

Ph.D. of Reproductive Health

Introduction:

Reproductive health is one of the branches of medical and health sciences in which students get to know more about different aspects of reproductive health such as demographic issues, nutrition, legal affairs, epidemiology and advanced techniques in fertilization and infertility and are also involved in planning, management, research and education in reproductive health matters. Graduates of this major get to work in educational, planning or research centers based on reproductive health.

History:

According to the available documents in Iran, ministry of health and medical education policy makers propositioned the establishment of reproductive health major in 1997 and the responsibility of designing a course plan for it fell on the shoulders of examination and evaluation committee of midwifery school, but it was not until 2006 that the first applicant started her studies in this major.

In the world, reproductive health major was first established in the university of Karolinska, Sweden by the hands of department of health for women and children and had various graduate minors. Following this other credible universities such as John Hopkins, Harvard, ... started to train students in this major.

Mission:

Mission of this major for its graduates is as follows:

- 1)providing faculty members for universities, educational centers and research centers in midwifery and reproductive health majors
- 2)providing a professional and dedicated workforce for planning, management and evaluation in reproductive health matters.
- 3)conducting research and acquiring latest scientific achievements on reproductive health in an international level

Value:

Maintaining and improving the community health is the most important responsibility of different healthcare groups. In the meantime, paying attention to the health-related issues of women and children as a vulnerable group determines the quality of community health and is significantly important. Likewise in reproductive health, women and children are the major groups of interest; however, it's noteworthy that men have their own special role in relation to reaching the goals of reproductive health.

Vision:

due to the importance and significance of correct planning and policy making in reproductive health, improving the quality of services and obtaining success in reaching the goals of the healthcare system and also the pivotal role that higher educated graduates play in training the students who are studying in masters and bachelor courses and finally due to the transformation and extent of science all over the world there's a growing demand for researchers on reproductive health matters so they can reach new heights and produce more and more day by day, in the coming years this major can play a fundamental role in improving the quality of services and reaching more achievements and higher standards in scientific affairs.

Role definition:

the roles that are anticipated for the graduates of this major are as follows:

- Educational
- Research
- planning in educational centers
- Management

Task Analysis:

- Educational role: tending to educational demands of educational centers in different matters and resolving the educational needs of healthcare centers on issues that are related to midwifery and reproductive health
- Research role: conducting research, obtaining and mastering the newest scientific publications, innovation, preparing demanded papers, help to improve and develop reproductive health and midwifery standards internationally.
- Planning role: planning on resolving reproductive health and midwifery issues specially issues that are related to youth health, mother and children health and family planning.

Aims:

- Training a professional workforce with the ability to perform educational duties in educational centers of midwifery and reproductive health.
- Training a professional workforce to conduct scientific and practical research according to the demands of educational centers and society.
- Gaining scientific independence, improving the standards and sharing our knowledge with other countries.
- Training a professional and dedicated workforce with the ability to plan on improving and development of service quality in reproductive health and midwifery setting.

Admission criteria and methods:

Applicants who wish to take part in PhD exam for reproductive health program need to meet some specific conditions in addition to the conditions that are set according to the regulations of the ministry of health and medical education. These conditions are as follows:

- Master's degree in midwifery or MD in general medicine

- Or Master's degree in healthcare service management with the Bachelor's degree in general health or Master's degree in health education with the Bachelor's degree in midwifery, obtained from a credible local or foreign university that has the approval of ministry of health and medical education or ministry of science, research and technology.

Conditions for establishment of the major

- Demanded professors: Expert professors who are at least assistant professors or associate professors in following majors: gynecology, midwifery, nutrition, management and health planning, social and legal sciences. Another condition is the availability of facilities and equipment according to the regulations of the supreme council of supervision, assessment and expansion of medical science schools throughout the country.

Course specifications

Field of study: Reproductive health

Course title: philosophy of doctorate (PhD)

Course length: according to the regulations on PhD course. This course consists of two phases:

1-Didactic phase

2-Research phase

Didactic phase:

In this phase students should pass all of the didactic credits that are assigned to them; this includes, 20 mandatory dedicated credits and 6 optional dedicated credits.

Research phase:

Right after passing the comprehensive exam, research phase begins for students and it ends with writing a dissertation and defending it. Students can start their initial researches during the didactic phase but official appliance for dissertation depends on them to pass the comprehensive exam, other regulations are according to the enactments of supreme council for planning. research phase has 24 credits.

Course credits:

Total number of course credits for PhD program in reproductive health is 50 and is described below

Mandatory dedicated credits	20
Optional dedicated credits	6
Thesis	24

Table 1-Remedial courses for reproductive health PhD program

Code	Title of the course	Number of credits	Total hours of the course			Prerequisite courses
			theoretical	practical	total	
01	Technical English in medicine	3	34	34	68	-
02	Computer sciences	2	17	34	51	-
03	Medical informatics	1	9	17	26	-
04	Novel teaching methods and clinical teaching	2	17	34	51	-
05	Evaluation and assessment of academic achievement	1	17	-	17	-
06	Designing and assessment of educational systems	2	34	-	34	-
07	Sociocultural aspects in hygienics	2	34	-	34	-
08	Novel methods and assessment of services in family planning	1	17	-	17	-
Total		14	179	119	298	-

Students are obliged to pass all or some of the aforementioned credits based on the approval of the department and university graduate committee.

Table 2-Mandatory dedicated courses for reproductive health PhD program

Code	Title of the course	Number of credits		Total hours of the course		Prerequisite courses
		theoretical	practical	theoretical	practical	
09	Demographic aspects of the reproductive health	2	-	34	-	-
10	Physical, psychological and social growth and development	2	-	34	-	-
11	Legal aspects of the reproductive health	2	-	34	-	-
12	Nutrition and reproductive health	2	-	34	-	10
13	Empowerment of women and their role in development	2	-	34	-	-
14	Family and social epidemiology	2	-	34	-	09
15	Emerging diseases/STDs, cancers, menopause and aging	2	-	34	-	-
16	Policy making, modification and optimization of mother and child health programs and systems	2	-	34	-	-
17	planning, evaluation and management in mother and child and reproductive health	1.5	0.5	25	17	-
18	Advanced techniques in fertilization and infertility	1.5	0.5	25	17	-
Total		19	1	322	34	-

Mandatory courses consist of 20 credits and students are obliged to obtain and pass all of them.

Table 3-Optional dedicated courses for reproductive health PhD program

Code	Title of the course	Number of credits	Credit type	Total hours of the course
19	Comparison of health care systems in Iran and other countries	2	Theoretical	34
20	Policy making in health-related issues and its educational affairs	2	Theoretical	34
21	Comparative review of educational and service systems in midwifery and reproductive health	2	Theoretical	34
22	Computer designing and planning in health-related issues	2	Theoretical	34
23	Physiology	2	Theoretical	34
24	Immunology	2	Theoretical	34
25	Genetics	2	Theoretical	34
26	Epidemiology	2	Theoretical	34
27	Nutrition	2	Theoretical	34
28	Political economy of health	2	Theoretical	34
29	Seminar of independent studies in health-related topics	2	Theoretical	34
	Total	22		

Optional credits: there is a total of 22 optional credits and students are obliged to obtain and pass 6 of them according to the approval of their doctoral advisor and respective department, it's preferred for these credits to be aligned with the student's thesis topic