Kinesiology - MS, PhD

Degree Programs

- Exercise Science (http://bulletin.auburn.edu/thegraduateschool/graduatedegreesoffered/kinesiologymedmsedsphd_major/exercisescience)
- Physical Activity and Health (http://bulletin.auburn.edu/thegraduateschool/graduatedegreesoffered/kinesiologymedmsedsphd_major/physicalactivityandhealth)
- Physical Education/Teacher Education (http://bulletin.auburn.edu/thegraduateschool/graduatedegreesoffered/kinesiologymedmsedsphd_major/physicalnteachereducation)
- Kinesiology (http://bulletin.auburn.edu/thegraduateschool/graduatedegreesoffered/kinesiologymedmsedsphd_major/kinesiology)

Graduate Certificate

- Movement Skill Analysis (http://bulletin.auburn.edu/thegraduateschool/graduatedegreesoffered/kinesiologymedmsedsphd_major/movementsill_cert)

Graduate Minor

- Sport Management (http://bulletin.auburn.edu/thegraduateschool/graduatedegreesoffered/kinesiologymedmsedsphd_major/kinesportmanagment_minor)

The School of Kinesiology offers graduate degree programs leading to the master of science (non-thesis and thesis options) and doctor of philosophy. Offerings also include a graduate certificate and a graduate minor. The school’s advanced programs prepare students for careers in sport performance and health optimization, program management in clinical and corporate fitness settings, the fitness and sport-related industry, and teaching and research in educational settings.

Master’s Degree Programs (MS)

Master’s programs are offered in exercise science, physical activity and health, and physical education/teacher education. Specialized areas of study include athletic training (post-certification), biomechanics, exercise physiology, physical activity and health, motor neuroscience, and pedagogy.

Applicants to MS programs must satisfy the Graduate School’s admission requirements. School of Kinesiology admission requirements include a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university, academic good standing at the institution last attended, an undergraduate minimum GPA of 2.75, competitive GRE scores, letters of recommendation, and School approval. For admission to the MS in physical education/teacher education, the undergraduate GPA must be documented on the official transcript of the degree granting institution and must be the GPA that was used as the basis for granting the degree, not a GPA that includes post-degree courses; alternatively, a minimum GPA of 3.0 in a master’s of higher degree program may be used for admission.

MS programs in physical education/teacher education include alternative certification and traditional certification programs. The alternative MS certification program offers qualified students who hold non-teaching baccalaureate degrees a route to initial teacher certification while simultaneously earning a master’s degree; the traditional MS certification program offers advanced study for individuals who hold a valid bachelor’s-level professional educator certificate in physical education/teacher education. Applicants to the alternative MS certification program in physical education/teacher education must submit a clear background check and satisfy the State’s teaching field admission requirements; applicants to the traditional MS certification program in physical education/teacher education must submit a clear background check and hold a valid bachelor’s-level professional educator certificate in physical education. Both certification programs are approved by the Alabama State Board of Education (ALSBE). The College of Education is accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).

Degree requirements for all master’s programs include a minimum of 33 hours. All non-thesis master’s degrees require a written comprehensive exam. Additional degree requirements for the alternative MS certification program in physical education/teacher education are in compliance with regulations established by the Alabama State Board of Education. These requirements include a semester long, full-time internship and satisfactory completion of the State’s testing program which consists of a passing score on each of the Basic Skills Assessments (Applied Mathematics, Reading for Information, and Writing) and a passing score on the appropriate Praxis II subject assessments. In accordance with State regulations, effective for students unconditionally admitted prior to July 1, 2017, a minimum GPA of 3.00 is required on all courses used to meet master’s-level certification program requirements. Effective for students unconditionally admitted July 1, 2017 and after, a minimum GPA of 3.25 will be required on all courses used to meet master’s-level certification program requirements.
Doctor of Philosophy Degree Program (PhD)

Applicants to the School of Kinesiology’s PhD program must satisfy the Graduate School’s admission requirements. School of Kinesiology admission requirements include competitive GRE scores, current resume, statement of purpose (including research focus), letters of recommendation, and approval by the school.

The PhD program requires a minimum of 80 semester hours beyond the bachelor’s degree. Research methods and statistics are components of all doctoral programs. The remaining hours are divided between the area of specialization and approved support courses. After satisfactory completion of coursework and a general written and oral examination, the student advances to candidacy. Doctoral students must register for at least 10 semester hours of doctoral research while completing a dissertation.

Specialized areas of doctoral study include biomechanics, exercise physiology, motor neuroscience, motor development, sport and exercise psychology, motor learning and control, physical activity and health, and teaching and research in physical education.

Master’s- and Specialist-Level Certification

Individuals completing the State-approved MS certification programs in physical education/teacher education are eligible to apply for Alabama Class A certification. A State-approved specialist level non-degree program is available for PhD students who hold a valid master’s-level professional educator certificate in physical education/teacher education. Individuals completing this program are eligible to apply for Alabama Class AA certification. In accordance with State regulations, effective for students unconditionally admitted prior to July 1, 2017, a minimum GPA of 3.25 is required on all courses used to meet specialist-level certification program requirements. Effective for students unconditionally admitted July 1, 2017 and after, a minimum GPA of 3.50 will be required on all courses used to meet specialist-level certification program requirements.

Individuals seeking certification in states other than Alabama are responsible for contacting those state certification offices to obtain their application form and requirements. The State of Alabama signs the National Association of State Directors of Education and Certification (NASDTEC) Interstate Agreement which facilitates the applications of program graduates when they apply for certification in other states.

Graduate Minor and Graduate Certificate

The School of Kinesiology in collaboration with the Department of Educational Foundations, Leadership and Technology offers a graduate minor in sport management. In addition, the School of Kinesiology offers a graduate certificate in movement skill analysis.

Additional Information

Detailed admission requirements for the school's multiple areas of graduate study are available on the College of Education’s website, Academics (http://www.education.auburn.edu/academics). The University schedule of courses is available on the University website.