

Doctor of Philosophy in Kinesiology and Physical Education

College of Education

Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education

Kinesiology and Physical Education

Doctor of Philosophy

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1. Introduction

The Ph.D. program in kinesiology and physical education will prepare students for faculty positions that comprise teaching, research, service, and leadership in a specific area of specialization. The doctoral program builds on the practical competencies of the master's program to prepare the student for the integration of theory and skills as the base for original research. Areas of specialization include, but are not limited to: adapted physical education, athletic training, exercise physiology, pedagogy, sport and exercise psychology, and sport management.

The Ph.D. program will serve as an innovative program to further the university and college's mission and priorities in both teaching and scholarship. Related to teaching and learning, the program will be one-of-a-kind as an interdisciplinary doctorate across the disciplines of athletic training, biomechanics, exercise physiology, physical education, sport and exercise psychology, and sport management. In addition to completing a rigorous research and statistics core and seminar courses in teaching and research in the sport sciences, students will be able to customize their degree across the aforementioned sport and exercise science disciplines. Additionally, this proposed program will further distinguish itself from peer programs by focusing dually on training in both research and teaching. The multitude of faculty positions in academia, including institutions like NIU, are housed at universities where both teaching and scholarship are valued in relatively equal parts. Many Ph.D. programs focus almost exclusively on research training, as is the case with the only two other on-campus doctoral programs in kinesiology in the State of Illinois (UIUC and UIC). This program will possess a competitive advantage over those other programs with this balanced focus as outlined in the Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) below.

2. Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

Upon the completion of the Ph.D. in Kinesiology and Physical Education degree at Northern Illinois University, students should be able to demonstrate the competencies outlined below:

1. Develop advanced and comprehensive knowledge of an area of specialization in kinesiology and physical education (e.g., athletic training, exercise physiology, pedagogy, sport and exercise psychology, sport management).
2. Demonstrate the ability to design, conduct, and analyze original scholarship that makes a substantial contribution to an area of specialization, including completion of a dissertation.
3. Identify and develop best practices for effective teaching at the college level.
4. Develop and demonstrate effectiveness and advanced pedagogy for successful teaching at the college level.
5. Develop a comprehensive understanding of norms and expectations of service and collegiality in a university setting to improve future successes in academia.
6. Demonstrate professional integrity and collegiality in the roles of educator, researcher, and departmental citizen.

3. Program-by-Baccalaureate Learning Outcomes Matrix

Not applicable as this is an advanced graduate program.

Program Student Learning Outcome	Baccalaureate Student Learning Outcomes							
	Global inter-connections and interdependencies	Intercultural competencies	Analyze human life and natural world inter-connections	Critical, creative, and independent thought	Communicate clearly and effectively	Collaborate with others	Quantitative and qualitative reasoning	Apply knowledge and skills creatively

Note: S = outcome strongly supports; M = outcome moderately supports; blank = does not support.

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4. Curriculum Map

Core Courses	Program Student Learning Outcome					
	1. Advanced and Comprehensive Knowledge of Specialization in KNPE	2. Ability to Conduct Original Scholarship, including Completion of a Dissertation	3. Best Practice for Effective Teaching	4. Effectiveness and Advanced Pedagogy for Successful Teaching at College Level	5. Comprehensive Understanding of Expectations of Service and Collegiality	6. Professional Integrity and Collegiality in the Roles of Educator, Researcher, and Departmental Citizen
KNPE 701			B, D	B, D	B, D	
KNPE 702			D, P	D, P		
KNPE 711	B, D	B, D			B, D	B, D
KNPE 712	D, P	D, P			D, P	D, P
KNPE 721	D, P	D, P			D, P	
KNPE 771	D, P	D, P			D, P	D, P
KNPE 786	D, P	D, P			D, P	D, P
KNPE 797	D, P	D, P	D, P	D, P	D, P	D, P
KNPE 799	P	P				
ETR 521	B, D	B, D				
ETR 522	B, D	B, D				
ETR 525	B, D	B, D				
ETR 720	D, P	D, P				

Note: Course supports the outcome at the B = beginning; D = developing; or P = proficient level.

5. Assessment Methods

Explanation of Assessment Methods

Assessment Method	Explanation					
	Description	Student-Level Achievement ^a	Program-Level Target ^b	When Data Will be Collected	Person Responsible	SLOs
Teaching Portfolio	Portfolios provide documented evidence of teaching from a variety of sources (including student evaluations, mentor feedback, etc.) and provide anecdotal context for that evidence.	Student must receive a score at or above “meets expectations” for each criteria established by the candidate’s teaching mentor.	75% of students are expected to score at or above “meets expectations” for each criteria.	Once the student has completed KNPE 701 and 702.	Candidate’s teaching mentor.	3-4
Candidacy Exam	The candidacy examination encompasses the area of professional knowledge within the candidate’s area of specialization, the common requirements, and, as appropriate, the cognate.	Student must receive a score at or above “meets expectations” for each criteria established by the candidate’s committee.	75% of students are expected to score at or above “meets expectations” for each criteria.	Candidacy exams are conducted when candidate has completed all necessary coursework for the degree.	Candidate’s dissertation chair and committee	1, 3-6
Dissertation Proposal	Each student is required to develop a portfolio to reflect the eight SLOs. Portfolios can consist of materials from coursework such as course papers, projects, and presentations, as well as materials develop during the internship experience.	Student must receive a score at or above “meets expectations” for each criteria established by the candidate’s committee.	75% of students are expected to score at or above “meets expectations” for each criteria.	Dissertation proposals are conducted when candidates have completed all necessary coursework for the degree.	Candidate’s dissertation chair and committee	1-2
Dissertation and Defense	Candidates are asked to conduct original and substantial research to support a thesis; through the dissertation process, the candidate communicates his/her original contributions	Student must receive a score at or above “meets expectations” for each criteria established by the candidate’s committee.	75% of students are expected to score at or above “meets expectations” for each criteria.	Completed at the end of the degree program and KNPE 799.	Candidate’s dissertation chair and committee	1-2

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Assessment Method	Explanation					
	Description	Student-Level Achievement ^a	Program-Level Target ^b	When Data Will be Collected	Person Responsible	SLOs
Dean's Designee Report	Candidates are asked to conduct original and substantial research to support a thesis; through the dissertation process, the candidate communicates his/her original contributions	Dean's designee responses will be "agree" or "strongly agree" on all common items of the Dean's Designee Report form.	75% of students are expected to score at or above "meets expectations" for each criteria.	Completed at the end of the degree program and KNPE 799.	Dean's Designee	1-2
Exit Interviews	Conducted with students after successful defense and deposit of the dissertation. Addresses how well prepared they feel, what areas they feel they need more preparation in, which courses they feel have prepared them most, and any changes they would like to see to the program.	All students must complete this during their final semester of their graduate studies.	The target is that 75% of students report having a positive experience and that feel well prepared for their career. Exit interviews are also analyzed to identify areas in which students felt unprepared.	Completed after student successfully defends and deposits dissertation.	Graduate Program Director and/or Department Chair.	1-6
Alumni Survey	Sent to program graduates to determine their satisfaction with the program and how well they have been prepared for their career. Items are also focused on how well the program met the established SLOs. Additionally, follow-up questions will be asked in order to optimize outreach efforts for university donation, fundraising, and development purposes	Target is to reach 50% of our annual target alumni base (i.e., every 1, 5, 9 years).	Target is for 80% to report that they are satisfied and were well prepared for their career. Student responses to the alumni survey with respect to program satisfaction and career preparation are analyzed.	Sent to graduates every 1, 5, 9 years post-graduation	Graduate Program Director and/or Department Chair.	1-6
<p><i>Note.</i> ^a Student-level target is the score or performance an individual student must demonstrate to say the student met the student learning outcome. ^b Program-level target is the percent of all students that must demonstrate they meet the student learning outcome.</p>						

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Assessment Methods-by-Outcomes Matrix

Assessment Method	Student Learning Outcome					
	1. Advanced and Comprehensive Knowledge of Specialization in KNPE	2. Ability to Conduct Original Scholarship, including Completion of a Dissertation	3. Best Practice for Effective Teaching	4. Effectiveness and Advanced Pedagogy for Successful Teaching at College Level	5. Comprehensive Understanding of Expectations of Service and Collegiality	6. Professional Integrity and Collegiality in the Roles of Educator, Researcher, and Departmental Citizen
Teaching Portfolio			F, S, D	F, S, D		
Candidacy Exam	S, D		S, D	S, D	S, D	S, D
Dissertation Proposal	S, D	S, D				
Dissertation and Defense	S, D	S, D				
Dean's Designee Report	S, D	S, D				
Exit Interviews	F, D	F, D	F, D	F, D	F, D	F, D
Alumni Survey	S, I	S, I	S, I	S, I	S, I	S, I

Note: F = formative assessment, S = summative assessment; D = direct assessment, I = indirect assessment.