29 February 2012

Dear Optometrists,

Call for applications: Doctor of Health Science (Optometry) for 2012/2013

It is my pleasure to inform you that our Faculty of Health and Social Sciences is now offering a Doctor of Health Science (Optometry) programme. This is a great opportunity for you to pursue a postgraduate qualification; DHSc (Optometry) is the first professional doctorate with focus on the Optometry discipline being offered in Hong Kong. The programme is part-time with a duration of four years.

Application is now open for admission for 2012/2013. Enclosed is a DHSc Information Pamphlet and supplementary information for DHSc (Optometry).

Application is to be submitted online at: http://fhss.polyu.edu.hk/en/postgraduate/dhsc.html

Deadline for application is 1 April 2012 for September 2012 entry.

We look forward to seeing some of you in the coming semester.

Regards,

Prof Carly Lam
Head
School of Optometry
Doctor of Health Science
Hong Kong's First Professional Doctoral Programme in Health Science
Preparing Health Care Professionals for Leadership
The DHSc programme aims to prepare health care professionals for leadership roles in substantive specialised areas and who will contribute to the science and practice of health care through systematic enquiry and theory application.

### Programme Characteristics

- Hong Kong’s only professional doctorate with a primary focus on health sciences and health services
- Tailor-made for health care professionals who hold a master’s degree in a health-related discipline AND have substantial professional health care experience
- Synthesises and integrates knowledge from different health sciences and other academic disciplines for professional application
- Designed to accommodate individual students’ research interests and career aspirations
- Recognised as a terminal professional degree for health care disciplines, with graduates able to use the title “Dr.” before their names
- Flexible mixed-mode of study that allows students to engage in either full-time or part-time study and to attend classes in the daytime, evening or a combination of both

#### The programme consists of 8 doctoral subjects (4 compulsory subjects and 4 elective subjects) and a doctoral thesis.

**Compulsory subjects (12 credits)**
- Concept Analysis in Health Care
- Health Care Ethics
- Advanced Research Methods in Health Care
- Health Economics OR Issues in Health Sociology*  
  * Students should choose either one as a compulsory subject. If students take both subjects, one of the subjects will be counted as an elective subject.

**Elective Subjects (12 credits)**
- Advanced Statistics in Health Care Research
- Clinical Decision Making
- Advanced Methods in Qualitative Health Care Research
- Information Technology in Health Care
- Evidence Based Practice
- Independent Study in a Substantive Specialty
- Gender and Health#
- Health and Social Policy Analysis#  
  # subject to approval

**Programme Structure**

**Thesis (equivalent to 24 credits)**

The thesis will comprise a single piece of work equivalent to 8 doctoral subjects and is expected to be a viable demonstration of the student’s ability to apply theoretical and practical knowledge to the solution of a significant problem. In preparing the thesis, the student has an opportunity to conduct research that draws upon particular themes of the programme and show the extent to which s/he has been able to integrate some of the dominant themes and interest areas of the programme.

Students are expected to apply state-of-the-art research methodology to investigate important issues arising from societal needs, and the thesis must make an important contribution to the existing body of knowledge in and/or provide innovative insights into health science. The work is expected to be of a standard acceptable for publication by a peer-reviewed professional outlet by the time of thesis submission. A chief supervisor will be chosen from the Faculty’s strong pool of expertise for guiding the student in his/her thesis preparation and process.
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- Subjects offered in the MSc Nursing and other professional doctorate programmes offered by The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

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Host Department
Faculty of Health and Social Sciences

Contributing Departments
Department of Applied Mathematics
Department of Applied Social Sciences
Department of Health Technology & Informatics
Department of Management and Marketing
Department of Rehabilitation Sciences
School of Nursing
School of Optometry

Mode of Study
Mixed-mode (full-time or part-time)

Duration
Normal duration for full-time mode : 2 years
Normal duration for part-time mode : 4 years
Maximum duration of study : 8 years

Recommended Study Plan

Full-time

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Part-time

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Entrance Requirements

- A master’s degree in a health-related discipline, or equivalent
- At least 5 years of substantial professional health care experience

Note: Shortlisted candidates will be invited to a panel interview

Tuition Fee

HK$5,000 per credit (by instalment) for 48 credits

Enquiries

For information on academic matters, please contact:

**Prof. Daniel Chow**
Tel: 2766 7674  Email: daniel.chow@polyu.edu.hk

For more information on admission matters, please contact:

**Ms Linda Chan**
Tel: 2766 5076  Email: dhlinda@polyu.edu.hk

Website: [http://www.polyu.edu.hk/fhss](http://www.polyu.edu.hk/fhss)
Supplementary information

Doctor of Health Science (Optometry)

This award is offered within the Doctor of Health Science programme which is the first-ever such programme in Hong Kong. Unlike PhD programmes that focus primarily on research, the DHSc programme concentrates on the practice of health sciences and care provision as well as research and is intended for experienced health care professionals who are looking to develop their analytical skills for leadership positions within a health care environment.

Programme Aims

- Synthesize knowledge from health sciences and other academic disciplines for application in a substantive specialized practice area of a healthcare profession
- Design, conduct, and direct research studies in the specialized area
- Analyze and evaluate concepts, theories and models related to health practices
- Disseminate knowledge through scholarly publication, formal teaching, and provision of expert mentoring and vision for the substantive specialized area
- Integrate knowledge and use evidence to influence health policy and decision-making through collaborative, interdisciplinary efforts at organizational, local and national levels

Mode and Duration of Study

This is a credit-based mixed mode programme with normal duration of study be 2 years for full-time study and 4 years for part-time study, and maximum duration of study be eight years.

Programme Structure

The programme covers 8 taught subjects (3 credits for each subject) including 4 compulsory and 4 elective subjects, and a doctoral thesis (24 credits).

The compulsory subjects aim to provide students with a core foundation in health care concept analysis, research and knowledge translation within the reality of the ethical-political-economic contexts of health care provision.

The elective subjects and the doctoral thesis allow students to develop an individualized programme of study for acquiring, appraising, synthesizing and applying knowledge in a substantive specialized area.
To be eligible to graduate in Doctor of Health Science (Optometry), students should complete a thesis related to Optometry plus a 3-credit optometry subject.

List of Taught Subjects

Compulsory Subjects (12 credits)

- Concept Analysis in Health Care (HSS6001)
- Health Care Ethics (HSS6002)
- Advanced Research Methods in Health Care (HSS6003)
- Health Economics (MM652) OR Issues in Health Sociology (HSS6009)*

* Students should choose either one as a compulsory subject. If students take both subjects, one of the subjects will be counted as an elective subject.

Elective Subjects (12 credits)

- Advanced Statistics in Health Care Research (AMA601)
- Clinical Decision Making (HSS6004)
- Advanced Methods in Qualitative Health Care Research (HSS6005)
- Information Technology in Health Care (HSS6006)
- Evidence Based Practice (HSS6007)
- Independent Study in a Substantive Specialty (HSS6008)
- Gender and Health (HSS6010)
- Health and Social Policy Analysis (APSS601)

Additional elective subjects# for students enrolled in DHSc (Optometry):

- Advanced Contact Lens Practice (SO501)
- Co-management of Systemic and Ocular Diseases (SO502)
Clinical Visual Perception (SO503)

Vision Rehabilitation (SO504)

Advanced Binocular Vision (SO505)

Advanced Ophthalmic Assessments (SO506)

# a maximum of 6 credits can be chosen from the above six subjects.

Thesis – Optometry profession (24 credits)

Outline Syllabus

Concept Analysis in Health Care (HSS6001)

This subject contributes to develop students’ analyses and their evaluations of salient concepts in their practice and the inherent assumptions related to various disciplines. The subject focuses on a final synthesis based on students’ methodical approach to an analysis of a particular concept relevant to their health disciplines. It also facilitates students’ integration of their learning about the use of concepts in practice within and/or across disciplines that would bear significance to the decision-making for education, research and practice.

Health Care Ethics (HSS6002)

This subject develops students’ ability in critical appraisal of bioethical concepts and theories for their application to ethical discourse on biomedical and health care issues.

Advanced Research Methods in Health Care (HSS6003)

This subject is to give students practice in quantitative methods used by empirical researchers, to develop students’ awareness of possible solutions to problems that they may encounter as independent researchers in the future and to enhance the students' knowledge of data analysis techniques.
Health Economics (MM652)

To prepare students to know how economists think about health care issues and have a sense of how to use economic theory and empirical analysis to evaluate health care policy and management issues.

Issues in Health Sociology (HSS6009)

This subject aims to sharpen students’ understanding of the relationship between health and society and how they impact on each other. Special focus is given to the application of sociological concepts and theories to the analysis of current trends and issues of health beliefs, health practices and health policies. It also facilitates students’ development of a global outlook and a critical frame of mind, as well as analytical and communicative skills essential for both professional and self development.

Advanced Statistics in Health Care Research (AMA601)

This subject introduces basic concepts and statistical modeling techniques in medical and health care research.

Clinical Decision Making (HSS6004)

This subject is to enhance the student’s understanding of clinical decision making, demonstrate how decision is made in clinical practice, explore the social, legal and professional impacts on clinical decisions, and develop the student’s competency in evaluating decision support systems.

Advanced Methods in Qualitative Health Care Research (HSS6005)

This subject aims at introducing the theories and the practices of qualitative research to students, clarifying the misunderstanding of qualitative research methodologies, helping students to catch up the current debates on methodologies, helping students to enhance their capacity of using qualitative methodology, and helping students to determine methodology in their research.

Information Technology in Health Care (HSS6006)

This subject can equip students with essential knowledge of information technology applications in health care and medicine and to enable them to participate in the design,
development and implementation of healthcare applications by making use of technologies.

**Evidence Based Practice (HSS6007)**

This subject is to discuss evidence based practice and review its impact on practice development, critically analyze published literature and research reports, demonstrate how a systematic review can be conducted, develop clinical guidelines, and monitor and evaluate the implementation of clinical guidelines.

**Independent Study in a Substantive Specialty (HSS6008)**

The subject aims at facilitating a student to pursue an in-depth independent study in a specific area under special supervision. The student is expected to develop deeper knowledge on the topic via directed independent learning.

**Gender and Health (HSS6010)**

This subject can enable students to synthesize knowledge from health science and social science accounting for gender differences in health and health behaviors, analyze and evaluate the theoretical concept of gender in social frameworks and environment, and how it contributed to differentially structuring women and men’s experiences of health and it relation to health practices and population health, integrate knowledge and interfaces among gender, class, race/ethnicity, sexuality, and social and cultural factors that influence individual and societal health, and related health policy and collaborative interdisciplinary decision making at local and national levels.

**Health and Social Policy Analysis (APSS601)**

This subject enables students to develop their ability in critical analysis of social issues with special emphasis on conception of health and health policy. Social policy within this module is seen as an applied subject where students are required to analyze, not simply the effectiveness and appropriateness of social programs, but most importantly, the way social values are translated into actions for human betterment. It is also one of the objectives of this subject to enable health care professionals to link micro practice to macro issues. The belief is that all social practices, particularly professional practices, are deeply rooted with the macro social structure; and therefore no micro practice could perfect itself without knowing the links and dynamics between society and individual action.
Advanced Contact Lens Practice (SO501)
This subject provides optometrists didactic education on topics underlying an advanced knowledge of contact lens practice and research, including updates and specialty lenses, with particular attention on basic ortho-k practice. This will also provide the essential foundation for interested students to pursue further clinical training on ortho-k practice later.

Co-management of Systemic and Ocular Diseases (SO502)
This subject provides the latest knowledge in endocrine pathology. It provides an update of current knowledge in diabetic and thyroid ocular complications for the eye care practitioners. This subject also prepares optometrists for co-managing patients with diabetes and thyroid problems.

Clinical Visual Perception (SO503)
This subject provides students update knowledge in visual perception. It presents foundation for optometric management of visually-related reading difficulty. This subject also identifies and recognizes different clinical evaluation tools used in the examination of visual efficiency skills and visual perceptual skills. It prepares optometrists for handling visual problems in patients with autism, AD/HD, learning disability.

Vision Rehabilitation (SO504)
This subject provides an update of current knowledge in vision rehabilitation. It introduces specific knowledge on interdisciplinary management for specific populations. This subject also prepares optometrists for providing comprehensive vision rehabilitation service for clients with visual impairment.

Advanced Binocular Vision (SO505)
This subject aims at update the optometrists with the latest technology in binocular vision assessment strategies and prepares them to manage patients including pre- and post-surgery for strabismus. It also enables them to understand the signs, symptoms, underlying causes, differential diagnosis and management of neurological diseases affecting the eye. The subject also prepares them for participating in sports vision assessment and training.
**Advanced Ophthalmic Assessments (SO506)**

This subject enriches students’ knowledge in visual electrophysiology and other advanced ophthalmic investigations. It also deepens the understanding of different protocols in visual electrophysiology for the diagnosis of different eye diseases. This subject equips the students with an advanced knowledge in glaucoma and other advanced ophthalmic assessments. It also enables students to evaluate new clinical diagnoses of ocular problems.

**Thesis (HSS6091-4)**

Students will be able to develop a research project that provides insights into and informs practice, demonstrate an ability to synthesize relevant literature and current practice, and apply the research process and a related research methodology to a problem of professional significance, and later produce a supervised research thesis worthy of publication in a peer reviewed professional journal.

**Entrance Requirements**

- A Master's degree in health-related discipline, or the equivalent; students enroll for the DHSc (Optometry) should have a Master degree in Optometry (MSc or MPhil); AND
- Substantial professional health care experience (no less than 5 years)

**Tuition Fee**

HK$5,000 per credit (by installment) for 48 credits

**Admission and Application**

For more information on admission of the DHSc programme, please click the links below:

- PolyU E-Prospectus Entry about DHSc
- PolyU Web Admissions Homepage

**Application deadline:** 1\textsuperscript{st} April 2012
Enquiries

For general academic matters, please contact Prof. Daniel Chow (Tel: 2766 7674; email: daniel.chow@polyu.edu.hk)

For academic matters related to the Doctor of Health Science (Optometry), please contact Prof. Carly Lam (Tel: 2766 6091; email: carly.lam@polyu.edu.hk)

For other matters, please contact Ms Linda Chan (Tel: 2766 5076; email: dhlinda@polyu.edu.hk)