Cutting-edge Research, Innovative Clinical Approach

UNC has a national reputation for training outstanding Sport and Exercise Science researchers and educators. As a graduate student in our program, you’ll enjoy first-rate research opportunities, with the chance to conduct research studies at the ground-breaking UNC Cancer Rehabilitation Institute (UNCCRI). Our exercise physiology program stands out for its integration of cellular and molecular studies with clinical practice. Work across silos and collaborate with laboratory researchers and hands-on practitioners in medicine, rehabilitation, athletic performance, nutrition, biology and chemistry. This interdisciplinary approach yields outstanding career benefits, which offer you a focused, yet adaptable skill set that provides a broad perspective.

Career Pathway

Alumni of UNC’s Sport and Exercise Science: Exercise Physiology Ph.D. program have earned postdoctoral fellowships and faculty placements at institutions across the United States. Other career options for graduates include:

- Basic science research
- Biomedical research
- Clinical research

Degree Options

As a student in UNC’s Exercise Physiology Ph.D. program, you’ll examine how the body adapts to exercise, with a particular emphasis on basic physiology and metabolism. The program offers comprehensive research training that includes advanced laboratory techniques, computer applications and statistics.

Program Details

- Greeley Campus Delivery
- Credits Required: 64-67
- Time to completion: Four years
- Classes Start: Fall semester

go.unco.edu/exercise-phd
Related Programs

- Sport and Exercise Science: Exercise Physiology, M.S.
- Sport and Exercise Science: Biomechanics, Ph.D.
- Sport and Exercise Science: Social Psychology of Sport and Physical Activity, Ph.D.
- Sport and Exercise Science: Sport Administration, Ph.D.

Cost and Value

Tuition rates are based on the 2021-22 Academic Year:

Colorado Resident Tuition: $685 per credit hour plus fees.

Nonresident Tuition: $1,296 per credit hour plus fees. You may qualify for CO resident tuition — see WRGP information at right.

UNC is regularly called out as a top value for both resident and nonresident students, and the university offers financial aid packages for qualified students. For more information, visit UNCO.EDU/COSTS.

What Students Say

“As a doctoral student in Sport and Exercise Science here at UNC, I have had nothing but positive experiences. With the depth and detail of the graduate-level exercise physiology courses, I vastly expanded my knowledge and my perspective. I was able to customize my degree by taking courses in several different academic disciplines here at UNC including biology and chemistry. Above all else, the aspect of UNC that stands out the most to me are the professors. The professors at UNC are second to none, and are experts in their respective fields.”

- Jonathon Lisano, current Exercise Physiology student

Financing your Education

UNC offers a variety of financial support options, including:

- Colorado resident tuition for students from 15 western states is offered through the Western Regional Graduate Program. To see if you qualify visit UNCO.EDU/GRADUATE-SCHOOL/FUNDING/WESTERN REGIONAL GRADUATE PROGRAM.ASPX
- Several competitive teaching assistantships

For more information contact Financial Aid at UNCO.EDU/FINANCIAL-AID/

Faculty Spotlight

Reid Hayward, Ph.D.

Reid Hayward is a Professor of Exercise Science in the School of Sport and Exercise Science and the Director of the University of Northern Colorado Cancer Rehabilitation Institute. He completed graduate training at the University of Arkansas and a postdoctoral fellowship at Thomas Jefferson University's School of Medicine. He has given over 100 national presentations, over 65 peer-reviewed publications and has received over $1 million in research funding from the American Cancer Society, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the National Institutes of Health. His research focuses on the effects of exercise on cancer and treatment-related side effects.

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About UNC Graduate School

The University of Northern Colorado, founded in 1889, is Colorado’s right-sized doctoral research university, serving a diverse student body around the world. Given its size, program mix, and mission, UNC offers students the access and opportunities of a small college along with the nationally recognized programs, research funding and facilities that come with being a leading U.S. university. Students seeking preparation for a world (and workplace) full of opportunities and options, complexities and cultures, diversity and demands, will find faculty mentors and excited fellow students to engage with here at UNC.