

CRHP Research Planned Activities

CRHP Course/Semester	Planned Work
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CRHP 504	
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CRHP 507	

Clinical Research for Health Professionals (CRHP) – Research Project

Rationale

CRHP is a non-thesis MS program. It is consistent with a master's level education that students be challenged to clearly express well-organized thoughts in written form. The collection, analysis and refinement of scientific information to produce a professional-level written document are crucial skills for those in the health professions. This requirement will expose students to the entire process of developing a research project and reporting on that research project up to and including experiencing a facsimile of the peer review and re-submission process.

Objectives

The research project will provide students with the opportunity to develop, test and report on research hypotheses. Under the guidance of an established researcher serving as a mentor, students will develop a single project suited to their areas of interest and gain practical experience in the development and critique of research. *The research project itself needs to be of sufficient magnitude to support earning 21 semester credits over the course of the project.* It is anticipated that each student will conduct a minimum of 9 hours research/week for 3 credits per semester/course.

Requirements

Research Topic:

A Research topic must be proposed and approved prior to enrolling in the research course of the CRHP program. Students must submit a 7-10 page journal-format paper at the end of each semester, which documents their research and demonstrates that each successive semester's work builds upon their prior work. Guidance during the conduct of the research and writing of the papers will be the responsibility of the mentor. After mentor review and approval, papers will be evaluated by a committee composed of two doctoral-level members of the Office of Professional Studies in the Health Sciences.

Research topic may include a broad spectrum of clinical studies including:

- Retrospective studies
- Bench-top studies with/without conjunction with a pharmaceutical company
- Development of new clinical methodologies/techniques
- Development/evaluation of new clinical devices

Format:

Papers should be a minimum of 7-10 double-spaced, typewritten pages exclusive of title page, abstract, illustrations, references, tables, figures and appendices. No fewer than 10 references

should be used, of which at least 6 must be primary references (i.e., original articles, books, or chapters). All referencing should follow APA format, as per University guidelines.

Structure/Organization:

Papers should contain the following subsections:

- Title Page
- Abstract
- Introduction and statement of problem or hypothesis
- Background
- Body of Paper (including Materials and Methods and Data and Results sections)
- Discussion
- Conclusion
- References
- Appendices (Optional)

Evaluation

Students will receive a satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade for each journal-type paper.

Choosing a Research Mentor

Research mentors must be established researchers with a doctoral degree. A curriculum vitae of the proposed mentor must be submitted with the student's application. The appropriateness of the mentor will be evaluated by an Ad Hoc committee whose members come from both the Office of Professional Studies and the Drexel University College of Medicine clinical faculty.

Choosing a mentor is the responsibility of the student. When seeking a mentor, students may want to consider the following:

- Does the mentor have knowledge and experience in areas relevant to their own skills, talents, interests, and career goals?
- Does the mentor display a willingness to provide you with the appropriate amount of time/guidance for your project?
- Will the mentor foster a balance between giving you the appropriate amount of guidance and allowing you to think/work independently?
- Is the mentor's personality compatible with yours, so an effective working relationship can be formed?

Both the mentor and the student have responsibilities for the success of the research project. These responsibilities may vary, depending upon the specific nature of each research project. In general:

Mentor responsibilities should include:

- Assisting with research topic development. This includes carefully structuring the research process, providing clear and consistent expectations, and establishing appropriate deadlines for research milestones.
- Assisting with the technical aspects of the project.
- Assisting with scientific communication skills.
- Counsel on the ethical considerations of the project. This includes helping the student understand and adhere to the current standards of conduct within the field.
- Providing the opportunity to present and/or publish research.
- Being available for regular communication about the project.
- Review and approve research reports prior to submittal at the end of each term.

Student responsibilities should include:

- Understanding and following the formal requirements set forth by the mentor, the department/facility in which the student is working, and the academic program in which the student is enrolled.
- Diligently adhering to high standards of work ethic throughout the duration of the research project.
- Assimilating mentor feedback/advice into the research project and paper.
- Maintaining regular contact with the mentor, keeping him/her abreast of the development and/or obstacles of the project.
- Submission of research reports in a timely way to allow review/feedback prior to the end of each term.

Institutional Approvals

Any research that uses human or animal subjects must have documented approval from the student's IRB and/or IACUC institutional committees