

Exercise Science

Department Information

- **Department Location:**
Bentson Bunker Fieldhouse
- **Department Phone:**
701-231-6385
- **Department Web Site:**
www.ndsu.edu/hnes/exercise_science
- **Credential Offered:**
B.S.
- **Official Program Curriculum:**
bulletin.ndsu.edu/undergraduate/program-curriculum/exercise-science/

Large corporations, hospitals, colleges, small businesses, resorts and hotels are incorporating more health promotion services than ever before. The exercise science (ES) major at North Dakota State University prepares students to meet this growing demand. The exercise science major is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs through the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM). This curriculum covers the knowledge, skills and abilities expected of an ACSM Health/Fitness Specialist.

Exercise Science Major

The ES major is designed to prepare students for entry-level positions in any of the four health-fitness settings: commercial, community, corporate or clinical. Completion of the ES major may act as a stepping stone to prepare the exceptional student for graduate education in exercise physiology/science, cardiac rehabilitation, physical therapy, sports nutrition, sports medicine, biomechanics or other allied health disciplines.

The ES major includes everything from the study of physical activity and the associated acute and chronic physiological responses and adaptations resulting from it, to health-fitness business management principles found in facilities worldwide. Students are strongly encouraged to select a minor in business or other appropriate area depending on their interests. Several field experience courses during the four-year program, as well as a capstone experience involving a semester-long internship required at the end of the ES major, afford students the opportunity to select an area of specialization in the field at sites available throughout the country.

Career Options

The following list is not all-inclusive, but does identify some of the most common career and job opportunities in the four health-fitness settings. Exercise science graduates from NDSU (approximately 40 to 50 per year) are employed in these different settings across the country, especially in metropolitan areas. In the past few years, over 90% of exercise science students have either been enrolled in graduate school or have a professional job arranged at the time of graduation.

Commercial Setting – The greatest proportion of jobs can be found in for-profit, commercially run health-fitness facilities. The commercial environment is for someone interested in the marketing and sales of health-fitness services and products. This is also a good place for broad exposure to management in the health-fitness industry.

Community Setting – Many organizations and agencies serve clients in community settings, including voluntary, not-for-profit entities, as well as public parks and recreation agencies, schools and universities, hotels, country clubs and residential health-fitness developments. Many community-based facilities and programs offer exposure to health-fitness programming coupled with a social and recreational focus.

Corporate Setting – In-house health-fitness facilities and services found in large and small-scale businesses are expanding rapidly. The objectives of these facilities may include reductions in employee absenteeism, turnover rates and health care costs, while improving employee wellness, morale and enthusiasm in the workplace.

Clinical Setting – Hospital-based health-fitness facilities can be found in one out of every four hospitals, with a forecasted growth to almost one out of every two hospitals expected within the next decade. Most of these facilities are closely associated with outpatient services, such as physical therapy, sports medicine and cardiac rehabilitation, and frequently provide both types of programs in the same facility.

With an undergraduate degree and no experience, a starting salary averages \$38,000 to \$48,000 per year. However, the starting salary for health-fitness professionals is difficult to predict because of such factors as experience, geographic location, employment setting and market demand. It also may depend on licensure and certification. An advanced degree may pay more.

Pre-Professional and Professional Tracks

Admission to the pre-professional emphasis in ES occurs when the student applies to NDSU and declares an ES major. The pre-professional emphasis encompasses the first three semesters; transfer students are placed in the pre-professional emphasis upon acceptance. Entrance into

the professional emphasis occurs through application at the end of the first semester of sophomore year or as transfer students complete the requirements below. The following requirements must be met before beginning the professional course of study:

1. Successful completion of courses with a grade of B or better:
 - a. BIOL 220/220 L
 - b. CHEM 121/121L
 - c. HNES 170
 - d. MATH 103,104 or higher
2. Minimum grade point average of 3.0
3. Completion of application to professional emphasis

Application guidelines are provided during classes (HNES 170) and advising sessions, and are also available on the department website.

High School Preparation

While in high school, a student should choose courses that provide a solid background in science, mathematics, business and communication. Individual commitment to lifetime fitness and personal health and well-being is very important. Volunteer work at a health-fitness facility and participation in local health fairs may provide valuable experiences in health-fitness programming.

Plan of Study

Please note this is a sample plan of study and not an official curriculum. Actual student schedules for each semester will vary depending on start year, education goals, applicable transfer credit, and course availability. Students are encouraged to work with their academic advisor on a regular basis to review degree progress and customize an individual plan of study.

Freshman			
Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
ENGL 110 or 120 ^{Placement applies.}	3-4	COMM 110	3
HNES 170	2	CSCI 114 or MIS 116	3
PSYC 111	3	Humanities/Global	3
Electives	6	Electives	6
	14-15		15
Sophomore			
Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
** See note below		BIOL 221	3
BIOL 220	3	BIOL 221L	1
BIOL 220L	1	CHEM 122	3
CHEM 121 (pre or co-requisite: MATH 103)	3	CHEM 122L	1
CHEM 121L	1	HNES 365	3
PHYS 211 (pre-requisite: MATH 105)	3	STAT 330	3
PHYS 211L	1	Electives	3
HNES 250	3		
	15		17
Junior			
Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
PSYC 211	3	HNES 368	3
HNES 374	3	HNES 370	3
HNES 375	3	HNES 371	3
HNES 496	1	HNES 465	3
Humanities/Diversity	3	HNES 466	1
Elective	1	HNES 491	1

Electives		3
14		17
Senior		
Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
Upper Division Writing	3 HNES 475	12
HNES 472	3	
HNES 476	2	
HNES 496	1	
Electives	7	
16		12

Total Credits: 120-121

- **** Students apply for Exercise Science Professional Status during fall semester of sophomore year. Application guidelines are provided during HNES 170 Introduction to Exercise Science and during advising sessions with freshmen, as well as on the Exercise Science (https://www.ndsu.edu/hnes/exercise_science) web site. The following requirements must be met before beginning the professional course (sophomore, junior and senior level courses with prefix HNES) of study:
1. Successful completion of HNES 170 Introduction to Exercise Science with a grade of 'B' or better
 2. Successful completion of BIOL 220 Human Anatomy and Physiology I/BIOL 220L Human Anatomy and Physiology I Laboratory with a grade of 'B' or better
 3. Successful completion of MATH 103 College Algebra or MATH 104 Finite Mathematics or higher with a grade of 'B' or better
 4. Successful completion of CHEM 121 General Chemistry I/CHEM 121L General Chemistry I Laboratory with a grade of 'B' or better
 5. Minimum NDSU cumulative GPA of 3.00 or higher

- †** Consult your advisor for suggested electives for certain Graduate and Professional programs.