HUMAN MOVEMENT SCIENCE CURRICULUM (GRAD)

Contact Information
Human Movement Science Curriculum
Visit Program Website (http://hmsc.unc.edu)
Vicki Mercer, Director

The Department of Allied Health Sciences in the School of Medicine offers an interdisciplinary program of study in human movement science leading to the doctor of philosophy degree. The intent of this program is to develop research and teaching scholars who are capable of producing and disseminating new knowledge in the field of human movement science.

The doctoral program in human movement science is offered through the cooperative effort of the Division of Physical Therapy (UNC School of Medicine), the Department of Exercise and Sport Science (College of Arts and Sciences), and the Department of Biomedical Engineering. This program is designed to provide students an opportunity for doctoral study in areas that will increase our knowledge of human movement. The program focuses on contributing to the scientific basis of human movement and developing theory and methods for maintaining health, preventing disability, and improving movement ability. Focusing on normal movement and movement disability requires a special emphasis in research and education that draws upon yet differs from the focus of related sciences. Students of varied academic disciplines are accepted into the program. Students in our program study across several areas of interest in human movement:

- Biomechanics
- Brain injury/concussion
- Exercise physiology
- Injury prevention
- Neuromuscular control and motor learning
- Rehabilitation (musculoskeletal, neurological)

Note: The Division of Physical Therapy retired the M.S. in human movement science degree, so applicants are no longer being accepted for the M.S. as a terminal degree. Bachelor's level applicants will be considered, given appropriate background and experience in movement science research.

Research Facilities
Several research facilities are available for students in the departments participating in the program. These include the Interdisciplinary Human Movement and Cassidy Plasticity Laboratories in the Division of Physical Therapy's Center for Human Movement Science and the Applied Physiology, Neuromuscular, Sports Medicine, and Applied Physiology Laboratories and the Matthew Gfeller Sport-Related Traumatic Brain Injury Research Center in the Department of Exercise and Sport Science. These laboratories are equipped with state-of-the-art instruments for measuring a range of human movement and performance through behavioral, physiological, biomechanical, cognitive, sensory, and computer modeling instrumentation.

Admission
Student selection is based primarily on academic records and research experience. Requirements include the following:

- A master's degree in a field related to human movement (e.g., physical therapy, exercise science, athletic training, biomedical engineering, anatomy, etc.) is preferred, but qualified candidates with a bachelor's degree will be considered for admission.
- A grade point average of 3.0 or better in the last two years of the student's most recent degree program. A typical student who is admitted has a 3.4 GPA or better.
- Coursework in the following areas, completed within the past five years, is a prerequisite for admission. Completion of coursework in these areas longer than five years ago may require completion of an admissions examination.
  - Statistics
  - Human anatomy
  - Human physiology

AND at least one of the following courses:

- Physics
- Biomechanics
- Chemistry
- Psychology
- Exercise physiology
- Motor learning/motor control/neuromuscular control
- Neuroanatomy
- Three letters of academic recommendation
- Curriculum vitae
- Written statement of the academic/career goals and research interests
- Name of the faculty member who has agreed to mentor the applicant (Applicants should contact a faculty member in their area of interest prior to beginning the application process.)

The curriculum core requirements allow flexibility in designing programs of study to meet the student's interests. Each student's program of study is developed under the guidance of his or her advisor and committee, and includes three major components:

1. Human Movement Science (16 credit hours)

- 6 credits of Human Movement Science core courses HMSC 700, HMSC 701, and HMSC 702
- 6 credits of advanced Human Movement Science content
- 4 credits of doctoral seminar in Human Movement Science (IHMS 870)

2. Research and Inquiry

- a research design course
- 2 graduate level statistics courses
- a grant writing course
- research ethics training

3. Practical Experience

- 2 research experiences
- 2 teaching experiences
• doctoral examination
• dissertation prospectus
• written dissertation and dissertation defense

These are minimal requirements. Other specific requirements will vary depending on the student’s background, area of interest, and planned career path.

Professors
Claudio Battaglini, Management of Cancer Treatment-Related Symptoms; Prescriptive Exercise Intervention
Troy Blackburn, Neuromuscular Function and Motor Control; Knee Injury Prevention
Deborah Givens, Neuromuscular Control and Painful Musculoskeletal Conditions; Efficacy of Interventions for Low Back Pain and Hip and Knee Osteoarthritis
Michael T. Gross, Biomechanics; Sports Medicine; Orthopedics; Orthotics
Kevin M. Guskiewicz, Athletic Training; Sports Medicine; Neurotrauma
Anthony C. Hackney, Exercise Endocrinology—Stress Physiology
Karen McCulloch, Balance and Cognitive Interactions in Older Adults and Following Traumatic Brain Injury; Effects of Military Mild Traumatic Brain Injury on Balance and Cognitive Function, Including Dual-Task Performance and Return to Duty Implications
Darin Padua, Biomechanics and Sports Medicine; Knee Injury Prevention
Bing Yu, Biomechanics; Rehabilitation; Movement Analysis; Biomechanical Modeling

Associate Professors
Michael Lewek, Stroke Rehabilitation; Biomechanics; Neuromuscular Function
Vicki S. Mercer, Postural Control in Older Adults and Individuals with Neurological Dysfunction; Stroke Recovery
Jason Mihalik, Sports Medicine, Sports and Military Neurotrauma
Brian Pietrosimone, Sports Medicine; Knee Osteoarthritis
Eric Ryan, Exercise Physiology; Exercise Adaptation, Nutritional Supplementation, and Aging on Neuromuscular Function
Abbie Smith-Ryan, Exercise Physiology; Exercise and Nutrition Interventions; Body Composition
Erik Wikstrom, Impact of Musculoskeletal Injury on Sensorimotor Control of the Lower Extremity; Ankle Joint Injury

Assistant Professors
Jessica Cassidy, Neuroimaging and Neurostimulation in Neurological Disease, Injury, and Development
J.D. DeFreese, Athlete Psychological and Physical Health and Social Functioning
Erik Hanson, Exercise Physiology, Exercise Testing and Training in Clinical Populations; Exercise Oncology and Immunology
Zachary Kerr, Sports Injury Surveillance; Sports-Related Injury Prevention
Adam Kiefer, Performance Enhancement and Injury Prevention in Sport
Kristen Kucera, Sport and Occupational Injury Epidemiology, Including Musculoskeletal Disorders, Ergonomics, Return to Work
Johna Register-Mihalik, Traumatic Brain Injury — Negative Consequences, Prevention, Education and Clinical Management
Lee Stoner, Interactions between Lifestyle Behavioural Factors and Cardio-Metabolic Disorders; Assessing Cardio-Metabolic Health; Translation of Basic and Applied Science to Affect Public Health Outcomes
Louise Thoma, Optimizing Rehabilitation and Recovery after Orthopedic Injury and Surgery

Affiliated Faculty
Jacqueline H. Cole, Department of Biomedical Engineering
Jason Franz, Department of Biomedical Engineering
Steven George, Duke Clinical Research Institute, Department of Orthopedic Surgery
Kelly Giovanelli, Department of Psychology and Neuroscience
Richard Goldberg, Department of Biomedical Engineering
Yvonne Golightly, Department of Epidemiology
Joseph Hopfinger, Department of Psychology
He Huang, Department of Biomedical Engineering
Laura Linnan, Department of Health Behavior
Stephen Marshall, Gillings School of Global Public Health
Michelle Meyer, Department of Emergency Medicine
Deborah Porterfield, Department of Family Medicine
William Prentice, Department of Exercise and Sport Science

HMSC 700. Scientific Basis of Human Motion. 3 Credits.
HMSC 701. Scientific Basis of Human Motion. 3 Credits.
HMSC 702. Physiology of Exercise. 3 Credits.

Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: EXSS 780.

HMSC 710. Measurement of Muscle Function. 3 Credits.

Grading status: Letter grade

HMSC 743. Topics in Motor Control and Motor Learning: Therapeutic Implications. 3 Credits.

Grading status: Letter grade

HMSC 770. Electronics for Human Movement Science. 1-21 Credits.
HMSC 780. Introduction to Outcomes Research in Health Care. 3 Credits.
HMSC 782. Infant and Family Assessment. 2-3 Credits.
HMSC 782L. Laboratory in Infant and Family Assessment. 0.5-21 Credits.
HMSC 790. Advanced Kinesiology and Biomechanics. 4 Credits.
HMSC 791. Analysis of Human Motion. 3 Credits.
HMSC 793. Advanced Ortho Assessment. 4 Credits.
HMSC 795. Human Kinetics. 4 Credits.
HMSC 801. Seminar in Human Movement Science. 2 Credits.
HMSC 803. Problems in Human Movement Science. 1-3 Credits.
HMSC 877. Independent Study in Human Movement Science. 1-21 Credits.
HMSC 879. Research in Human Movement Science. 1-21 Credits.
HMSC 881. The Neural Basis of Motor Control. 3 Credits.
HMSC 885. Beach Course. 1-3 Credits.

Human movement seminar held at the beach.
Grading status: Letter grade.
Course work appropriate for the student’s area of interest may be taken from a range of departments. The programs listed here are examples, but are not meant to be inclusive: Biomedical Engineering (BMME) (p. 3) and Exercise and Sport Science (EXSS) (p. 3). (Please refer to departmental listings for full course descriptions.)

BMME (Biomedical Engineering)

Graduate-level Courses

BMME 335. Biomaterials. 3 Credits.
Focus on the mechanical, chemical, and biocompatibility considerations of any material (e.g., metal, ceramic, or polymer) designed to interface with the body. Various applications of biomaterials are presented and analyzed, including femoral implants and vascular grafts, in order to guide students in a semester-long design project. Previously offered as BMME 510. Majors only.
Requisites: Prerequisites, BIOL 101 and BMME 209 or BMME 150.
Grading status: Letter grade.

BMME 375. Biomedical Microcontroller Applications. 3 Credits.
Introduction to digital computers for real-time processing and control of signals and systems. Programming input and output devices using C and assembly language is stressed. Case studies are used to present software design strategies for real-time laboratory systems. Previously offered as BMME 580. Majors only.
Requisites: Pre- or corequisites, BMME 301 and 385.
Grading status: Letter grade.

BMME 565. Biomedical Instrumentation I. 4 Credits.
Graduate students or permission of the instructor. Topics include basic electronic circuit design, analysis of medical instrumentation circuits, physiologic transducers (pressure, flow, bioelectric, temperature, and displacement). This course includes a laboratory where the student builds biomedical devices.
Grading status: Letter grade.

EXSS (Exercise and Sport Science)

Graduate-level Courses

EXSS 730. Management of Athletic Injuries. 3 Credits.
Permission of the instructor for nonmajors. Designed to provide basic knowledge and skills that aid in the prevention and treatment of injuries common to athletics.
Grading status: Letter grade.

EXSS 732. Human Anatomy for Athletic Trainers. 4 Credits.
Graduate standing in exercise and sport science or permission of the instructor. The study of gross human anatomy, with emphasis on the functional and clinical aspects of the neck, back, and extremities as related to athletic injuries.
Grading status: Letter grade.
EXSS 990. Research in Exercise and Sport Science. 1-3 Credits.
Graduate standing in exercise and sport science or permission of the
instructor. Individually designed research projects conducted by students
under the direction of a graduate faculty member.
Grading status: Letter grade.