For More Information

Dr. Howard Goldstein is the Director of the Ph.D. in Behavioral & Community Sciences. You may contact Dr. Goldstein at 813-974-9613 or hgoldstein@usf.edu
About the Program
The Ph.D. in Behavioral & Community Sciences is an interdisciplinary program that prepares students to conduct research to enhance the quality of life and productivity of individuals with social, emotional, and behavioral challenges (e.g., mental illness, substance use disorders, co-occurring disorders, developmental delays and disabilities, and behavior disorders) and socio-cultural challenges (e.g., poverty, disparities, homelessness).

What Does Behavioral & Community Sciences Encompass?
Behavioral and community sciences is an interdisciplinary field that refers to the development and evaluation of services and interventions that promote resiliency and social well-being for at-risk populations. The goal of behavioral and community sciences is to improve services through the use of evidence-based practices, early intervention, integrated care, policy and system change, and positive behavior interventions and support.

What Are The Program Requirements?
Students will complete 90 hours of post-baccalaureate coursework including doctoral core courses as well as courses in research methods, statistics, behavioral health, and related areas. The program is structured so that students take 30 credits of directed research and dissertation. Core courses include:

- Community Based Research & Evaluation in Behavioral Sciences
- Evidence-Based Practice in Behavioral & Community Sciences
- Biological Bases of Behavior
- Interdisciplinary Approaches to Behavioral Health Policy & Systems
- Professional Seminar in Behavioral & Community Sciences

The number of hours for students with a master’s degree will be determined on an individual basis depending on the applicability of coursework to the doctoral program.

Doctoral Program Website
Additional information about the program may be found at [http://www.usf.edu/cbcs/graduate/bcs.aspx](http://www.usf.edu/cbcs/graduate/bcs.aspx)

Can Students Specialize?
Yes, students will design an individualized program of study that will allow them to specialize in areas such as:

- Mental illness
- Substance use
- Co-occurring disorders
- Child and adolescent behavioral health
- Developmental disabilities
- Positive behavior interventions and support
- Behavioral health, law, and the justice system
- Behavioral health disparities
- Disability research & policy

What Are The Admission Requirements?
Students applying with a bachelor’s degree should have a GPA of 3.5 or higher in the last 60 hours of undergraduate coursework and GRE scores at or above the 50th percentile. The application review will also be based on two letters of recommendation, a personal goal statement, and writing sample. Students with a master’s degree are also eligible to apply and their application will be based on a review of their overall academic record as well as the letters of recommendations, goal statement, writing sample, and prospect of a relevant match with a research mentor.

Application Deadlines
Applications will be considered for admission in fall and spring semesters. Applicants who wish to be considered for graduate assistantship funding should apply for admission in the Fall semester. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis so applicants should submit their materials early. The deadline for Fall admission is December 15th. The deadline for Spring admission is October 15th. The link to the online application may be found on the doctoral program website.

What Jobs Are Available For Students With This Degree?
The Ph.D. in Behavioral & Community Sciences prepares individuals for teaching and research positions in universities, as researchers in local, state, and federal/national organizations that have a research mission, or for leadership positions in behavioral health organizations. Examples of related jobs posted in the Chronicle of Higher Education in recent months included health research positions; social and behavioral science positions; and numerous positions in human services, public policy, and closely related educational fields.