Prevention Science (MS)

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The Prevention Science program provides training in the design, evaluation, and delivery of interventions aimed at reducing risk and enhancing protective factors in children, youth, and families, and building resilient communities.

Our strengths-based program is designed to produce prevention scientists capable of advancing healthy outcomes across a range of individuals, populations, and settings.

The two-year master of science (MS) degree in prevention science is primarily intended for students who have completed a bachelor's degree in a prevention science–related discipline or have human development, psychology, education, or prevention science experience and are seeking more in-depth scientific and methodological training in prevention science and program evaluation than students interested in the one-year MEd. The two-year MS program also provides greater opportunities for students to develop long-term collaborations in research centers and with faculty members both within and outside the program, but does not require the commitment involved in completing the PhD. Students may also opt to complete the MS degree as a route toward becoming more competitive for PhD applications, whether that's in Prevention Science or other doctoral programs.

Program Goals and Competencies

Goals

1. Graduates describe theoretical models, risk and protective factors, preventive interventions (especially evidence-based ones), and implementation practices related to prevention programs and policies
2. Graduates understand and adhere to the standards of knowledge for prevention science, including best practices in research design and methods, data analysis, interpretation, dissemination and rigorous ethical practice
3. Graduates commit to multicultural competence and enhancing human welfare in their scholarly work related to prevention science
4. Graduates display professionalism in their relationships with faculty and staff members, peers, and community partners across settings

Competencies

Learning objectives for the prevention science graduate programs focus on preparing students to achieve the following set of minimum competencies that accompany the stated program goals:

1. Students describe the origins, foundations, and standards of prevention science (Goal 2)
2. Students design and carry out theoretically grounded research studies that contribute to the literature on risk and protective factors, and identify their mechanisms of influence associated with behavioral health outcomes across the lifespan (Goal 1, 2, 3)
3. Students demonstrate knowledge of evidence-based preventive interventions and policies and understand how to apply prevention science theories to the design, implementation, and evaluation of preventive interventions (Goal 1, 2, 3, 4)
4. Students integrate knowledge of research design, quantitative methods, data analysis, and multimethod, multiagent assessment methods commonly used in prevention science into their research activities (Goal 2)
5. Students demonstrate skill in disseminating their work to a variety of audiences via formal academic presentations, instructional activities, and professional or academic writing (Goal 1, 2, 3, 4)
6. Students demonstrate awareness and understanding of contextual issues such as culture, identity, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability, marginalization, poverty, inequality, and religion in their research, applied activities, and professional behavior (Goal 1, 3, 4)
7. Students indicate a commitment to continuous learning and professional development by establishing and maintaining effective professional relationships with faculty members, research and teaching supervisors, collaborators, participants, agency personnel, peers, and staff, and being responsive to constructive feedback (Goal 4)
8. Students demonstrate honesty, personal responsibility, and knowledge and appropriate application of relevant ethical and legal codes related to prevention science (e.g., American Psychological Association ethical standards) (Goal 4)

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Design, carry out, and evaluate research studies that contribute to the prevention science literature.
- Demonstrate skill in disseminating their work to diverse audiences via formal academic presentations, instructional activities, and professional/academic writing.
- Demonstrate awareness and understanding of diversity and contextual issues such as culture, identity, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability, marginalization, poverty, inequality, and religion in their research, applied activities, and professional behavior. \
- Demonstrate honesty, personal responsibility, and knowledge and appropriate application of relevant ethical and legal codes related to prevention science (e.g., APA Ethical Standards).

Prevention Science Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Psychological Foundations		**19**
PREV 631	Introduction to Prevention Science	
PREV 633	Contemporary Issues in Public Health	
PREV 634	Implementation Science	
CPSY 621	Lifespan Developmental Psychology	
CPSY 645	Health Promotion and Equity	
SPSY 650	Developmental Psychopathology	
Research Methods		**15**
EDUC 612	Social Science and Education Research Design	
EDUC 641	Applied Statistics in Education and Human Services I	
EDUC 643	Applied Statistics in Education and Human Service II	

EDUC 645	Applied Statistics in Education and Human Services III (Applied Statistics in Education and Human Services III)	
One additional advanced research methodology course		
Research/Reading		**12**
PREV 601	Research: [Topic]	
Professional Foundations		**10**
PREV 611	Capstone Seminar I	
PREV 612	Capstone Seminar II	
PREV 613	Capstone Seminar III	
PREV 607	Seminar: [Topic]	
Electives:		**9**
PREV 610	Experimental Course: [Topic]	
PREV 634	Implementation Science	
PREV 635	Prevention and Policy	
CPSY 610	Experimental Course: [Topic]	
CPSY 614	Theories of Counseling	
CPSY 617	Theories of Career Development	
CPSY 635	Social Aspects of Behavior	
SPSY 610	Experimental Course: [Topic]	
SPSY 631	Academic and Behavioral Interventions	
SPED 511	Foundations of Disability I	
Master's Research Project		
Total Credits		**65**