

## **Health Services Research and Policy Program Description**

In the Health Services Research and Policy PhD, students acquire the conceptual and methodological tools needed to conduct research, program evaluation and policy analysis and synthesis to advance the state of knowledge. The curriculum emphasizes the following areas: public and private sector health insurance and financing, organizations for the delivery of health care, methodologies for measuring and monitoring quality and safety of care and health outcomes, assessing the impact of health care policy on individuals and populations, and assessing the impact of technology and treatments on patient outcomes. It places a special emphasis on special need populations, such as children, older populations, minorities and persons with high burden diseases and disabilities.

The program stresses the development of research and analysis methods, as well as content knowledge. In addition to careers in academia, students are prepared for leadership careers as health services researchers, health care policy analysts working in public or private agencies or organizations. This program emphasizes issues of relevance to the US and other highly developed nations. There are many thesis and other research opportunities within the several related research centers of the Department and elsewhere within the Johns Hopkins University and Health System. Also the Baltimore / Washington area is the home to the largest concentration of public and private health services research and health care policy analysis organizations in the nation. Formal and informal relationship with these agencies, including research practicums, thesis collaborations and part time employment are encouraged and facilitated.

All students in the program will be exposed to a broad array of methods and content. In addition, it is expected that all students will select at least one methods sub area (e.g., econometrics, epidemiology, measurement, policy analysis, and qualitative analysis) as a special methods focus and they will complete a distributional methods requirements). It is also expected that all students will develop expertise in one or more content areas. Students interested in geriatrics may earn a certificate in that area and develop a specialization within this domain.