

The Department of Health Sciences

Master of Health Sciences

Program Specific Requirements



The mission of the Department of Health Sciences is to create and mobilize knowledge to protect and promote health and reduce health inequities. Through applied research, community engagement, and provision of diverse learning opportunities, we help to build the capacity to understand and address the complexities of both current and emerging health issues.

Our vision is to be leaders in applied health research and comprehensive health education that enables and supports individuals and communities to achieve optimal health.

The Department of Health Sciences offers an **on-campus, thesis-based, Master of Health Sciences (MHSc)** program that is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skill to undertake a supervised research study in a relevant area of concern, within the broad definition of health.

Completion of specific required courses, followed by a selection of relevant elective courses, allows you to develop both breadth and depth in an area of research interest. Although you may choose to complete research studies using quantitative, qualitative, or mixed-method approaches, you are required to demonstrate beginning competence in both quantitative and qualitative methods. The structure of the program allows you to complete elective courses in research methods and/or in a discipline-based area of interest.

Preference is given to applicants who have successfully completed research methods courses (e.g., statistics, qualitative inquiry, epidemiology, research methods).

Interested applicants are encouraged to contact potential supervisors directly, **and before** applying to the program. **Applicants must indicate their areas of interest for a thesis when applying to the program and must identify a potential supervisor. Admittance is dependent on faculty availability from among full-time faculty of the Department of Health Sciences.**

[Faculty & Staff | Lakehead University](#)

The overall objective of the **Master of Health Sciences** program is to provide students with an understanding of the complexities of the health sciences through a focus on individuals, communities, and organizations. The program is primarily intended to prepare skilled graduates who will make a positive impact on health through involvement in research. Therefore, the degree is designed largely to prepare students who will emerge as health researchers and will provide advanced methodological and health-related education that will enhance both their understanding of health and their ability to contribute to the advancement of health. Faculty members provide a variety of perspectives focusing on the continuum of healthcare delivery from various disciplines.

The objectives of the program are to prepare a graduate who:

- possesses advanced knowledge of health and health issues;
- is competent in both quantitative and qualitative methodologies;
- is capable of critical analysis of health issues and their impacts, evidence related to specific health issues, research methodologies, and the development of health initiatives in Canada;
- understands the social and political context in which health-related decisions are made at the level of the individual, organization, population, and government; and
- possesses knowledge exchange and dissemination strategies for various audiences

Specializations available within Health Science

Applicants must choose a specialization as part of their Master of Health Sciences program.

[Epidemiology](#)

[Indigenous and Northern Health](#)

[Gerontology](#)

[Social-Ecological Systems, Sustainability and Health](#)

NOTE: Students completing the program as a [Full-time](#) student must complete all requirements within six terms (2 years) of continuous registration. Students completing the program as a [Flexible Full-time](#) student must complete all academic requirements in four (4) years (12 terms).

General admission requirements to a Master's Graduate program at Lakehead University is described below.

Applicants for admission must be graduates of a recognized university, college, or institute as well as show evidence of scholarly achievement. Except where otherwise stated in the Admission Requirements of a particular program, applicants must have a four-year bachelor's degree or its equivalent with at least second class standing (B) based on their last 20 half courses or equivalent. Preferences will be given to applicants who have successfully completed statistics and research methods courses.

Meeting the minimum requirements does not necessarily guarantee admission. No candidate will be admitted unless the Department of Health Sciences recommends admission.

Interested applicants are encouraged to contact potential supervisors directly, **and before** applying to the program. **Applicants must indicate their areas of interest for a thesis when applying to the program and must identify a potential supervisor. Admittance is dependent on faculty availability from among [full-time faculty](#) of the Department of Health Sciences.**

In addition to the general admission requirements for Master programs, **applicants must also submit:**

- A [curriculum vitae \(CV\)](#)
- A [Statement of Goals and Intentions](#)
- Two (2) references in support of the applicant's ability to undertake advanced study and research. Both should be academic if possible.
- Preferences will be given to applicants who have completed statistics and research methods courses (e.g., statistics, qualitative inquiry, epidemiology, research methods).
- [Official English Test Results](#) (if required) see under Health Sciences Admission Requirements.

In addition to the Faculty of Graduate Studies minimum admission requirements and program specific requirements, the following should also be considered.

- Typically, successful applicants have a 4-year Bachelor's degree in a health studies related field with at least a 75% average.
 - applicants who have averages below 75% may be considered if they have substantial work experience (5 or more years) in a field related to health sciences
- Preferences will be given to applicants who have successfully completed statistics and research methods courses (e.g., statistics, qualitative inquiry, epidemiology, research methods)
- Preference will be given to Master of Health Sciences program applicants who completed a thesis in their undergraduate program or have proven research experience
- Applicants whose native language is not English and who have not studied in an English school system for more than three years must provide proof of meeting requirements by achieving the appropriate scores in one of the following tests:
 - International English Language Testing System (IELTS): Minimum overall score of 7.0, with no individual score less than 6.5, and minimum scores of 7.0 in both Speaking and Writing.
 - Duolingo English Test: Minimum overall score of 120.
 - Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL iBT): Minimum overall score of 100 on the current scale (0–120), or a minimum band score of 5.0 or higher on the new TOEFL scale (effective January 2026).
 - Michigan English Language Assessment Battery (MELAB): Minimum overall score of 90.
 - Canadian Academic English Language Assessment (CAEL): Minimum overall score of 80.
 - Pearson Test of English (PTE) Academic: Minimum overall score of 65, with subscores of Listening 58, Reading 58, Speaking 65, and Writing 65.

For more information, see the [Academic Calendar](#) for English Language requirements.

Applicants are encouraged to visit the [Academic Calendar](#) for program academic requirements, regulations, and course descriptions.

Please also visit our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for information to assist in making your decision to apply to one of our programs.