Behavioral Health (Clinical), DBH

You can propel your career as an innovative behavioral health provider or entrepreneur and thrive in the new culture of value-based care.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: DBH Behavioral Health (Clinical)
The DBH is a global, interdisciplinary degree program that offers an innovative curriculum, direct patient care internship experience in an integrated primary care placement and an applied research project for domestic and international students. This degree is designed for those with prior completed clinical training and supervised clinical experience. Program clinical interns operate within the scope of clinical practice dictated by their existing state-issued license. The Doctor of Behavioral Health program of study does not provide a pathway to licensure.

Clinical concentration students learn how to develop and implement evidence-based interprofessional practices that are tailored to fit the needs of the local community, patient populations and health care systems. Students are prepared to anticipate trends in health care policy and to leverage their expertise using clinical practice skills, quality improvement approaches, population health strategies and health care cost management to thrive in the evolving health care marketplace.

The curriculum addresses the problem of poor health outcomes, barriers to patient access, and rising health care costs by preparing students to achieve the Quadruple Aim in health care of improved patient experience of care, population health management, cost savings and improved team satisfaction. Students learn to demonstrate cost savings and return on investment by developing a business case for integrated care. With a focus on team-based, whole person care, students learn strategies to improve team satisfaction that integrates behavioral health into traditional medical settings.

The student learning experience includes easy access to online articles, videos and websites; weekly live webinars led by faculty experienced in the field; live peer student interactions; and written assignments that parallel the writing used for clinical and business proposals.
In the culminating project, students address a primary care clinic's clinical, operational or financial challenge using the quality improvement model to solve key problems. Examples include how to support improved patient outcomes, improve organizational processes and integrated care clinical outcomes, or decrease provider stress and burnout by training them to use resources more efficiently.

The internship program is hands-on in a local primary care clinic with in-person consultation by a licensed faculty member in a weekly small group webinar format. Students also have a site preceptor with whom they collaborate in support of the patient-centered medical home and accountable care organization approaches to primary care. Students on the clinical track are independently licensed in their respective fields and collaboratively work with their internship site preceptor who is a trained medical professional not necessarily in their field of practice. This is consistent with an interprofessional team approach.

Students may join special research projects or have the opportunity for a semester of study abroad. The faculty are seasoned professionals and content experts representing clinical practice, management and applied research in integrated care.

At a Glance

- **College/School:** [College of Health Solutions](#)
- **Location:** [Online](#)

Degree Requirements

84 credit hours including the required applied project course (IBC 793)

**Required Core (18 credit hours)**

- HCD 501 Biostatistics and Data Management (3)
- IBC 586 Behavioral Health Professional Writing Style (3)
- IBC 611 Population-Based Behavioral Health Management (3)
- IBC 614 Quality and Performance Measurement, Improvement and Incentives in Health Care (3)
- IBC 718 Healthcare Systems: Organization, Delivery and Economics (3)
- IBC 720 Behavioral Health Entrepreneurship (3)

**Concentration (15 credit hours)**

- IBC 601 Models of Integrated Primary Care (3)
- IBC 603 Brief Interventions in Primary Care (3)
- IBC 604 Clinical Medicine/Pathophysiology (3)
- IBC 608 Psychopharmacology for the Behavioral Care Provider (3)
- IBC 609 Clinical Neuropathophysiology (3)

**Electives or Research (39 credit hours)**
Other Requirement (6 credit hours)
IBC 684 Internship (6)

Culminating Experience (6 credit hours)
IBC 793 Applied Project (6)

Additional Curriculum Information
Students entering the doctoral program with a master's degree in a related discipline may count up to 30 credit hours from the master's degree toward the total credit hours, with program approval.

Admission Requirements
Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the College of Health Solutions.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a master's degree in any field from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. supplemental application
4. copy of the applicant's license or license eligibility
5. one professional reference
6. updated curriculum vitae or resume
7. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information
An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of English proficiency regardless of their current residency.

Applicants with master's degrees in counseling, family therapy, nursing, PA/NP, occupational health and social work, among others, are encouraged to apply. Students in the clinical concentration are required to hold a license or license eligibility to practice in a clinical field. The most competitive candidates are master's degree-level professionals who are either currently employed or have direct patient care experience in a clinical capacity in an integrated health care organization.

Licensed and license-eligible are terms defining a license to practice issued by a state licensing board (e.g., Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners, Arizona Board of Occupational Therapy
Examiners, etc.). Examples include license-eligible master's degree-level behavioral clinician, licensed master's degree-level behavioral clinician, and master's degree-level licensed medical or ancillary health care provider (nurse, dietitian, occupational therapist).

Within the university application, a supplemental application must be submitted for admission consideration. The supplemental application includes acknowledgements of program policies, professional license disclosure and a series of essay questions (responses are restricted to 500 words or less).

All applicants are required to submit contact information for at least one professional reference. Examples of appropriate references include a current employer or supervisor who can assess either the applicant's clinical or professional performance or other professional persons (not relatives) such as a licensed behavioral health clinician, medical or other health care provider, or faculty member from the master's degree program who is well-acquainted with the applicant's professional practice or academic achievement. The reference is contacted via email to provide responses to a series of short answer questions to complete the recommendation.

**Tuition Information**

When it comes to paying for college, everyone’s situation is different. Students can learn about ASU tuition and financial aid options to find out which will work best for them.

**Attend Online**

ASU Online

ASU offers this program in an online format with multiple enrollment sessions throughout the year. Applicants may view the program's ASU Online page for program descriptions and to request more information.

**Application Deadlines**

- Fall
- Spring
- Summer

**Career Opportunities**

Graduates of the clinical concentration program have the skills to move into clinical leadership and management positions across health care settings. They are well prepared to develop and manage programs related to integrated behavioral health care.

Potential job titles include:
• behavioral health provider, consultant or specialist in primary care and other medical settings
• CEO of integrated care
• clinical team manager
• director of clinical services or operations
• health and wellness manager
• integrated care clinical provider
• integrated care manager or consultant
• integrated health care manager or specialist
• wellness program administrator

Contact Information

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