

Health Services and Policy Research Collaborative Program

Learning Plan

Once accepted into the Health Services and Policy Research Collaborative Program, students are assigned an HSPR mentor who is a faculty member with similar health services research interest (this faculty member can also be the student's supervisor).

The student and HSPR mentor review the competencies needed for the Health Services and Policy Research Collaborative Program and assess the extent to which prior learning and learning experiences in their degree program support competency development. The learning activities to achieve the remaining required competencies through the Collaborative Program are discussed and documented in this Learning Plan.

Student and HSPR mentor discuss:

- a) what courses and other learning experiences the student will complete as part of his/her degree program and the extent to which these experiences foster the development of additional competencies needed by a health services researcher,
- b) what competencies need to be acquired, and
- c) how these competencies will be developed (including timelines for Collaborative Program related course work and completion).

The Learning Plan is reviewed and signed off by the HSPR Collaborative Program Director. Copies of the Learning Plan are given to the student, HSPR mentor, thesis supervisor (if different from the HSPR mentor), coordinator of the student's graduate program, and the HSPR Collaborative Program Director.

Revisions to learning plans may occur as the student and mentor discover other learning needs or find that a competency has been met in an unexpected way. However, these require the approval of the HSPR Collaborative Program Director. Learning plans must be completed in their entirety.

Health Services and Policy Research Collaborative Program

Learning Plan

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Student Name

Mentor Name

Please indicate which competencies you have already developed, which you plan to develop as part of your degree program, and which you plan to develop as part of the Collaborative Program. Indicate the courses and other learning activities planned to allow development of specific competencies and skills.

Competency or specific skills	Already Completed ¹	To be completed in Degree Program ²	To be completed in HSPR Collaborative Program ³
1. Understanding of the Canadian health care system and how it has evolved over time; the implications of policy legacies, values and interests and institutional structures for further system modification and policy development; a critical appreciation of health services governance, organization, financing and delivery options and of the effect of geography on these options.			
2. Ability to effectively carry out health services research including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to synthesize and critically evaluate information produced by health services research • Ability to frame researchable questions regarding health services, policies and/or systems • Ability to effectively select from, integrate, and apply a range of conceptual frameworks and research methods drawn from different disciplines to answer health 			

¹ Describe how it was done.

² Indicate activity or course that will address competency or specific skill as well as expected timelines for completion.

³ Indicate activity or course that will address competency or specific skill as well as expected timelines for completion.

Competency or specific skills	Already Completed ¹	To be completed in Degree Program ²	To be completed in HSPR Collaborative Program ³
<p>services and policy questions and help resolve health services issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness of the importance of contextual issues (e.g., cultural diversity, gender, geography, socio-economic circumstances and local conditions) in the formulation, development and execution of health services research • Ability to select and develop reliable, valid measures and indicators of health services and system performance • Ability to select from and apply a variety of analytic approaches that match the research question(s) and context • Ability to work effectively with health services researchers from other disciplines • Awareness of ethical issues relating to all aspects of the research enterprise 			
<p>3. Understanding of theories about how the health of populations is produced, maintained and enhanced at the individual, group, community, provincial and national level.</p>			
<p>4. Understanding of theories of health and health services knowledge production; the social, economic, political and ethical factors that influence knowledge production; and, the diverse assumptions embedded in knowledge production.</p>			
<p>5. Ability to effectively exchange knowledge and develop research partnerships with stakeholders in the health field (e.g., citizens, health care providers, decision-makers at all levels).</p>			

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Student Name

Student Signature

Date

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Mentor Name

Mentor Signature

Date

Start Date of Learning Plan	
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Learning Plan Final Report

Degree Program Enrolled In	
Proposed Date of Degree Completion	
HSPR Collaborative Program Start Date	
HSPR Collaborative Program Proposed Completion Date	
Topic area of thesis project or final paper	

Student Name	Student Signature	Date

Supervisor Name	Supervisor Signature	Date

Approved by:

HSPR Collaborative Program Director's Name	HSPR Collaborative Program Director's Signature	Date

Please return this form to the IHPME Graduate Office, (HS 425, Attn: Dr. Whitney Berta), when you have completed the Research Practicum.

HSPR Collaborative Program graduates will demonstrate the following core competencies:

1. Understanding of the Canadian health care system and how it has evolved over time; the implications of policy legacies, values and interests and institutional structures for further system modification and policy development; a critical appreciation of health services governance, organization, financing and delivery options and of the effect of geography on these options.
2. Ability to effectively carry out health services research⁴ including:
 - ability to synthesize and critically evaluate information produced by health services research
 - ability to frame researchable questions regarding health services, policies and/or systems
 - ability to effectively select from, integrate, and apply a range of conceptual frameworks and research methods drawn from different disciplines to answer health services and policy questions and help resolve health services issues
 - awareness of the importance of contextual issues (e.g., cultural diversity, gender, geography, socio-economic circumstances and local conditions) in the formulation, development and execution of health services research
 - ability to select and develop reliable, valid measures and indicators of health services and system performance
 - ability to select from and apply a variety of analytic approaches that match the research question(s) and context
 - ability to work effectively with health services researchers from other disciplines
 - awareness of ethical issues relating to all aspects of the research enterprise.
3. Understanding of theories about how the health of populations is produced, maintained and enhanced at the individual, group, community, provincial and national level.
4. Understanding of theories of health and health services knowledge production; the social, economic, political and ethical factors that influence knowledge production; and, the diverse assumptions embedded in knowledge production.
5. Ability to effectively exchange knowledge and develop research partnerships with stakeholders in the health field (e.g., citizens, health care providers, decision-makers at all levels).

⁴ Health services research is defined as research that is intended to inform policy development and decision making regarding the governance, organization, funding, delivery of health services, or the allocation of resources dedicated to improving health. Core competencies may be gained as part of the degree program in which the student is enrolled and from courses and practica through Health Services and Policy Research Collaborative Program.