

**University of Southern California**  
**SCHOOL OF PHARMACY**

**PhD in Health Economics**

Program Learning Objectives

The purpose of the USC School of Pharmacy **Ph.D. program in Health Economics** is to prepare graduates to execute original, high-level research in the discipline specific to the graduate's area of emphasis, especially in health economics, comparative effectiveness research, cost-effectiveness analysis, patient-reported outcomes and health policy analysis. Graduates might be employed at leading research universities, consulting companies, pharmaceutical and medical device firms, managed care organizations, health insurance companies and government agencies.

Doctoral students enrolled in the program will be able to:

- Demonstrate an awareness of the interdisciplinary nature of research in all areas of health economics and the ability to work across disciplines.
- Demonstrate a deep understanding of the microeconomic theory as it applies to the markets for health insurance and health care services.
- Demonstrate deep methodological skill and an understanding of contemporary research in their respective area of emphasis, and be able to apply innovative research practices to their research under guidance of their faculty advisor.
- Demonstrate mastery of the methods used to conduct research in the area of patient reported outcomes.
- Demonstrate the ability to synthesize and integrate data from diverse sources [e.g., national data bases, paid claims data, electronic medical records, clinical trials] into an appropriate analytic database for their research.
- Demonstrate the mastery of the advanced statistical methods required to conduct research on non-experimental data.
- Launch an independent research agenda in their respective area of emphasis under the guidance of their faculty advisor which demonstrates the student's ability to work independently and publish research results.
- Complete and orally defend an acceptable dissertation based on original investigation and supervised by their dissertation committee showing mastery of an area of emphasis, capacity for independent research, and a scholarly result.