

# Texas A&M Sport Management

## Doctoral Program Admission Information

Thank you for seeking information about the Texas A&M doctoral program in Sport Management leading to a PhD in Kinesiology. Our program is structured somewhat differently than some other doctoral programs. Here is how we make admission decisions.

We have chosen to put our focus on individual students rather than taking a large group of doctoral students then move them through the program. This means that **each incoming student must have a research faculty member who will mentor and train him/her**. Our mission is to educate doctoral students to become research faculty members at the university level. We do not normally accept students who are looking to earn doctoral degrees, then go into industry or to interscholastic/intercollegiate positions.

Taking this approach necessarily requires that we have only a few students going through the program at any one time. Since a student is working primarily with a single faculty member, **the decision to accept individual students is left to each faculty member**. In that way, each faculty member can accept students who have a similar research focus or interest for future collaborative research. Accordingly, our application process requires a student to have a sponsoring faculty member.

What we ask prospective PhD students to do is peruse each of our faculty members' research interests, and then make contact directly with the faculty member who best matches the experience and research interest of the student. You will find a list of our faculty here (<http://directory.cehd.tamu.edu/?sortby=program&dept=HLKN&q=#Sport%20Management>), where you can click on each faculty member's name and be directed to his/her webpage. When contacting a faculty member, we would expect a student to do the following:

- Be familiar with the faculty member's research history, and be able to discuss some of the articles he/she has written
- Submit an e-mail explaining why the student would be a good match with the faculty member
- Attach a current resume
- Attach an academic writing sample written exclusively by the student to determine the student's writing skills, so the faculty member can effectively evaluate the candidate's writing/research capabilities

If a faculty member is interested in accepting you, then you will be asked to go through the graduate school application process. For our program, there is no need to apply in advance because it could be a waste of time and money.

It is also counterproductive to send an e-mail to every faculty member expressing an interest in his/her research area. You should be aware that we share information on prospective doctoral students, so a student who contacts most faculty members indicates that he/she has not identified a specific research interest.

You can see that our program is not for everyone, and is rather exclusive because of these criteria. We believe this is the best way to turn out quality PhD students. If this is the type program you would like to join, please take the steps listed above.

Thank you for your interest in our program.