



## PhD in Applied Physiology & Neuromechanics

(Starting August 2022)

### **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

The PhD program in Applied Physiology & Neuromechanics is offered by the College of Health Sciences on the main campus of the University of Memphis. It includes two concentrations: 1) Applied Physiology & Nutrition (<https://www.memphis.edu/healthsciences/graduate/applied-physiology-nutrition-phd.php>) and 2) Applied Biomechanics (<https://www.memphis.edu/healthsciences/graduate/applied-biomechanics-phd.php>). The student's Major Professor must be a Full Graduate Faculty member in the designated concentration area and must indicate a willingness to serve as the primary mentor of said student through completion of the doctoral dissertation.

Two entry points are available for admission on a competitive basis: 1) post bachelor's and 2) post master's. The post-bachelor's program requires the successful completion of a minimum of 81 credit hours in the approved program of study, while the post-master's program requires the successful completion of a minimum of 45 credit hours in the approved program of study. For post-master's students, if a thesis/applied project or analogous research product has not been completed as part of the master's program, the student will be required to make up that deficit separate from the approved program of study and Research Residency. In addition, if all post-bachelor's statistics/research courses have not been completed as part of the master's degree, the post-master's student must successfully complete those courses during the first year of the doctoral program; however, none of them will be counted toward the 45 credit hours in the approved post-master's program of study.

Advanced research facilities and equipment are available to support both concentrations. However, since both concentrations involve extensive faculty research mentoring, admission is partly dependent upon the availability of appropriate faculty mentors. Accordingly, the admission of qualified students may be delayed if the quality of mentoring is likely to be compromised by overloading a prospective mentor.

A designated Research Residency is required of all PhD students that is separate from the dissertation/thesis/applied project. Written and oral doctoral comprehensive exams are required and are typically taken no sooner than the last semester of the didactic program of study. The written portion of these exams is scheduled to be taken *en masse* during the first or second week following the fall or spring semester midterm break. The oral portion is administered only after the written portion has been passed.

The typical full-time student will register for classes during the entire calendar year, although part-time students may complete courses in a less-conventional time frame. Part-time students must have a mentoring Major Professor the same as full-time students.

The dissertation may not be started until the written and oral doctoral comprehensive exams have been passed. Dissertation studies typically require between 1-2 years to complete. The expected duration for completion of the degree is 3-5 years depending largely upon the point of entry and the nature of the research being conducted.

Research assistantships are available each year. Funding for these assistantships may be provided by the University or an external source. When external funding sources are involved, the University can guarantee support only for the duration of the external funding. In such cases, alternative support will be sought.