

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Where can I find details about your Graduate Programs?

The Department of Community Health Sciences offers four Graduate Degree Programs. A description of each program is available on this website for the PhD, MSc, MPH and DipPH programs.

How do I apply to a Graduate Program in Community Health Sciences?

Applications to our program have to be made through the Faculty of Graduate Studies' online system: http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/graduate_studies/admissions/index.html

When can I apply to a Graduate Program in Community Health Sciences?

The Department of Community Health Sciences has one intake per year only. The deadline for applications is January 10th for a September start the following year.

What if my application is late?

Late applications are not reviewed. It is up to you to ensure that all required information is submitted by the deadline.

Must I have an advisor before I apply?

Applicants to the Ph.D. program **must** secure an advisor and include a letter of support from the proposed advisor as part of the application process. Although not a requirement for application to the M.Sc. program, many prospective students contact possible advisors prior to submitting an application. If a M.Sc. advisor has been identified, then a letter of support from the prospective advisor must be included with the application.

How do I find an advisor?

A starting point is to look at faculty members' biographies that are posted on our website to see what kinds of research they do and whether they match your interests. You can then contact the faculty member directly to introduce yourself and to see if she or he is accepting students. When you contact a faculty member, provide some information about your background and interests. That way the person can see more easily whether your interests match.

Can I apply to a Graduate Program in Community Health Sciences if I do not have a minimum 3.0 GPA from my undergraduate program?

Your "admission GPA" is calculated from the grades received on your last 60 credit hours of course work completed. In many instances this may be quite different from your overall GPA during a 4-year undergraduate degree program. You must have at least a 3.0 "admission GPA" to be considered by the Faculty of Graduate Studies. This minimum applies to all applicants whether applying to one of the Department of Community Health Sciences (CHS) degree programs or applying to take courses as an Occasional Student (OS).

What criteria will be used to assess my application to a Graduate Program in Community Health Sciences?

The areas considered include your admission GPA and transcript(s) from previous institutions, as well as your interest and fit with the program. Evidence of your motivation for, and interest in a career in population, community or public health would be a definite asset. A strong letter of support from a faculty member is very useful. Each degree program has a specific emphasis on different areas. For example, the M.P.H. program requires applicants to have 3 years minimum of paid work experience in a health field, the Ph.D. program requires applicants to have had experience in research. Criteria are described in the Student Handbook available on our website.

When will I hear if I've been accepted?

The Community Health Sciences (CHS) Graduate Program Admissions Committee convenes in February. The

CHS Graduate Program Office then notifies the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) as to which students are recommended for admission and which students are not recommended. FGS then sends a preliminary e-mail to students to notify them of the recommendation. After that, FGS checks to make sure that students recommended for admission by the Department in fact meet all FGS minimum requirements. If that is the case, then a notice will be sent to students to let them that they have been admitted. This will occur about two weeks after the preliminary e-mail was sent out. Note that the Department cannot admit students. The final decision for your admission rests with the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and not Community Health Sciences.

How much will my fees be?

Fees for all graduate programs are set by the University of Manitoba, not by the Department of Community Health Sciences. See http://umanitoba.ca/student/records/fee_information_hub.html for further information.

Can I take courses in Community Health Science even though I haven't been admitted to one of the programs?

Yes, you can apply for Occasional Student status. The application is made via the Faculty of Graduate Studies' online application system. In order to be admitted as an Occasional Student, the minimum Faculty of Graduate Studies requirements need to be met. You must also have permission from the instructor(s) whose courses you wish to take. As part of the application process you must attach these permission email messages.

As an Occasional Student you can take a maximum of 12 credit hours of courses. Should you later be admitted to one of the programs in our Department you may then be able to transfer some of those courses into that program. Note that being an Occasional Student does **not** guarantee that you will be admitted to one of our graduate programs.

Is part-time employment available for Community Health Sciences Graduate Students?

Because we do not have an undergraduate program, there are limited opportunities for teaching assistantships. Opportunities for research assistant positions with many faculty members do arise with the funded research projects in the Department. You can contact faculty members directly to see if they have any job opportunities available.

Are awards / scholarships available for Community Health Sciences Graduate Students?

Various awards exist. Please consult with your advisor for guidance as to which awards apply to you. The [Faculty of Graduate Studies also offers scholarships](#). Please refer to the website linked. The Department of Community Health Sciences offers some scholarships. Please see our website. For instance, the David G. Fish Memorial Scholarship is awarded annually to a student who is conducting or has proposed to conduct research into issues pertaining to international health. The Evelyn Shapiro Award for Health Services Research is awarded annually to a student conducting or planning to conduct research in the area of health services and requires access to the Population Health Research Data Repository and other resources of the Manitoba Centre for Health Policy.

Why am I being referred to the Faculty of Graduate Studies for some things?

All graduate programs at the University of Manitoba are governed by the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) and all graduate students are part of that Faculty. FGS has very detailed regulations about all aspects of graduate programs at the University of Manitoba. In some instances, a department has its own, additional regulations; these are laid out in what is called the "supplemental regulations". The FGS general regulations and Community Health Sciences supplemental regulations can be found at: http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/graduate_studies/admin/supplemental_regulations.html

Are there other resources I should know about?

The Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) has many resources that can be very valuable to you. They are posted on the FGS website: http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/graduate_studies/