility that the findings from the first or second (e.g., null findings) could make the following paper(s) no longer feasible.
- iv. There is the possibility that a student will come up with non-significant findings for one of their papers (e.g., statistically non-significant findings) that may make it unpublishable. While null findings in and of themselves are clearly not a problem, and just a natural part of the work, there is the issue of this dissertation option being focused on helping the student have 3 publishable papers. If this happens, the student can work with the committee to change the direction of this specific paper if pursuing the original agreed-upon path will result in an unpublishable paper. Since the 3 papers should not be contingent on one another, this should not affect the plans for the other 2 papers.
- I. Overarching Conclusion
- i. Synthesizes the results of the 3 papers
 - ii. Describes their collective meaning and overall contribution to the field
 - iii. Should meet all other conclusion criteria of the traditional dissertation option
 - iv. Should not be redundant with any of the 3 individual papers
- m. Appendix (if needed)
- i. Liberal use of appendices to document a more extensive literature review (if something important doesn't fall within the scope of the overarching introduction) and details of methods and analyses is strongly recommended. Incorporating articles that are published prior to finishing the dissertation would be covered by copyright "fair use" since they would be considered to fall within the "study and teaching" factors. Copyright status would need to be reevaluated if a dissertation, containing previously published articles, is published.

Part-Time Student Tips & Tricks

Below are tips and tricks from part-time Prevention Science graduate students. If you have additional questions, please contact the Program Coordinator.

- Registering for classes: Reach out to the professor in advance to let them know you are hoping to take their course. If you are using the WSU Employee Fee Waiver to pay for the class, you can't register until the first week of classes. So, let them know you will be registering and ask for any homework for the first week (they often assign readings, but it won't get to you if you aren't registered!).
- If you are a WSU employee, you are required to put your committee and Program of Study together before you ever take classes. So earlier than other students. These things may change as your studies get underway, and that is ok.
- You can't use the WSU employee tuition waiver to take online classes, but now they have a scholarship you can apply for to cover those.
- One class while working full-time is manageable. Two classes is pushing it, but doable. Of course, it also depends on how much time you have in your personal life and other family responsibilities.
- Scheduling meetings with your committee: Check with your committee (even before you create your committee) about their general availability. For example, summer might be an ideal time for you to schedule your defense meetings, but your committee members may be on a 9-month appointment and might be "off contract" during the time you need to schedule your defense. Once you have formed the committee, be sure to confirm their availability for all meetings via Outlook calendar invite.
 - Preparing the preliminary exams reading list: Be sure to keep all your course syllabi and readings organized. These will be a major source for your prelims reading list. Students recommend reviewing the prelims reading list requirements and start building it from day 1 of your first class. It is easier to remove readings than to have to dig them up again later.
 - While working on dissertation, be sure to monitor enrollment in PREV_SCI 800 credits to ensure sufficient credits for graduation

Protocol for Students Applying for Travel Funding

We encourage Prevention Science students to attend conferences, workshops, and other trainings that contribute to their professional development. If you are interested in attending such an event that requires registration and/or travel fees, please follow this protocol for seeking funding sources.

- 1) Investigate scholarships available through the organization hosting the professional development event. Often, professional associations have funding available to off-set costs for students and early professionals.
- 2) Contact your faculty advisor. Some faculty have funding from grants and other sources that can support student travel to conferences and other training opportunities.
- 3) The Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA) only provides financial assistance in the form of travel and registration grants for WSU Pullman fee paying graduate and professional students. For details, see their [Travel Grants](#) website.
- 4) For Vancouver students, the Student Involvement and Academic Affairs sponsors travel grant funding for graduate students. For details, see the [Vancouver Graduate Students Resources](#) page.
- 5) After seeking support through the above sources, you can complete the [Travel Award Application](#) and submit it to the Prevention Science Director. Priority will be given to students who are presenting their research at a conference. Other factors will be considered as well, such as the availability of other funding streams on your campus.

Annual Prevention Science Poster Session

In the spring of each academic year, the Prevention Science Graduate Student Organization (PSGSO) and collaboration with the Prevention Science Graduate Program host a poster session. The poster session is a showcase for research happening within and around the Prevention Science Graduate Program. The location of the program will be determined on an annual basis.

Required Forms by Stage in Program

All forms can be found on the Graduate School website, unless otherwise noted.

Stage in Program	Required Forms
Master's Thesis Proposal	• Program of Study Request form and Internal Program of Study form for M.S. • Add Academic Program Degree Level form • MS Thesis Proposal (see section above for requirements) • Scheduling Defense Meeting: no form required • Final Approval: Prevention Science Thesis Proposal Approval form completed by committee at end of meeting and then submitted to Program Coordinator
Master's Thesis (Defense)	• Scheduling Defense Meeting: Scheduling Exam – Master's form • Final Approval: voting ballots (these are sent to the committee chair who will bring them to the meeting; signed ballots are given to the Program Coordinator who submits them to the Graduate School) • Application for Degree and Graduation form • Additional forms including a completed Hold Harmless Form, and the Thesis/Dissertation Approval Form (submit all via MyWSU, instructions located on the Approval Form PDF). • Upload thesis to ProQuest in draft and final formats
Preliminary Exam	• Program of Study Request form and Internal Program of Study Form for Ph.D. • Prelims Proposal: Preliminary Exam Advisor Checklist (see section above for requirements)
Prelims Exam	• Scheduling Written Exam & Oral Defense Meeting: Scheduling Exam – Preliminary Exam form • Final Approval: voting ballots (these are sent to the committee chair who will bring them to the meeting; signed ballots are given to the Program Coordinator who submits them to the Graduate School)
Doctoral Dissertation	• Committee Change Form (if dissertation committee is different than prelims committee) • Program of Study Request form for PhD (if any changes have occurred since submitting the original) • Doctoral Dissertation Proposal (see section above for requirements) • Scheduling Defense Meeting: no form required • Final Approval: Prevention Science Dissertation Proposal Approval form completed by committee at end of meeting and then submitted to Program Coordinator
Doctoral Dissertation (Defense)	• Scheduling Defense Meeting: Scheduling Exam – Doctoral form • Final Approval: voting ballots (these are sent to the committee chair who will bring them to the meeting; signed ballots are given to the Program Coordinator who submits them to the Graduate School) • Application for Degree and Graduation form • Additional forms such as a completed Hold Harmless form, Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED) completion certificate, and your Thesis/Dissertation Approval form (submit all via MyWSU, instructions located on the Approval Form PDF). • Upload thesis to ProQuest in draft and final formats

Paperwork Submission Protocol

- 1) Student identifies the form needed. See the [Required Forms by Stage in Program page](#) for which forms are required at which stage in the Prevention Science program.
- 2) The Graduate School now uses Smartsheets, the following instructions have been provided by the Graduate School on how to properly use them.
 - These new forms gather student, committee chair, and committee member approvals via email, then generate a signed PDF for department review, approval, and submission within myWSU. Routing forms are marked as “**(ROUTING)**” in the form’s name.
 - Track your form as it routes for approvals using the [Student Form Center](#). These dashboards require a free Smartsheet account tied to your wsu.edu account. Click on a submission to open the details window and scroll to view the list of approvers, their emails, and which have/have not approved.
 - Non-Routing forms are still available and are marked as “(NON-ROUTING)” in the form’s name.
- 3) **All Smartsheet-generated forms (routing and non-routing) require submission within myWSU. Work with your academic coordinator for graduate program review and submission within myWSU.**
- 4) Program Coordinator reviews the form, gathers the Program Director’s signature, and saves a copy of the completed form in the student’s Prevention Science file.
- 5) Program Coordinator submits the completed form to the Graduate School.
- 6) Graduate School reviews completed form, and once approved, the Graduate School sends a confirmation email to the student and Program Coordinator.

Most students will have committee members across multiple campuses/locations. It is recommended to use Smartsheets Routing Forms where possible to avoid having to send PDF’s via email. However, some forms do not have routing options yet. In this case, we recommend the following tips and tricks to help facilitate the paperwork process.

- For forms such as the Program of Study, after you have completed all the necessary information, you can send an electronic copy to faculty

and gather signatures. Faculty can sign the form separately, or they can all e-sign the same form. This must be a real signature, electronic, or otherwise. A signature using a font is not accepted by the Graduate School. Please submit all copies of the signed forms to the Program Coordinator who will get the Program Director's signature on one of these. The Program Coordinator will submit them to the Graduate School as a packet.

- Please avoid scanning the same version of a form multiple times as this reduces the quality of the image and can be difficult to read. If you must scan a document, be sure it is as high resolution as possible. Even if you have multiple copies with individual signatures, be sure to submit at least one 'clean' version of the form with all information typed and at the 100% size of the form (no reduced-size pages please --- they do not scan well into WSU's imaging system). Following these instructions will allow the Graduate School to process forms in a timely manner. If a form is not complete OR if they cannot read information placed on the form, it will be returned, thus delaying the process.

Prevention Science Thesis Proposal Approval Form

Student's Name: _____

I propose to conduct a research project in the general area of Prevention Science as contained in the attached proposal, dated _____, under the following tentative title:

Student's Signature

COMMENTS BY MEMBERS OF THE THESIS COMMITTEE

While undertaking this research study, the student is required to address the following issues and concerns:

APPROVAL

_____ Print Chair Name	_____ Signature	_____ Date
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_____ Print Name	_____ Signature	_____ Date
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_____ Print Name	_____ Signature	_____ Date
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_____ Print Name	_____ Signature	_____ Date
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Please note: Student is responsible for submitting the completed, signed version of this form to the Prevention Science Program Coordinator.

Prevention Science Dissertation Proposal Approval Form

Student's Name: _____

I propose to conduct a research project in the general area of Prevention Science as contained in the attached proposal, dated _____, under the following tentative title:

Student's Signature

COMMENTS BY MEMBERS OF THE DISSERTATION COMMITTEE

While undertaking this research study, the student is required to address the following issues and concerns:

APPROVAL

_____ Print Chair Name	_____ Signature	_____ Date
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_____ Print Name	_____ Signature	_____ Date
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_____ Print Name	_____ Signature	_____ Date
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_____ Print Name	_____ Signature	_____ Date
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Please note: Student is responsible for submitting the completed, signed version of this form to the Prevention Science Program Coordinator.

Prevention Science Preliminary Exam Advisor Checklist

The purpose of this checklist is to ensure advisors, committees, and students are familiar with and understand the preliminary exam process as outlined in the handbook. Advisors must submit this checklist along with the student's preliminary exam materials to the Prevention Science Director in preparation for steering committee review.

The goal of the preliminary exam is to determine if students have a solid disciplinary foundation of the Prevention Science field and their chosen specialty area and are ready to conduct independent dissertation research under the supervision of a mentor. The student's committee develops exam questions, which are tailored to the student's specific program of interest and test their competency in the three core components of the Prevention Science curriculum.

Students' preliminary exam materials include a 2–3-page research statement, reading list, and three suggested specialty area questions. The research statement should describe what the student wants to pursue in their research, the importance of their work to the existing literature, and its connection to Prevention Science. The statement should identify the theoretical grounding of the proposed work, populations of interest, and specify the basic methodological approach. The reading list includes 20-30 readings in each of the three Prevention Science core competency areas and 20-30 readings in the student's specialty area. The knowledge in the reading list should be sufficient for students to answer their preliminary exam questions, as described in the handbook.

Please check the boxes below to confirm that the following steps have been completed and/or important pieces of the preliminary exam process are understood.

- ☐ Please confirm you and your student have read and discussed the Preliminary Doctoral Exam section of the Graduate Handbook.
- ☐ Please confirm the student's entire committee has reviewed and provided feedback on the reading list.
- ☐ Please confirm the student's entire committee has read and provided feedback on the research statement.
- ☐ Please indicate that you understand the student's committee should ensure exam questions can be successfully answered based on knowledge obtained from the assigned reading list. Students are free to cite works that are outside of that agreed upon list, but this is not an expectation.

Student's Name: _____

Advisor's Name: _____

Advisor's Signature: _____ Date: _____

CORE COURSE SUBSTITUTION / REPLACEMENT REQUEST FORM

Student Name:

Advisor Signature:

*Advisor approval is required for either option

Date Approved:

Check which option you are requesting:

☐ Replace core requirement course with similar content course.

Prevention Science Core course _____

Substitution Course _____

Instructor signature: _____

Recommend Approval ☐

Recommend Denial ☐

Include syllabus for substitution course and approval from instructor of Prevention Science course. Submit to Prevention Science Director.

☐ Replace core requirement course with alternate course.

Prevention Science Core course _____

Replacement Course _____

Include syllabus. Use the space below to provide your rationale for how the course satisfies the intent of the Core course requirement and provides you the knowledge or skills comparable to the Core course as it relates to your career goals. Attach documentation as necessary. Submit to Prevention Science Director.

Recommended Timeline

The following timeline is recommended for students entering the program as a full-time student with a Bachelor's degree. The timeline for students entering with a Master's degree may vary from this, depending upon the number of transfer credits accepted from the Master's program and whether or not the student's thesis is approved as meeting the Prevention Science Master's requirement (see the Master's Thesis section for details). Part-time students will take more time to complete the program.

Also, please note that this timeline is based upon information available on the Graduate School website at the time this was written. You should also consult [the Graduate School website](#) for the latest rules and regulations.

Year One: Fall (Semester 1)

- Make sure your admissions status is cleared by the Graduate School. Consult with the Program Coordinator if necessary.
- Incoming first year students should consult the [1st Semester Student Checklist](#) in the [Appendix](#) for detailed instructions on tasks that should be completed within the first few weeks of your first semester.
- Begin taking required Prevention Science coursework (see [Table 1](#) for more details). Please note that students on assistantship must maintain full-time enrollment (10 credit minimum, 10-12 credits is average). Consult with your advisor to determine which classes to take.
- Work in collaboration with your advisor, and in PREV_SCI 513 (Research Methods), to choose a topic, and develop research questions and a plan for your Master's Thesis.

Year One: Spring (Semester 2)

- If you do not have your Master's or an approved Master's, please fill out the "[Add an Academic Program Degree Level - Routing](#)" form located in the Procedures and Forms page of the graduate school website. Please add the MS degree in Prevention Science and then turn into the Program Coordinator.
- Continue taking required Prevention Science coursework (see [Table 1](#) for more details). Please note that students on assistantship must maintain full-time enrollment (10 credit minimum, 10-12 credits is average). Consult with your advisor to determine which classes to take.
- Submit the [Program of Study Request](#) form at the beginning of the semester. This form should be completed by the student and advisor and given to the Program Coordinator who will submit it to the Graduate School. Note that you will also need to list your M.S. committee on this form (guidelines for selecting your committee are provided below).
 - The deadline for submission is listed in the document [Deadlines and Procedures for Master's Degree](#). It is typically very early in the semester.
- Select M.S. Committee according to the following requirements (this will be

the faculty members named on your M.S. Program of Study).

- Minimum of three faculty, including advisor (i.e., committee chair)
- If a Prevention Science faculty member with a clinical appointment chairs a committee, he or she must co-chair the committee with a tenure track member of the Prevention Science faculty.
- Chair and at least half of the committee must be Prevention Science faculty
- Members must come from at least two (preferably three) disciplines
- At least two members must have their Ph.D. or equivalent
- All committees must be approved by the Prevention Science Director who will do so by signing your Program of Study form.
- Draft thesis proposal (introduction, literature review, methods, data analysis plan, and reference list) in consultation with your advisor.
 - Please note that several rounds of revisions between you and your advisor are expected before submitting a draft to your committee.
 - If you have thesis co-chairs, involve both faculty members in the development of the proposal, and have them both approve your document before you send it to the rest of your committee.
- Conduct informal, preliminary thesis proposal meetings with members of committee to receive feedback on proposed thesis project.
- Submit a completed thesis proposal to your M.S. Committee. They should be given at least two weeks to review it and determine if you are prepared to schedule the proposal defense.
- With the approval of the committee, schedule the proposal defense with the Program Coordinator, at least two weeks prior to the scheduled meeting (no form required).
- Conduct thesis proposal defense meeting. The student and M.S. Committee are the only ones who attend this meeting (no outside students or faculty). Bring the [Prevention Science Thesis Proposal Approval Form](#) to the meeting for your committee to indicate their formal approval. The completed form should be submitted to the Program Coordinator.
- Complete annual [Evaluation of Progress toward Degree](#).

Year Two: Fall (Semester 3)

- Continue taking required Prevention Science coursework (see [Table 1](#) for more details). Please note that students on assistantship must maintain full-time enrollment (10 credit minimum, 10-12 credits is average). Consult with your advisor to determine which classes to take.
- Select your Ph.D. Committee according to the following requirements. Please note that in most cases you will have the same committee for prelims and for your dissertation.
 - Minimum of four faculty, including advisor (i.e., committee chair)
 - If a Prevention Science faculty member with a clinical appointment chairs a committee, he or she must co-chair the committee with a tenure track member of the Prevention Science faculty.
 - Chair and at least two members of the committee must be Prevention Science faculty and must come from at least two (preferably three)

disciplines.

- At least three members must have their Ph.D. or equivalent.
- All committees must be approved by the Prevention Science Director.
- As a Ph.D. student, you also must submit your [Program of Study Request](#) form during this semester (i.e., your third semester in the program).
 - This deadline is typically one month after the Master's Program of Study deadline but check the [Deadlines and Procedures for Doctoral Degree](#) document to be sure.
 - The form should be submitted to the Program Coordinator who will submit it to the Graduate School.
- Out-of-state US citizens must submit residency paperwork to Graduate School (see [Residency Requirement](#) section for more information).
- Complete and submit IRB application. Please note that your committee must approve your research protocol before submitting the application. The M.S. Committee chair is listed as PI and must submit the application for the student. See [IRB website](#) for more details.
- After receiving IRB approval, collect (if applicable) and analyze data.
- Draft results and discussion sections. Review and revise all sections as needed.
 - Please note that several rounds of revisions between you and your advisor/chair are expected before submitting the final version to your committee.
 - If you have thesis co-chairs, involve both faculty members in the completion of the thesis, and have them both approve your document before you send it to the rest of your committee.

Year Two: Spring (Semester 4)

- Continue taking required Prevention Science coursework (see [Table 1](#) for more details). Please note that students on assistantship must maintain full-time enrollment (10 credit minimum, 10-12 credits is average). Consult with your advisor to determine which classes to take.
- Apply to graduate online (in the semester you plan to complete your M.S.). See instructions on the [Graduate School Website](#) for how to apply for your Graduate Degree in MyWSU.
 - This involves paying a fee.
 - Make sure you follow the guidelines on the [Graduation Checklist](#).
- Submit completed thesis to M.S. Committee. They should be given at least two weeks to review it and determine if you are prepared to schedule the thesis defense.
- With the approval of the committee, schedule the thesis defense. Complete the [Scheduling Exam: Master's form \(routing\)](#) and work with the Program Coordinator to submit the form at least **10 business days** before your thesis defense date. You must also submit an electronic draft of the thesis to the Graduate School at this time.
- Send meeting information (date, time, location, thesis title) and completed thesis to the Program Coordinator. An electronic copy of the completed thesis must be made available. The Program Coordinator will also send an

announcement about the defense to all Prevention Science faculty and students who are welcome to attend the meeting.

- Conduct thesis defense meeting.
- Make final revisions per committee instructions.
- Submit a final completed thesis within five working days to the Graduate School and to the Program Coordinator. Make sure that you follow the [Thesis and Dissertation Formatting and Submission Requirements](#) and the [Dissertation/Thesis Final Acceptance Checklist](#). As of Spring 2020, the Graduate School has replaced the requirement for hard copies (on 100% cotton pages, with ink signatures) for the front pages of theses and dissertations with an electronic process. All students must submit a copy of the title page, abstract page, and signature page through the GRM in myWSU, where it will be forwarded to all advisory committee members for electronic approval. If you plan to attend commencement, make sure you register by the deadline: <http://commencement.wsu.edu/>
- Complete annual [Evaluation of Progress toward Degree](#).

Year Three: Fall (Semester 5)

- Complete all core Prevention Science coursework, including the required courses in the three core competency areas – Developmental Epidemiology and Public Health; Research Methodology & Statistics; and Program Development, Implementation, and Institutionalization. (see [Table 1](#) for more details). Please note that students on assistantship must maintain full-time enrollment (10 credit minimum; 10-12 credits is average). Consult with your advisor to determine which classes to take.
- Identify specialty area of interest for Preliminary Exam
- In consultation with your committee chair, develop a draft of your Prelims Proposal which includes the following:
 - Reading list containing approximately 80-100 readings total; 20-30 readings for each of the three Prevention Science competency areas and your specialty area.
 - 1-2 page(s), double-spaced research statement describing your specialty area.
 - Three suggested exam questions for your specialty area.
- Submit a draft of your Prelims Proposal to Ph.D. Committee. They should be given at least two weeks to review it and give their feedback on its contents, including suggested readings to add to the list.
- Incorporate revisions from your Ph.D. Committee and finalize your Prelims Proposal.
- Submit Prelims Proposal to the Prevention Science Director. The Director will send it to the Prevention Science Graduate Program Committee (i.e., Steering Committee) for final approval. This should be done in the semester (i.e., by the last day of the final exams period of the fall, spring, or summer) prior to the semester you would like to begin writing the exam.

Year Three: Spring (Semester 6)

- Once approved by the Prevention Science Graduate Program Committee (i.e., Steering Committee), begin reading and preparing for the exam.
- Schedule prelims oral defense meeting with your Ph.D. Committee.
 - Complete the [Scheduling Exam: Preliminary Exam](#) form (this requires signatures from all committee members). You should submit a copy of this form to the Program Coordinator who will submit it to the Graduate School. The Graduate School requires you submit the form at least 10 working days prior to the beginning of the examination (i.e., the beginning of the two-week writing window) so be sure to submit it to the Program Coordinator several days before this to assure you meet the 10-day deadline.
- Send meeting information (date, time, location) to the Program Coordinator. The Program Coordinator will send an announcement about the defense to all Prevention Science faculty who are welcome to attend the meeting. Other than the student being tested, no students are allowed to attend.
- Complete written exam (you have two weeks to complete). The oral defense ideally should take place at least 1 week, but no more than 2 weeks following submission of the completed exam responses. However, according to Graduate School policy, it can occur up to 30 days after turning in your written exam.
- Complete annual [Evaluation of Progress toward Degree](#).

Year Four: Fall (Semester 7)

- Draft dissertation proposal (introduction, literature review, methods, data analysis plan, and reference list – if you are doing the Three Manuscript option, this structure may vary) in consultation with your advisor (i.e., committee chair).
 - Please note that several rounds of revisions between you and your advisor are expected before submitting a draft to your committee.
 - If you have dissertation co-chairs, involve both faculty members in the development of the proposal, and have them both approve your document before you send it to the rest of your committee.
- Conduct informal dissertation proposal meetings with members of committee to receive feedback on proposed dissertation project.

Year Four: Spring (Semester 8)

- Submit completed dissertation proposal to Ph.D. Committee listed on your Ph.D. Program of Study. They should be given at least two weeks to review it and determine if you are prepared to schedule the proposal defense.
- With the approval of the committee, schedule the proposal defense with the Program Coordinator, at least two weeks prior to the scheduled meeting (no form required).
- Send meeting information (date, time, location, dissertation title) to the Program Coordinator. The Program Coordinator will send an announcement about the defense to all Prevention Science faculty and students who are welcome to attend the meeting.
 - Conduct dissertation proposal defense meeting. Bring the [Prevention Science Dissertation Proposal Approval Form](#) to the meeting for your committee to indicate their formal approval. The completed form should be submitted to the Program Coordinator.

- Complete and submit IRB application. Please note that your committee must approve your research protocol before submitting the application. The Ph.D. Committee chair is listed as PI and must submit the application for the student. Please visit the [WSU IRB website](#) for more information.
- After receiving IRB approval, collect (if applicable) and analyze data.
- Draft results and discussion sections. Review and revise all sections as needed.
 - Please note that several rounds of revisions between you and your advisor/chair are expected before submitting the final version to your committee.
 - If you have dissertation co-chairs, involve both faculty members in the completion of the thesis, and have them both approve your document before you send it to the rest of your committee.
- Complete annual [Evaluation of Progress toward Degree](#).

Year Five (Semester 9 & 10)

- Submit completed dissertation to Ph.D. Committee. They should be given at least two weeks to review it and determine if you are prepared to schedule the dissertation defense.
- Apply to graduate online through the Graduate School (in the semester you plan to graduate with your Ph.D.) following the instructions on their [How To Apply for Graduation website](#).
 - This involves paying a fee.
 - Make sure you follow the guidelines on the [Graduation Checklist](#)
- With the approval of the committee, schedule the dissertation defense and complete the [Scheduling Exam: Doctoral](#) form (this requires signatures from all committee members). You should submit a copy of this form to the Program Coordinator who will submit it to the Graduate School. The Graduate School requires you to submit the form at least 10 working days prior to the day of your defense so be sure to submit it to the Program Coordinator several days before this to assure you meet the 10- day deadline. You must also submit an electronic draft of the dissertation to the Graduate School at this time.
- Send meeting information (date, time, location, thesis title) and completed dissertation to the Program Coordinator. An electronic copy of the completed dissertation must be made available. The Program Coordinator will also send an announcement about the defense to all Prevention Science faculty and students who are welcome to attend the meeting.
- Conduct dissertation defense meeting.
- Make final revisions per committee instructions.
 - Submit final completed dissertation within five working days to the Graduate School and to the Program Coordinator. Make sure that you follow the [Thesis and Dissertation Formatting and Submission Requirements](#) and the [Dissertation/Thesis Final Acceptance Checklist](#). As of Spring 2020, the Graduate School has replaced the requirement for hard copies (on 100% cotton pages, with ink signatures) for the front pages of theses and dissertations with an electronic process. All students must submit a copy of the title page, abstract page, and signature page through the GRM in myWSU, where it will be forwarded to all advisory committee members

for electronic approval

- If you plan to attend commencement, make sure you register by the deadline on the [Commencement page](#).
- Complete annual [Evaluation of Progress toward Degree](#).

There are a number of factors that may impact a student's timeline and progress in the program. Regardless, it is important to be mindful of the Graduate School's maximum time limits for completion of a degree.

- **Master's degrees must be completed within 6 years from the beginning date of the earliest course applied toward the degree.**
- **Doctoral degrees must be completed within 10 years from the beginning date of the earliest course applied toward the degree AND within 3 years of the**

See the [Graduate School Policies & Procedures Manual](#) for additional details.

Master's Internal Program of Study Form (30 Credits Required)

Student:		Date:	
Chair:			
Core Courses (18 credits required)			
Prefix & Number	Course Title	Credits	Approved Substitution (yes/no)
Electives (6 credits required)			
Prefix & Number	Course Title	Credits	Transferred (yes/no)
Thesis Credits (6 required)			
Prefix & Number	Course Title	Credits	
PrevSci 700	Master's Thesis Research		
Additional Courses			
Prefix & Number	Course Title	Credits	Transferred (yes/no)

PhD Internal Program of Study Form (72 Credits Required) *

Student:

Date:

Chair:

Core Courses (25-27 credits required / 28-31 beginning academic year 2022-23)

Prefix & Number

Course Title

Credits

Approved Substitution (yes/no)

Electives and Other Credits (27 credits required / 24 beginning academic year 2022-23)

Prefix & Number

Course Title

Credits

Transferred (yes/no)

Dissertation Credits (20 required)

Prefix & Number

Course Title

Credits

PreSci 800

PhD Dissertation Research

*60 credits are required in addition to PrevSci 700 Thesis Credits

Old Curricula

Prevention Science Core Curriculum. For each core area, choose one class from each category for students who began program 2022-2023 academic year

Core Area 1. Developmental Epidemiology and Public Health

1A. Theoretical Foundations

PrevSci 511 Introduction to Prevention Science*

1B. Family Relationships

HD550 Seminar on Family Relationships

HD558 Parent-Child Relationships

1C. Child Development

HD560 Child Development

Core Area 2. Research Methods and Statistics

2A. Research Methods

PrevSci 513 Research Methods in Prevention Science*

2B1. Methods 1: Quantitative

EdPsych 508 Educational Statistics

Nurs 527 Association, Group Difference & Regression Techniques for Health Services

Psych 511 Analysis of Variance and Experimental Design

2B2. Methods 1: Qualitative

EdPsych 507 Foundations of Qualitative Research

2C. Methods 2

EdRes 564 Qualitative Research

EdRes565 Quantitative Research

Nurs 528 Multivariate Statistical Techniques for Health Sciences

Psych 512 Regression & Quasi-Experimental Design

Core Area 3. Program Development, Implementation, and Institutionalization

3A. Program Development

PrevSci 535 Effective Prevention Strategies I

Nurs 564 Health Promotion in Nursing Practice

3B. Program Evaluation

PrevSci 540 Effective Prevention Strategies II

Nurs 591 Mixed Methods for Program Development, Implementation, & Evaluation

3C. Advanced Evaluation

EdPsych 571 Theoretical Foundations & Fundamental Issues in Program Evaluation

Nurs 554 Epidemiology & Biostatistics for Health Professions

Prevention Science Curriculum Prior to Academic Year 2022-2023

Core Requirements (25-27 Credits)		Course Options (all courses 3 credits unless otherwise indicated)	
1) Developmental Epidemiology and Public Health (1-2 courses; 3-6 credits)			
A. Theoretical Foundations	Prev_Sci 511 Introduction to Pre- vention Science*		
B. Family Relationships	HD 550 Seminar on Family Relationships	HD558 Parent-Child Rela- tionships	
C. Child Development	HD 560 Seminar in Child De- velopment		
2) Research Methods and Statistics (3 courses; 9 credits)			
A. Research Methods (1 course; 3 credits)	Prev_Sci 513 Research Methods in Prevention Sci- ence*		
B. Quantitative Methods I (1 course; 3 credits)	Ed_Res 565 Quanti- tative Research	Nurs 527 Association, Group Difference and Re- gression Techniques for Health Services	Psych 511 Analysis of Variance and Experimental Design
C. Quantitative Methods II	Ed_Psych 569 Seminar in Quanti- tative Techniques in Education	Nurs 528 Multivariate Statisti- cal Techniques for Health Sciences	Psych 512 Correlation, Regres- sion, & Quasi-Experi- mental Design
3) Program Development, Implementation, and Institutionalization (1-2 courses; 3-6 credits)			
A. Program Development	Prev_Sci 535 Effective Prevention Strategies I	Nurs 564 Health Promotion in Nursing Practice	
B. Program Evaluation	Prev_Sci 540 Effective Prevention Strategies II	Nurs 591 Mixed Methods for Program Develop- ment, Implementa- tion, & Evaluation	
C. Advanced Evaluation	Ed Psych 571 Theoretical Founda- tions & Fundamen- tal Issues in Program Evaluation	Nurs 554 Epidemiol- ogy & Biostatistics for Health Profes- sions	