

# MASTER OF APPLIED HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH (MAHSR)

**Department Website:** <http://www.smu.ca/academics/master-applied-health-services-research.html>

The Master of Applied Health Services Research (MAHSR) is a unique collaborative program delivered through four universities:

1. Saint Mary's University (SMU)
2. University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI)
3. University of New Brunswick (UNB)
4. Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN)

The MAHSR is nested within a cooperative unit, the Atlantic Regional Training Centre (ARTC), that helps to coordinate activities among the participating universities and also facilitates building research capacity in applied health services in Atlantic Canada.

Its interdisciplinary approach to issues in health services research, prepares students with the necessary skills to tackle key issues in health service policy, administration, and delivery. This program is intended for students with little or no background in the healthcare field, and little or no experience in conducting research. Since this program is offered through multiple institutional partners, synchronous and asynchronous web-based courses are used to provide a similar learning environment with standardized course content. Generally, a student's study time will take place in front of a computer using the Brightspace platform (based out of Memorial University of Newfoundland) to access course information, submit assignments and interact with the instructor and other students.

The academic objectives of the Master of Applied Health Services Research are:

- to provide graduate education at the Master's level in applied health services research from an interdisciplinary perspective;
- advance reciprocal arrangements between academic communities and decision-maker organizations which facilitate the use of evidence in policy decisions affecting the health of Atlantic Canadians; and
- be the platform through which interchanges between decision-makers and health researchers, from academic communities, generate policy relevant research.

The learning outcomes of this program include:

- development of a critical mass of health services researchers who conduct applied health services research throughout Atlantic Canada;
- proficiency in interdisciplinary methodologies, and
- an understanding of how to communicate research to decision-makers such that it is used in public policy development.

The Master of Applied Health Services Research offers **two** innovative streams:

1. Under the Thesis stream, candidates complete and present original, scholarly research under the supervision of a Faculty member and Supervisory Committee. This is a two-year program.

2. The Professional stream includes a range of relevant course work, culminating in either a Professional Residency or completion of an Applied Health Services Capstone project over the course of 1 year.

## Admission Requirements

The MAHSR follows the general admission requirements (<https://smu-ca-public.courseleaf.com/graduate/academic-regulations/admissions/>) and procedures of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research as outlined in the Graduate Academic Calendar. In addition, in order to be eligible to make an application for admission to the Program, applicants must have at a minimum:

1. A Bachelor's degree of four years or a Bachelor's with Honours
2. A minimum GPA of 3.3 (on a 4.3 scale; equivalent to a "B+" on the undergraduate grading scheme at Saint Mary's University) in their Bachelor's degree.

## Financial Support

Full-time students admitted to the program may be eligible for funding administered by Saint Mary's University. Funding recommendations are made by the program. All successful applicants are automatically considered for graduate funding. Students are encouraged to apply for external scholarships. In addition, student may be eligible for teaching assistantships offered through contributing departments and the CN Centre for Occupational Health and Safety.

## Program Requirements

**Note: Students not registered in any course work but working on their Program/Thesis must register in Program Continuation (Prog Registration/Continuation (FGSR 9000)) for every semester (including summer) in which they are in their graduate program.**

The MAHSR begins the first week in September, when students and staff from all four universities (Memorial University of Newfoundland, Saint Mary's University, University of New Brunswick, and University of Prince Edward Island) gather together for an online orientation session. In the same week, there is also a face-to-face orientation, where students from their respective university meet to discuss the program. During these sessions, students receive clarification on the MAHSR program, are introduced to faculty and courses, and receive direction on research interests.

## Thesis Stream

All of the following courses are required courses in their normal progression. The minimum time-for-completion of the program is six terms (two full academic years). Students are also required to complete a thesis and participate in regularly held seminars and an orientation workshop.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
<b>Semester 1 (Fall) <sup>1</sup></b>		
AHSR 6000	Introduction to Health Services Research	3
AHSR 6004	Determinants of Health: Healthy Public Policy	3
Select one (1) elective from the following:		
AHSR 6001	Canadian Health System	
AHSR 6005	Policy and Decision Making	
<i>Workshop - 3 day in person workshop</i>		
<b>Semester 2 (Winter) <sup>1</sup></b>		

Select at least one (1) of the following: 3

AHSR 6008 Advanced Qualitative Methods

AHSR 6009 Advanced Quantitative Methods

Select two (2) electives from the following: 6

AHSR 6007 Knowledge Transfer and Research Uptake

AHSR  
6826-6849 Special Topics in AHSR

AHSR 6011 Indigenous Health

AHSR 6120 Residency

### Semester 3 (Summer)

AHSR 6120 Residency (if selected as elective) 6

### Semester 4 (Fall)

AHSR 6697 Thesis Research 6

### Semester 5 and Semester 6 (Winter and Summer)

Thesis completion, defense and public presentation

AHSR 6697 Thesis Research 6

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All students attend required seminars in Semesters 1 and 2.

Students will be required to conduct a piece of scholarly research which is to be defended before an academic audience and members drawn from the broader health community. This experience will be designed to develop an understanding of how knowledge is transferred between the academic community and decision-makers, and to provide hands-on research and decision-making experience. The Graduate Academic Calendar has more details on regulations and requirements for thesis (<https://smu-ca-public.courseleaf.com/graduate/academic-regulations/program-study-research/>) at Saint Mary's University.

## Professional Stream

Code	Title	Credit Hours
<b>Semester 1 (Fall) <sup>1</sup></b>		
AHSR 6000	Introduction to Health Services Research	3
AHSR 6004	Determinants of Health: Healthy Public Policy	3
AHSR 6001	Canadian Health System	3
<i>Workshop - 3 day virtual workshop</i>		
<b>Semester 2 (Winter) <sup>1</sup></b>		
Select at least one (1) of the following:		3
AHSR 6008	Advanced Qualitative Methods	
AHSR 6009	Advanced Quantitative Methods	
Select four (4) electives from the following:		12
AHSR 6005	Policy and Decision Making	
AHSR 6007	Knowledge Transfer and Research Uptake	
AHSR 6826-6849	Special Topics	
AHSR 6011	Indigenous Health	
AHSR 6012	Big Data in Health Care	
AHSR 6120	Residency	6
or AHSR 6299	Applied Health Services Research Capstone Project	

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All students attend required seminars in Semester 1 and 2.