

RESPONSIBILITIES OF MENTORS AND ADVISORS OF POSTDOCTORAL TRAINEES IN THE CAROLINA PROGRAM ON HEALTHCARE AND AGING RESEARCH (CHPAR)

Goals and Objectives

The goal of the training program is to prepare postdoctoral scholars to make significant contributions to aging and healthcare research through intense, guided career development. Fellows

1. critically analyze the adequacy of current research and theories for addressing theory-based approaches to aging, health, and healthcare issues
2. participate with faculty and other fellows in the development of research protocols using innovative strategies that incorporate the perspectives of at least two disciplines
3. independently adapt a theoretical perspective into a conceptualization of an approach to studying a healthcare issue important to a population of older adults
4. initiate the development and testing of a research protocol using perspectives or methodologies from more than one discipline
5. prepare a research proposal for extramural funding

Postdoctoral fellows will be encouraged and assisted to develop research publications from their doctoral research and any subsequent research.

Mentor/Advisor Responsibilities at Application

Prior to beginning the fellowship program, postdoctoral applicants must have an earned doctorate from one of the social and behavioral sciences (e.g., sociology, psychology, anthropology, economics), in public health (e.g., epidemiology,

health behavior and health education, health policy and health administration, nutrition), or in another of the health sciences (e.g., medicine, dentistry, nursing, pharmacy, allied health or human movement sciences). Applicants will have previously conducted research (alone or under supervision) on aging-related topics and issues, and will have chosen the field of aging research as the focus of their future professional work.

Postdoctoral fellows will be admitted only after firm arrangements *confirmed in writing* are made to work with a specific faculty mentor who shares the fellow's area of interest and can provide appropriate supervision of the fellow's pilot work. All postdoctoral fellows are expected to have worked out a general scope and focus of a formal mentoring arrangement with the training program prior to beginning the fellowship. The CPHAR Steering Committee will facilitate the establishment of such a relationship. An in-person interview with the proposed mentor and at least one member of the Admissions Committee will be required as part of the admissions process.

Expected Activities for Fellows

All fellows will participate in the CPHAR Research in Progress Seminars and the CPHAR Seminar Series, as well as miscellaneous symposia, conferences and seminars required or recommended by CPHAR.

Fellows will be involved in the ongoing research of the mentor, or will have a preceptor arrangement whereby the mentor will oversee the fellow's own research that is clearly related to that of the mentor, or will be involved in some combination of these activities. In any case, in the first year of the program the fellow will typically generate a proposal for a pilot investigation. When fellows are involved in the research of the mentor, the proposal will be for some extension or modification of the ongoing work. Fellows will prepare papers for publication, will

present at scientific meetings each year, will attend and present at colloquia on campus, and will write a proposal for external funding.

At the beginning of the training program each fellow will present a training workplan listing the plan of study (including any courses to be taken), research plans, writing, and estimated dates for completion. No degrees will be offered by the training program, but it will be possible for postdoctoral fellows to enroll in substantive or methodological doctoral courses in participating departments; courses may also be research practica or reading courses. Clinicians who need additional strength in methods may opt to participate (at partial program expense) in the 9-month Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Core Curriculum, or a comparable series of methods courses.

Ongoing Mentor and Advisory Committee Responsibilities

Postdoctoral fellows will have an Advisory Committee, and will meet with the Advisory Committee at the fellow's request, and at least twice a year. The Advisory Committee will be comprised of the mentor, another training program faculty member, and one member of the Steering Committee. In the event that a fellow fails to make appropriate progress, the Advisory Committee may recommend the criteria for continuation in the training program.