

Ph.D. in Prevention Science

GRADUATE STUDENT HANDBOOK



Administered by the Department of Human Development.
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Handbook Overview	3
Program Introduction.....	4
What is Prevention Science?	4
Prevention Science Careers	4
The Prevention Science Ph.D. Program at WSU	4
Program Director.....	5
Program Coordinator	5
Learning Objectives	6
Advising and Committees	6
Prevention Science Colloquium	8
Assistantships	9
Residency Requirement.....	9
Academic Program Policies	9
Progress Towards Degree	9
Evaluation of Student Progress.....	10
Student Grievance Policies	11
Degree Requirements & Timeline	11
Course Requirements	18
Credit Requirements	18
Core Curriculum Requirements.....	19
Recommended Electives	21
Program of Study	22
Transfer Credits	23
Institutional Review Board (IRB) Requirements	23
Master's Thesis.....	24
Preliminary Doctoral Exam.....	28
Key Prevention Science Concepts.....	31

Doctoral Dissertation.....	32
Theses & Dissertation Standards.....	36
Introduction	36
Literature Review	37
Method.....	38
Results	39
Discussion.....	40
References.....	40
Appendices	40
Three Manuscript Dissertation Option.....	41
Appendix	42
Important Websites for Prevention Science Students	43
Sample Curriculum.....	44
Prevention Science 1 st Semester Student Checklist	45
Master’s Thesis Student Checklist	47
Preliminary Doctoral Exam Student Checklist.....	52
Doctoral Dissertation Student Checklist.....	55
Required Forms by Stage in Program.....	59
Prevention Science Thesis Proposal Approval Form	60
Prevention Science Dissertation Proposal Approval Form.....	61

HANDBOOK OVERVIEW

Welcome to the Ph.D. Program in Prevention Science. This handbook is intended to help you make the most of your experience as a student, to acquaint you with the workings of our program, and to clarify questions you might have about expectations or procedures. This handbook is not exhaustive, nor is it intended to be. Rather, we hope it helps you get off to a good start in the program.

The information contained in the handbook is based on existing Prevention Science and Graduate School policies as of the date the handbook was updated. However, since requirements and procedures can change, it is important that you check the [Prevention Science](#) and [Graduate School's websites](#) regularly as you progress through the program to ensure that you are following the most up-to-date requirements and procedures. If you have questions, feel free to ask your advisor, the Program Director, the Program Coordinator, or a fellow student!

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. If you are a part-time student and/or a full-time WSU employee, please consult with your advisor and the Prevention Science Director 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.
- There are two types of hyperlinks: 1) some that link to other sections in the handbook (underlined in red) and 2) some that link to external websites (underlined in blue).
- 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 at: <http://cahnrs.wsu.edu/hd/preventionscience>

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; and
- 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 a number of 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.

The Prevention Science Ph.D. Program at WSU

The doctoral program in Prevention Science at Washington State University is an interdisciplinary program involving the [Department of Human Development](#), the [College of Communication](#), the [College of Education](#), the [College of Nursing](#), the [College of Medicine](#), and [WSU Extension](#). It involves faculty and students from three campuses: Pullman, Vancouver, and Spokane. It is administered by the Department of Human Development, with the program director 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.

See the Prevention Science website for more information:
<http://cahnrs.wsu.edu/hd/preventionscience>

PROGRAM DIRECTOR



Dr. Brittany Cooper is an Assistant Professor of Human Development and the Prevention Science Program Director. Please contact her with any questions regarding the Prevention Science doctoral program.

Office: 513 Johnson Tower
Email: brittany.cooper@wsu.edu
Phone: 509-335-2896

PROGRAM COORDINATOR



Please contact Danielle Engelhardt in the Human Development main office if you have any administrative questions, especially those related to registering for courses, and Graduate School policies, forms, and procedures.

Office: 501 Johnson Tower
Email: dkbishop@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, please see the [Appendix](#).

Also, students must notify 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 Prevention Science faculty should 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 Doctoral Program is designed to ensure that students both (a) receive broad, interdisciplinary training in the area of prevention science; and (b) develop specialized expertise through the selection of relevant electives, research, and outreach activities.

Graduates of this program will have the following competencies:

- ✓ A mastery of theory and basic research on human development in the contexts of family, peers, school, and community.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ The skills to conduct rigorous basic and/or applied research in the area of prevention science.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ The ability to design and conduct scientific tests of program efficacy and effectiveness.
- ✓ The ability to conduct translational research on program implementation, outcomes, dissemination cost, and sustainability (moving programs from research to practice).
- ✓ Effective written and oral communication skills for the dissemination of research findings to a variety of audiences and for affecting evidence-based policy decisions.
- ✓ The ability to write successful grant and contract proposals to fund prevention science research and programming.
- ✓ The knowledge of and experience with effective teaching strategies.

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 or she must co-chair the committee with a tenure track member of the Prevention Science faculty.

When you enter the graduate program, you will initially be assigned an advisor. This assignment was based both on the perceived match between student and advisor interests and on 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/or the Prevention Science Program Director.

As soon as you have a fairly clear idea of your thesis or dissertation research topic you should form a Thesis (Beginning 2nd Semester) or Ph.D. Committee (Beginning of 3rd Semester). The M.S. and Ph.D. committees are responsible for advising your program of study and evaluating your progress toward completion of the Prevention Science 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 at <http://cahnrs.wsu.edu/hd/graduate-research-opportunities/>;
- 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](#): one 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 website:

<https://gradschool.wsu.edu/facultystaff-resources/18-2/>

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

We encourage students to consider faculty members from various WSU locations across the state (i.e., regional campuses; research and extension centers; and extension county 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 Ph.D. Program Bylaws.

“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.

Individual Committee Members Internal to WSU (Not Members of the Graduate Faculty of Another Ph.D. Program): 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 graduate committees for graduate students as long as the faculty member has a Master’s degree or higher and his or her committee appointment is approved by the Program Director of the Prevention Science Ph.D. program.

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 other 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 approval of the Program Director, the nomination is forwarded to the Dean of the Graduate School for final approval.”

PREVENTION SCIENCE COLLOQUIUM

The Prevention Science graduate program hosts a regular colloquium series throughout the academic year. It is typically held on Fridays for one hour and includes research and professional development talks from Prevention Science and other WSU faculty and graduate students, as well as 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.** All Prevention Science faculty (and other interested individuals) 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.

ASSISTANTSHIPS

Research assistantships (RA) and teaching assistantships (TA), if offered, 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.

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. The residency questionnaire can be found at: <http://residency.wsu.edu/residency-requirements/>

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.

Progress Towards Degree

Continuance in the Prevention Science program is contingent on making normal progress toward the degree as determined by the Graduate School, the Prevention Science Doctoral 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 normal progress.** Normal progress is defined as:
 - Maintaining a "B" average. Students who fail to maintain an average of 3.0 will be placed on probation.
 - Completing "Incomplete" grades within one semester.
 - For full-time students: Completing requirements for the Ph.D. within 5 years
- **Failure to actively pursue the degree.**

- Full-time students are expected to enroll in a full semester course-load (minimum of 10 credits) fall and spring semesters.
- **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 (due to low GPA) must meet probationary criteria for continuance as determined by the Prevention Science program on a case by case basis.

Evaluation of Student Progress

You are required to complete a self-evaluation each year, including submission of a brief description of your academic and professional growth and involvement, and an up-to-date curricula 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 assistantships (both research and teaching). To assist with this, both your advisor and your research/teaching assistant mentors will complete an evaluation of your performance.

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 or not you are making satisfactory progress in the program or if he/she has some concerns about your progress;
- You and your advisor will discuss and agree on goals for the next academic year;
- You and your advisor will sign the form; and
- You will submit the signed form to Danielle Engelhardt, the Prevention Science Program Coordinator.

The Program Director will bring the signed evaluation forms to a meeting of the Prevention Science Doctoral 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. An advisor may request that a student be discussed at this meeting, even if the advisor has indicated satisfactory progress. The advisors for all students discussed at the meeting will be present.

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. Also, the Program Coordinator may include a reminder of upcoming items you need to complete. A copy of the Evaluation of Progress Toward Degree Form will be emailed to the students prior to each evaluation.

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. 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](#).

The Graduate School has specific expectations and procedures that you must follow for completing your degree. For example there are strict guidelines and procedures for:

- Officially establishing M.S. and Ph.D. committees;
- Thesis and dissertation formatting; and
- Meeting deadlines and filing forms for scheduling the thesis and dissertation defenses and preliminary exams.

The most current and up-to-date information about Graduate School policies, procedures, and forms can be found on the Graduate School web page <http://www.gradsch.wsu.edu/>. Please bookmark and familiarize yourselves with this site. You are responsible for adhering to all requirements. Also, you can find a list of the most common required forms in the [Appendix](#).

The following timeline is recommended for students entering the program 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 [below](#) in the Master's Thesis section for details).

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:

<http://www.gradsch.wsu.edu/>

Year One: Fall (Semester 1)

- If you do not have your Master's or an approved Master's, please fill out the "[Add an Academic Program Degree Level](#)" located in the Procedures and Forms page of the graduate school website. Please add the MS degree in Prevention Science, sign and have the Program Director sign, then turn into the Program Coordinator.
- 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)

- 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 meeting with members of committee to receive feedback on proposed thesis project.
- Submit 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: <http://www.irb.wsu.edu/>
- 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 through the Graduate School (in the semester you plan to complete your M.S.). See instructions at: <http://gradschool.wsu.edu/graduation-application/>
 - 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 and get your committee's (and the Program Director's) signatures on the [Scheduling Exam: Master's](#) form and submit to the Graduate School at least 10 working days before your thesis defense date. Give a copy to the Program Coordinator, before you submit it to the Graduate School. 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. A copy of the completed thesis must be made available in the Human Development main office (JT 501). 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 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](#).
- 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 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 the 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 Doctoral Program Committee (i.e., Steering Committee) for final approval. This should be done in the semester prior (i.e., before the final day of the semester prior) to the semester you would like to begin writing the exam.

Year Three: Spring (Semester 6)

- Once approved by the Prevention Science Doctoral 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 before submitting it to the Graduate School. The Graduate School requires you submit the form to them at least 10 working days prior to the beginning of the examination (i.e., the beginning of the two-week writing window).
- 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, but according to Graduate School policy 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 meeting 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. See IRB website for more details: <http://www.irb.wsu.edu/>
- 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.). See instructions at: <http://gradschool.wsu.edu/graduation-application/>
 - 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. Complete and get your committee's (and the Program Director's)

signatures on the [Scheduling Exam: Doctoral](#) form and submit to the Graduate School at least 10 working days before your exam date. Give a copy to the Program Coordinator before you submit it to the Graduate School. 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. A copy of the completed dissertation must be made available in the Human Development main office (JT 501). 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](#).
- If you plan to attend commencement, make sure you register by the deadline: <http://commencement.wsu.edu/>
- Complete annual [Evaluation of Progress toward Degree](#).

Course Requirements

CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

Students on assistantship must maintain full-time enrollment (10 credit minimum, 10-12 credits is average per semester). You will consult with your advisor each semester before determining which class(es) you take. Also, see the Schedule of Classes at <http://www.schedules.wsu.edu/> and University Catalog at <http://www.catalog.wsu.edu/> for more detailed information, including when the course is typically offered.

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

- 25-27 core curriculum credits (as described below in [Table 1](#))
- 6 thesis credits, minimum (i.e., PREV_SCI 700).
 - These credits will only apply toward the M.S. degree and will not be part of 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.
- 20 dissertation credits, minimum (i.e., PREV_SCI 800)

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

To meet the required minimum of 72 credits, in addition to the required core and dissertation credits, you will need to register for (a) special projects credit (Com 600, EdPsy 600, HD 600, Nurs 599) for involvement in collaborative research with faculty; (b) elective courses; and/or (c) additional dissertation credits.

CORE CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

[Table 1](#) on the following page summarizes the required courses making up the Prevention Science curriculum. There are three core competency areas:

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

Students on assistantship must maintain full-time enrollment (10 credit minimum, 10-12 credits is average per semester). You will consult with your advisor each semester before determining which classes you take. Also, see the Schedule of Classes at <http://www.schedules.wsu.edu/> and University Catalog at <http://www.catalog.wsu.edu/> for more detailed information, including when the course is typically offered.

Over the course of your degree, you must take a core of 25-27 graded credits in these areas and you must take classes in at least three disciplines: Communication, Education, Human Development, and/or Nursing. You should take additional electives as well.

Each row in [Table 1](#) represents a program requirement or elective. The columns provide courses within the four disciplines that can meet these requirements. The range of options within the required curriculum makes it easy for a student entering from any of the four disciplines to pursue the Ph.D. and to tailor their program of study to their area of interest. See the [Appendix](#) for [sample curricula](#).

Table 1. Prevention Science Core Curriculum

Core Requirements (25-27 Credits)		Course Options (all courses 3 credits unless otherwise indicated)	
1) Developmental Epidemiology and Public Health			
A. Theoretical Foundations	Prev_Sci 511 Introduction to Prevention Science		
B. Family Relationships	HD 550 Seminar on Family Relationships	Nurs 531 Culture, Populations, & Family Health Care	HD558 Parent-Child Relationships
C. Child Development	HD 560 Seminar in Child Development		
2) Research Methods and Statistics			
A. Research Methods	Prev_Sci 513 Research Methods in Prevention Science		
B. Quantitative Methods I	Ed_Psych 565 Quantitative Research	Nurs 527 Association, Group Difference and Regression Techniques for Health Services	Psych 511 Analysis of Variance and Experimental Design
C. Quantitative Methods II	Ed_Psych 569 Seminar in Quantitative Techniques in Education	Nurs 528 Multivariate Statistical Techniques for Health Sciences	Psych 512 Correlation, Regression, & Quasi-Experimental Design
3) Program Development, Implementation, and Institutionalization			
A. Program Development	Prev_Sci 535 Effective Prevention Strategies I	Nurs 564 Health Promotion in Nursing Practice (2 credits)	
B. Program Evaluation	Prev_Sci 540 Effective Prevention Strategies II	Nurs 591 Mixed Methods for Program Development, Implementation, & Evaluation (3 credits)	
C. Advanced Evaluation	Ed Psych 571 Theoretical Foundations &	Nurs 554 Epidemiology &	

	Fundamental Issues in Program Evaluation	Biostatistics for Health Professions	
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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 broadcast to remote sites and you are not located at the campus where the class will originate, you should contact the instructor to determine if you can take the course from a distance. Also, there must be at least one full-time student registered in order for the course to be broadcast to remote sites via Academic Media Services (AMS).

RECOMMENDED ELECTIVES

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

Research Methodology & Statistics courses such as:

- Ed Psych 508: Educational Statistics (Note: if you enter the program with little to no training in statistics, this is a good class to take before your core statistics classes)
- 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

Human Development courses such as:

- HD 520: Adolescence
- HD 558: Parent-Child Relationships
- 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 551: Risk and Resilience in Child and Adolescent Health
- Nurs 564: Health Promotion in Nursing Practice

PROGRAM OF STUDY

You must submit a program of study form to the graduate school listing the courses you plan to take to meet your degree requirements. If you do not enter the program with a Master's degree, 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. See the Graduate School website for more information: <http://www.gradsch.wsu.edu/>

The **Program of Study for the Master's Degree** should be submitted at the beginning of spring semester of your first year in the program (2nd Semester). It should include:

- Thesis topic or general area
- Members of M.S. Committee (minimum of 3 required)
- List of courses and research credits for M.S. degree (minimum of 30 credits)
 - 25-27 credits of graded coursework (most of these should be from the required courses listed in [Table 1](#), but could include electives)
 - Minimum of 6 credits of PREV_SCI 700

The **Program of Study for the Doctoral Degree** should be submitted at the beginning of the fall semester of your second year in the program (3rd Semester). Submit this form after your Master's Program of Study has been submitted and processed. Note that the deadline for the Doctoral form is usually about one month after the Master's deadline, but check the graduate school website to be sure. 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 (minimum of 72 credits)
 - All required courses in [Table 1](#) (25-27 credits) or equivalent (if some required courses transferred from another institution or substitute WSU courses approved by committee)
 - Minimum of 20 credits of PREV_SCI 800
 - Additional credits bringing total number of credits to 72 (e.g., elective courses, special projects credit, additional dissertation credits, approximately 25 additional credits)

TRANSFER CREDITS

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 send your advisor a copy of the syllabus for the original course. Your advisor will share it with the current instructor of the WSU course to see if he/she believes that the transferring course is an appropriate substitution. The current WSU instructor will then forward the syllabus and his/her recommendation to the Prevention Science Director who will make a decision about the substitution. If you are requesting that the course be transferred as an *elective* (not as a required course), discuss the substitution with your advisor and the Prevention Science Director (no need to contact a current instructor).

All course substitutions listed in your MS and PhD 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 from the instructor and Prevention Science Director, 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.

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. See the WSU IRB website for more details: <http://www.irb.wsu.edu/>

In order 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 Human Subjects Form](#) for submission (with required documentation) to the Institutional Review Board (IRB). 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 your research project.

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 on to complete the Ph.D. in Prevention Science.

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:

- You must send your advisor the completed thesis.
- 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 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 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.

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

For more detailed information, consult the:

- [Theses and Dissertation Standards](#) section below.
- [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/>

- 1) **Select Topic & Committee:** 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. Select 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. At least two members must have their 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 the members of your committee prior to scheduling a formal proposal meeting. This meeting 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 Master's Thesis. However, unlike at the Dissertation Proposal meeting, only you and your committee attends. 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.

- a. Committee meets briefly without the student.
- b. Student gives 20-30 minute presentation outlining the proposed project.
- c. Committee asks student questions about the proposed project.
- d. Committee asks student to leave the room.
- e. Student returns and committee gives their assessment, including any needed edits, revisions, or modifications to the proposed project.
- f. 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.

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 Thesis Defense Meeting:** A formal thesis defense (also known as 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. 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. 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.
 - ✓ The final defense meeting is open to the entire University community and students must announce this meeting 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 who will announce it to faculty and students.

- ✓ 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 proposal and determine if it is of sufficient quality to proceed with scheduling the proposal meeting.
- ✓ The Graduate School requires signatures from all committee members 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 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 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), a copy of the completed thesis must be made available in the main office of the Human Development Department for review by all faculty and students.
- ✓ The final oral examination cannot proceed until all other requirements for the degree have been met.
- ✓ At least one member of your Master's Committee must be physically present in the room with you at the oral defense (the other members may attend by video conference over Academic Media Services or similar technologies). 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ A signed copy of the thesis must be submitted to Human Development Office in Johnson Tower 501, and to the chair of the committee.
- ✓ 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.

Preliminary Doctoral Exam

Once you have completed your M.S. thesis and core coursework (typically by the end of the fifth semester for full-time students), you will take your Preliminary Doctoral 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 supervision of a mentor. Your Preliminary Exam Committee will develop exam questions, which are (a) tailored to your specific program of interest and (b) test your competency in the three core components of the Prevention Science curriculum. Therefore, although each student's exam will cover the core competencies, it will consist of a unique set of four questions.

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.

To begin this process, you must select your Preliminary Exam Committee (Note: In most cases this will be the same as your Ph.D. Committee, which is listed on your Program of Study for the Ph.D.). 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 their Ph.D. or equivalent
- All committees must be approved by the Prevention Science Director

After you have selected a committee, there are five major steps to completing the Preliminary Exam.

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** 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/>

- 1) **Develop Prelims Proposal:** In consultation with your committee, compile:
 - a. 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
 - b. 1-2 page, double-spaced research statement describing your specialty area, and
 - c. Three suggested exam questions for your specialty area. Please note that your committee will select or revise one or more of these questions to be included on the exam.
- 2) **Submit Prelims Proposal for Approval:** After receiving final approval from your Ph.D. Committee, your advisor will email your Prelims Proposal to the Prevention Science Director for approval from the Prevention Science Doctoral Program Committee (i.e., Steering Committee). This must be done in the semester prior (i.e., before the final day of the semester prior) to the one 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.
- 3) **Prepare for the Exam:** Once approved by the Prevention Science Doctoral 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 will meet to 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.
- 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: 1) the day 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), and 2) 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. Email the date, time, and location to the Prevention Science Program Coordinator who will announce it to faculty at least 14 days in advance of the scheduled defense date.

- 5) **Take the Exam:** Finally, you will write your written responses and orally defend them according to the above requirements. At least one member of your Ph.D. Committee must be physically present in the room with you at the oral defense (the other members may attend by video conference over Academic Media Services or similar technologies). 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 exam must be scheduled with the Graduate School at least 10 working days before the exam begins (i.e., the start of the two-week writing window). The exam can be taken during the fall, spring, or summer semesters. Summer examinations may only be taken if all of a student's prelim committee members are available to participate in the proposed timeframe.

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 they 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. 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 with regard to 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 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)

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

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.

For more detailed information, consult the:

- **Theses and Dissertation Standards** section below.
- **Appendix** for the Doctoral 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 Doctoral Dissertations: <http://www.gradsch.wsu.edu/>

- 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. This meeting 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 may vary***) 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.
 - a. Committee meets briefly without the student ***or non-committee attendees***.
 - b. Student gives ***30-45 minute*** presentation outlining the proposed project.

- c. Committee **and non-committee attendees** ask student questions about the proposed project.
- d. **Committee dismisses non-committee attendees.**
- e. **Committee asks student any remaining questions (without non-committee attendees present).**
- f. Committee asks student to leave the room.
- g. Student returns and committee gives their assessment, including any needed edits, revisions, or modifications to the proposed project.
- h. 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.

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 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.
 - ✓ The final defense meeting is open to the entire University community and students must announce this meeting to the Prevention Science faculty and students at least 14 days in advance of the scheduled defense date. Email the date, time, location, and dissertation title to the Prevention Science Program Coordinator who will announce it to faculty and students.
 - ✓ 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 ([Scheduling Exam: Doctoral](#)). Signing this form indicates that committee members believe the student will be ready to defend his/her 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), a copy of the completed dissertation must be made available in the main office of the Human Development Department for review by all faculty and students.
- ✓ The final oral examination cannot proceed until all other requirements for the degree have been met.
- ✓ At least one member of your Ph.D. Committee must be physically present in the room with you at the oral defense (the other members may attend by video conference over Academic Media Services or similar technologies). 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ A signed copy of the dissertation must be submitted to the Human Development Office, and to the chair of the committee.
- ✓ 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.

THESES & 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. 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 and informative and avoid redundancies.
- 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 (exclusive of references, tables, etc.), depending upon the complexity of the design and results. Use APA format throughout, including the use of 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.

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?). Typical theses and dissertations involve one or two research questions with several hypotheses derived from the research questions. This section typically does not exceed two to three pages.

Literature Review

You can expect that your literature review will be between 15 and 25 pages in length. It has to 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 content and method? 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, material does not overwhelm the reader if you use enough headings. A good general rule is that if you are not able to break down your review into sections with headings, then 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 the research question 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 question 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 needed to be conducted.

Method

The purpose of this section is to tell the reader how you achieved your specific aims. Overall, use the criterion of replicability. 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 reliability and validity of your new measures? Describe any pilot work you conducted with your measures.
- 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 in the text means for boys and girls 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 to 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 dependent upon 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, then, 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 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. 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.

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) 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
- 4) Required Forms by Stage in Program
- 5) Prevention Science Thesis and Dissertation Proposal Approval Forms

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 Ph.D. Program:

<http://cahnrs.wsu.edu/hd/preventionscience/>

The Graduate School: <http://gradschool.wsu.edu/>

- Current Graduate Students: <http://gradschool.wsu.edu/students/>
- 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 Ph.D. program:

- Department of Human Development: <http://cahnrs.wsu.edu/hd/>
- 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: <http://cahnrs.wsu.edu/extension/>

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/>

Sample Curriculum

Prevention Science Ph.D. Sample Curriculum (for full-time student who enters the program without an M.S. or any transfer credits)	
Year 1 (2017-2018)	
Fall (Semester 1)	Spring (Semester 2)
Prev_Sci 511: Intro to Prevention Science (3) Prev_Sci 513: Research Methods (3) Ed_Psy 508: Educational Statistics (3) Prev_Sci 700: Master's Thesis Research (1) <p style="text-align: right; color: red;">Core Curriculum Credits = 6 Total Credits = 10</p>	HD560 Child Development (3) HD 586: Special Topics (3) Prev_Sci 700: Master's Thesis Research (1) HD_600: Independent Study (3) <p style="text-align: right; color: red;">Core Curriculum Credits = 3 Total Credits = 10</p>
Year 2 (2018-2019)	
Fall (Semester 3)	Spring (Semester 4)
HD558 Seminar on Family Relationships (3) Ed_Psy 565: Quantitative Research (3) Comm 514: Health Communication Theories & Campaigns (3) Prev_Sci 700: Master's Research (2) <p style="text-align: right; color: red;">Core Curriculum Credits = 6 Total Credits = 11</p>	Ed_Psy 569: Sem. in Quant. Techniques (3) Ed_Psy 571: Theoretical Foundations & Fundamental Issues in Program Evaluation (3) HD 520: Adolescence (3) Prev_Sci 700: Master's Research (2) <p style="text-align: right; color: red;">Core Curriculum Credits = 6 Total Credits = 11</p>
Year 3 (2019-2020)	
Fall (Semester 5)	Spring (Semester 6)
Prev_Sci 535: Effective Prev Strategies I (3) Nurs 554: Epidemiology & Biostats (3) Prev_Sci 800: Dissertation Research (4) <p style="text-align: right; color: red;">Core Curriculum Credits = 3 Total Credits = 10</p>	Prev_Sci 540: Effective Prev Strategies II (3) Nurs 587: Qualitative Methods (3) Prev_Sci 800: Dissertation Research (4) <p style="text-align: right; color: red;">Core Curriculum Credits = 3 Total Credits = 10</p> <p style="color: red; font-style: italic;">Note: Your core curriculum credits are completed (27 credits total) by this semester</p>
Year 4 (2020-2021)	
Fall (Semester 7)	Spring (Semester 8)
Prev_Sci 800: Dissertation Research (10) <p style="text-align: right;">Total Credits = 10</p>	Prev_Sci 800: Dissertation Research (7) Psych 516: Applied SEM (3) <p style="text-align: right;">Total Credits = 10</p>
Credit Totals	
<p>Total Core Curriculum Credits = 27 (minimum required = 25) Total Thesis Credits (Prev_Sci 700) = 6* (minimum required = 6) <i>*Please note that these do not count towards the 72 credits needed for the Ph.D.</i> Total Elective Credits = 21 Total Dissertation Credits (Prev_Sci 800) = 25 (minimum required = 20) Total Credits = 76 (minimum required = 72)</p>	

Prevention Science 1st Semester Student Checklist

Welcome to WSU and to the Ph.D. Program in Prevention Science! 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 Prevention Science Ph.D. Graduate Handbook at <http://cahnr.wsu.edu/hd/preventionscience/>.

- ❑ If you haven't done so already, please stop by the HD main office (Johnson Tower 501) or email to introduce yourself to [Lisa Clyde](#) and [Danielle Engelhardt](#), our fantastic administrative support!
- ❑ If you don't already know where your office will be located, contact your advisor or you can contact [Danielle Engelhardt](#), the Program Coordinator.
- ❑ 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 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
 - A statistics course (talk to your advisor about which one is appropriate)
- ❑ You can access the Schedule of Classes at: <http://www.schedules.wsu.edu/>
- ❑ Sign-in to your my.WSU account at <https://my.wsu.edu> to:
 - Confirm you are registered in the correct classes. If you have questions or concerns about how to drop or add classes, contact [Danielle Engelhardt](#), the Program Coordinator.
 - Update your local address. If you move, change phone numbers or e-mail addresses, please make 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: <http://catalog.wsu.edu/General/AcademicCalendar/>
- ❑ Meet with your assigned advisor to get to know him/her 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 at: <http://hrs.wsu.edu/dshp/>
- Complete the *Responsible Conduct of Research Training* by September 30, visiting: <https://gradschool.wsu.edu/responsible-research/>
- Once you have completed these trainings, please email proof of their successful completion to [Danielle Engelhardt](#), 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): <http://gradschool.wsu.edu/currentstudents/>
 - 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 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 this website for further instructions: <http://residency.wsu.edu/>
- If you do not already have your Master's degree, fill out the [Add an Academic Program Degree Level](#) form on the Graduate School website and submit to [Danielle Engelhardt](#), the Program Coordinator.
- Visit the following websites for additional resources
 - WSU Virtual Tour: <http://virtual-tour.wsu.edu/>
 - WSU Graduate & Professional Student Association: <http://studentinvolvement.orgsync.com/org/gpsa>
 - Moscow/Pullman Daily News: <http://dnews.com/>
 - City of Pullman: <http://www.pullman-wa.gov/>
 - Pullman Chamber of Commerce: <http://pullmanchamber.com/>
 - The Daily Evergreen: <http://www.dailyevergreen.com>

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 consult the Prevention Science Ph.D. Graduate Handbook at <http://cahnr.wsu.edu/hd/preventionscience/> and the [Graduate School website](#).

- Consult the [Appendix](#) for a list of required forms for students at the Master's Thesis stage.
- Select M.S. Committee according to the following requirements. See 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 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.
- As a Ph.D. student, you also must submit your [Program of Study Request](#) 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.

- 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. This meeting 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.

- Submit 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 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.

- 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: <http://www.irb.wsu.edu/>
- 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.
- Apply to graduate online through the Graduate School (in the semester you plan to graduate). See instructions at: <http://gradschool.wsu.edu/graduation-application/>
 - 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.
- 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 and get your committee's (and the Program Director's) signatures on the [Scheduling Exam: Master's Form](#) 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.
 - You must also submit an electronic draft of the thesis to the Graduate School and Program Coordinator at this time.
 - Make sure that you follow the Graduate School's [Thesis and Dissertation Formatting and Submission Requirements](#).

- Send meeting information (date, time, location, thesis title) and completed thesis to the Program Coordinator. A copy of the completed thesis must be made available in the Human Development main office (JT 501). 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.

- Bring a signature page for your thesis to the meeting so that the M.S. Committee members can sign it after your defense. Follow the [Thesis and Dissertation Formatting and Submission Requirements](#) in preparing this page to ensure that it is correct. If you have committee members at multiple locations, make sure that you coordinate signatures so that you have the completed form signed in five days. The signatures must be in black ink.

- 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 signs ballots from the Graduate School to indicate their final approval and also signs the signature page for your thesis.
 - Submit signed ballots to the Program Coordinator.

- Make final revisions per committee instructions.

- Please note that the Graduate School requires that students complete any revisions within 5 working days following the defense meeting.

- Submit 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](#).

- If you plan to attend commencement, make sure you register by the deadline: <http://commencement.wsu.edu/>

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 see the Prevention Science Ph.D. at Graduate Handbook at <http://cahnrs.wsu.edu/hd/preventionscience/> and the [Graduate School website](#).

- Consult the [Appendix](#) for a list of required forms for students at the prelims stage.
- 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 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 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 the form to 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 handbook for more details.
- 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 (double-spaced) research statement describing your specialty area.
 - Three suggested exam questions for your specialty area.
- Submit 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. 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 in the semester prior to the semester you would like to begin writing the exam.
 - Once approved by the Prevention Science Graduate Committee (i.e., Steering Committee), begin reading and preparing for the exam.
 - Schedule prelims oral defense meeting with Ph.D. Committee. Please note that according to Graduate School policy, all Ph.D. Committee members must be physically present for the meeting.
 - 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 to them at least 10 working days prior to the beginning of the examination (i.e., the beginning of the two-week writing window).
 - 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, 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 and hard 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 signs Graduate School ballots to indicate their final approval.
 - Submit signed ballots to the Program Coordinator.
- If student does not pass all questions, he/she must wait a minimum of three months from the first defense to reschedule and retake the portion of the exam he/she 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 may vary in some circumstances. For more detailed information, please see the Prevention Science Ph.D. Graduate Handbook <http://cahnr.wsu.edu/hd/preventionscience/> and the [Graduate School website](#).

- Consult the [Appendix](#) for a list of required forms for students at the dissertation stage.

- 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.

- 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. This meeting 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.

- 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.
- 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: <http://www.irb.wsu.edu/>
- 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 may vary). 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.
- Apply to graduate online through the Graduate School (in the semester you plan to graduate). See instructions at: <http://gradschool.wsu.edu/graduation-application/>
 - 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 and get your committee's (and the Program Director's) signatures on the [Scheduling Exam: Doctoral Form](#) and submit to the Program Coordinator at least 10 working days before your exam date.
 - The Program Coordinator will submit it to the Graduate School.
 - You must also submit an electronic draft of the dissertation to the Graduate School and Program Coordinator at this time.
 - Make sure that you follow the Graduate School's [Thesis and Dissertation Formatting and Submission Requirements](#).
- Send meeting information (date, time, location, thesis title) and completed dissertation to the Program Coordinator. A copy of the completed dissertation must be made available in the Human Development main office (JT 501). 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.
- Bring a signature page for your dissertation to the meeting so that the Ph.D. Committee members can sign it after your defense. Follow the [Thesis and Dissertation Formatting and Submission Requirements](#) in preparing this page to ensure that it is correct. If you have committee members at multiple locations, make sure that you coordinate signatures so that you have the completed form signed in five days.

- 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 signs ballots from the Graduate School to indicate their final approval, and also signs the signature page for your dissertation.
 - Submit signed ballots to the Program Coordinator.

- Make final revisions per committee instructions.
 - Please note that the Graduate School requires that students complete any revisions within 5 working days following the defense meeting.

- 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](#).

- If you plan to attend commencement, make sure you register by the deadline: <http://commencement.wsu.edu/>

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	<p>Program of Study Request form for M.S. Add Academic Program Degree Level form MS Thesis Proposal (see section above for requirements)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p>Master's Thesis (see section above for requirements)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
Preliminary Exam	<p>Program of Study Request form for Ph.D. Prelims Proposal: no form required (see section above for requirements) Prelims Exam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<p>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)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p>Doctoral Dissertation (see section above for requirements)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

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

Print Name

Signature

Date

Print Name

Signature

Date

Print Name

Signature

Date

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

Print Name

Signature

Date

Print Name

Signature

Date

Print Name

Signature

Date