

PhD HES Application FAQ Sheet

General Application Questions:

What is SOPHAS?

The College of Population Health uses SOPHAS (Schools of Public Health Application Service) as our CAS to evaluate both MPH and PhD applicants. Based on the information received on SOPHAS, COPH faculty make decisions on admissions.

What is WES?

World Education Services (WES) verifies all international transcripts, degrees, and institutions, and provides USA equivalents and scales through SOPHAS.

Can I apply to the PhD in Health Equity Sciences program internationally, and how do I submit my application?

Yes, international applicants are welcome to apply. We use a centralized online application system. For more information, please visit our website: <https://hsc.unm.edu/population-health/programs/graduate-programs/phd/>. At the bottom of the page, you will find a link to the SOPHAS system, where all applications must be submitted. The next application cycle opens in mid-August of this year.

Can I apply to more than one program through SOPHAS?

Yes. SOPHAS allows applicants to apply to multiple programs and institutions, although you will need to submit the program's specific requirements.

Can I apply to multiple programs or concentrations at the University of New Mexico, College of Population Health?

No, applicants to the University of New Mexico College of Population Health must select a single program and concentration when applying. It is important that prospective students carefully consider their educational background, professional experience, research interests, and career goals prior to beginning the application process.

Could you provide information on the types of funding available to PHD students in the program, such as assistantships or fellowships?

Because funding is determined on an annual basis, the College of Population Health is unable to provide details regarding past or future funding opportunities. All information related to funding and awards will be communicated in a separate letter upon acceptance.

Can the University offer a waiver for the SOPHAS application fee?

Neither the University of New Mexico nor the College of Population Health is able to provide SOPHAS application fee waivers to prospective applicants. However, SOPHAS offers a limited number of fee waivers at the beginning of each application cycle. For more information, please visit:

https://help.liaisonedu.com/SOPHAS_Applicant_Help_Center/Starting_Your_SOPHAS_Application/Getting_Started_with_Your_SOPHAS_Application/03_Application_Fees

What is the best way to contact a faculty member to discuss how my background, career goals, and research interests align with the program's mission and their academic focus?

Please contact the PhD Program Coordinator after submitting the following materials to SOPHAS:

- Official transcripts showing degrees earned
- Three letters of recommendation
- A statement of purpose

Academic Requirement Questions:

Can I submit transcripts to the University of New Mexico directly?

No. All application materials must be submitted through the SOPHAS system. ***Documents submitted outside of SOPHAS will not be reviewed.*** Detailed instructions are provided within the SOPHAS platform during the application process. If you have any questions regarding the transcript submission process, please contact the program coordinator promptly.

Can I submit international transcripts to the University of New Mexico directly?

No. A WES evaluation is required as part of the admissions process, and all related documents must be submitted through the SOPHAS application system. ***We do not review any materials submitted outside of WES or SOPHAS.*** While completing your application in SOPHAS, you will be directed to WES, with all necessary instructions provided within the SOPHAS platform. If you have any questions regarding the transcript submission process, please contact the program coordinator promptly.

How can I determine if credits from a specific class will transfer into the program?

Please contact the Program Coordinator and submit the syllabus for the course in question via email. The Program Coordinator will forward all inquiries to the Program Director(s) for review. Approval of all transfer credits rests with the Program Director(s). Please note that this process may take up to three weeks to complete.

How do I submit test scores through SOPHAS?

Please have your testing agency send scores directly to SOPHAS.

Is this an online degree program?

No. The PhD in Health Equity Sciences is primarily a face-to-face program, with on-campus participation expected from all admitted students.

Am I eligible to apply for the next admission cohort, even if I will complete my graduate degree shortly before the program begins?

Yes, you may still apply to the program; however, any available graduate-level transcripts must be uploaded to SOPHAS as soon as possible

Is it necessary to secure a faculty mentor before submitting my application, or is mentor matching done after admission?

No. Applicants should not contact faculty members to secure a mentor for the program. Faculty-student mentorships are assigned after admission, based on the student's research interests, academic background, and faculty availability.

Could you please confirm if my scores meet the English language proficiency requirements for this program?

The College of Population Health adheres to the University of New Mexico's standards for international admissions. For detailed information, including potential exemptions from English proficiency requirements, please visit their website:
<http://international.unm.edu/english-proficiency.html>.

Please note that while an English proficiency score is not required during the application process, it will be required for formal admission to the University upon acceptance of an offer of admission to the program.

I am interested in applying to your program, but I am unsure whether my background will make me a competitive candidate or if I will be accepted into the program.

Public health is a multifaceted field that can be explored from various perspectives. The college comprises members with diverse professional backgrounds and areas of expertise. The goal is to improve health equity and seek solutions in all aspects of public health.

Do I need to take the GRE?

No. The College of Population Health does not currently require GRE scores for admission to the PhD in Health Equity Sciences programs.

Letters of Recommendation

What if my recommenders have not submitted my recommendation letter?

SOPHAS cannot process your application until all required materials are received. You *must* follow up with your recommenders directly.

Applications/Review:

When will I be notified about an admissions decision?

You will receive communication from the COPH Program Coordinator once your application has been reviewed and a decision has been made.

Can I update my application after submission?

Applicants cannot make edits to their applications after they have been submitted. To make edits to an application, the applicant must contact SOPHAS directly to reopen the application.

SOPHAS Issues:

Who should I contact if issues arise with SOPHAS?

You may contact SOPHAS directly to troubleshoot issues on the site: SOPHAS Customer service at sophasinfo@liaisoncas.com or (617) 612-2090.

For program-specific questions:

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