

Invitation from the Graduate School of Health and Welfare Science (Doctorate Course), Okayama Prefectural University

In a local society which is facing the development of low birthrate and an aging population as well as becoming complex and diversified, the urgent problem is to improve the health and welfare service infrastructure appropriate for such a society in order to realize a truly affluent society of greater welfare. Therefore, our university has been conducting more specialized education and research in the faculty of health and welfare science and the Master's Courses of the Graduate School based on the basic principle of "Defending Human Dignity and Enhancing Welfare" to cultivate individuals who can play a role as a driving force in the field of health and welfare science.

In addition to this, while aiming to construct an academic stronghold for further deepening of health and welfare science including maintenance and promotion of local citizens' health, it is also important to cultivate educators and researchers with high level views so as to be able to offer solutions to various problems concerning health and welfare. Therefore, this doctorate course provides education and research from multiple angles utilizing the specialties of each concentration, nursing science, nutritional science and health and welfare science.

Composition of Concentrations & Content of Education and Research

【Nursing Science Concentration】

Nursing specialized personnel must recognize variously and rapidly changing social circumstances and find a method aimed at maintenance and promotion of people's health as well as prevention and recovery from diseases. For this reason, they must clarify arising phenomena and actual care in light of the historical transition of the concept concerning health and nursing and through nursing practices. This concentration provides education and research to develop a nursing system and care practices and also to contribute to improve nursing quality which are corresponding to various problems of patients with chronic disease or cancer and their family members as well as care needs of elderly citizens.

【Nutritional Science Concentration】

As Japan has become an aging society, we need to solve various problems on food and health in order to keep people away from chronic disease including lifestyle disease and to maintain and promote our health. This concentration conducts education and research aiming to ascertain nutritional phenomenon accompanied by meal from life science approach and apply to prevent disease in each process from primary to tertiary prevention. Research field ranges over exploring new functional food component and pursuing food safety, investigating the role of metabolic control system including lipid metabolism in chronic disease, and investigating control system in central nervous system of nutrition as a life phenomenon.

【Health and Welfare Science Concentration】

In a society of low birthrate and an aging population, clarification of health and welfare-related problems from the viewpoint of social welfare and health science contributes to the improvement of the quality of human health and life. This concentration targets mainly on children, disabled people, disabled children and elderly people and conducts education and research concerning their independence. The research fields are about (1) a theoretical pursuit of children's sound growth and the concept of guaranteeing ability development as well

as a review of methodology concerning childcare/development support including support for disabled children; (2) a theoretical pursuit and a study of methodology concerning an evaluation method of physical, intellectual or mental disability and the associated independence support; and (3) a pursuit of relationship between physical and cognitive changes associated with aging as well as a review of methodology to promote maintenance and enhancement of health of the elderly.

Supervisors and Major Research Themes

FY 2025 preliminary curriculum

	Supervisor	Major Research Themes
Nursing Science Concentration	SUMIYOSHI Kazuko, Prof.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research on patients care with diabetes 2. Research on patient education 3. Research on interview methods using a solution-focused approach
	MIKANE Sakae, Prof.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research on ethical issues in practical nursing care 2. Research on end-of-life care 3. Research on extending seniors' health life
	MORINAGA Yumiko, Prof.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development of assessment guide for child abuse prevention from the perspective of studies on fathers 2. Research on in-service training for and cultivation of public health nurses 3. Research on public health activities and support for victims at the time of disaster 4. Research on public health nursing activities (regional organization activities, reduction of care-giving burden, etc.)
	OKAZAKI Yuka, Associate Prof.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Study of adolescent healthcare 2. Research on child rearing support 3. Research on the issues encountered during each stage of the female lifecycle 4. Research on midwifery education
	NAGOSHI Megumi, Associate Prof.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research on support for making decisions during therapeutic and palliative care periods for families of and patients with chronic diseases such as cancer and cardiac failure 2. Research on vocational identities of nurses and organizational development 3. Research on the response to sudden changes in the elderly, care givers, etc.
	INOUE Sachiko, Associate Prof.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research on the role of nursing professionals in supporting the community life of people with severe mental illness, multidisciplinary collaboration, and use of resources 2. Research on support for people with severe mental illness and autism spectrum disorders, and their families
	SASAKI Shinsuke, Associate Prof.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research on scientific grounds of nursing care/nursing skills 2. Measuring method development of visualized biological information 3. Development of new nursing assistance tools

	Supervisor	Major Research Themes
Nutritional Science Concentration	TAKAHASHI Yoshitaka Prof.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pathological and biochemical research on metabolizing enzymes of arachidonic acid 2. Bioactive lipids and their pathophysiology
	YAMAMOTO Toshiko, Prof.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Study on food functionality for prevention of chronic diseases 2. Novel nutritional significance of lipid components in milk 3. Histochemical study on synthesizing enzymes of bioactive lipids in homeostasis and disease
	KAWAKAMI Takayo Prof.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Study of liver diseases and lipid nutrition 2. Study of the development of nutrition evaluation indicators in education of nutrition and health
	IRIE Yasuyuki, Prof.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analysis of Functions of new tumor suppressor, Amida 2. Research on chronic kidney disease, CKDmodel, using extension cultivation stimulation model
	TANAKA Koichi, Prof.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Searching for and cultivation of microorganisms to manufacture fermented food products with new characteristics and functions 2. Searching for and cultivation of microorganisms for efficient biomass energy production
	YAMASHITA Hiromi, Prof.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Skeletal muscle function on energy metabolism 2. Functional food factors associated with skeletal muscle function, energy metabolism, and anti-aging. 3. Functional food factors associated with prevention of muscle atrophy and life style-related diseases
	KAWAKAMI Yuki, Associate Prof.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research on food constituent's mechanism of action and application to lifestyle-related disease 2. Molecular biological research on arachidonate cascade
	IKEGUCHI Motoya, Associate Prof.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development of functional food (food with health claims, health food, dietary supplements, etc.); Research on dose extrapolation from animals to human, Clinical research 2. Research on systematic reviews for and meta-analysis approaches to functional material search and functional food development; Research on Japanese and overseas legal systems regarding functional food 3. Surveys on consumer psychology and behavior, market and marketing, and development of concepts regarding functional food

	Supervisor	Major Research Themes
Health and Welfare Science Concentration	KONDO Rie, Prof.	1. Research on comparison between Japan, Korea, and France of child poverty, single parent family, child abuse, DV, foster parent, adoption, and bullying 2. Research on cooperation between educational administration and welfare administration
	IWAMITSU Kenji, Prof.	Community development through support for individuals (youth and disaster victims) living in poverty
	MURAKOSO Takashi, Prof.	1. Research on social work related to seniors' loneliness prevention 2. Research on employment support for with intellectual disabilities
	TAKEMOTO Yoshihito, Prof.	1. Research on the comprehensive support model for people diagnosed with MCI (Mild Cognitive Impairment) 2. Research on human resource cultivation and management models utilizing supervision under high-stress environments 3. Research on financial conditions of individuals with dementia and their family caregivers, and the utilization of social security systems
	NAKAMURA Hikaru, Prof.	1. Research on the development and aging of languages and recognition 2. Research on assessment and intervention of neurogenic communication disorders (aphasia, higher brain dysfunction and dementia)
	SAKANO Junko, Prof.	1. Research on Life Skill of the mentally disabled 2. Research on Sense of Coherence in mental health and welfare
	TAKATO Jinro, Prof.	1. Research on independent mobility support for blind and visually impaired persons 2. Research on preventing or delaying the need for nursing care for the elderly
	EGASHIRA Tomohiro, Prof.	1. Research on the New Education Movement in Germany 2. Research on the education in Nazi Germany 3. Historical research on educational practices in nature
	RAKUGI Akiko, Associate Prof.	1. Research on group dynamics for clinical-psychological problems 2. Action research regarding self-governance by residents in depopulated rural communities
	KIRINO Masafumi, Associate Prof.	1. Research on support for family caregivers 2. Research on work-life balance and integration of family caregivers
	KIMURA Hitoshi, Associate Prof.	1. Research on operation and management for welfare equipment service organizations 2. Research on communication with customers in welfare equipment service organizations
NIIYAMA Junko, Associate Prof.	1. Research on dance curriculum 2. Practical research on the continual "Expressive Dances" seen from the viewpoint of lifelong education 3. Research on instruction methods for physical expression activities in early childhood	

Professors who are responsible solely for teaching graduate classes

		Major Research Themes
Nutritional Science Concentration	KUBOTA Megumi, Prof.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research on the heredity factor and environmental factor of osteoporosi 2. Research on the use of social capital in community health projects
Health and Welfare Science Concentration	TAKAHASHI Tamiko, Prof.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research on involvement with nature in childhood 2. Research on environmental and disaster control education in infancy 3. Practical research regarding cooperation among kindergartens, nursery schools, and elementary schools

Associate professors who are responsible solely for teaching graduate classes

		Major Research Themes
Nutritional Science Concentration	SHUTO Emi, Associate Prof.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Elucidation of the mechanism of action of soy isoflavone in cancer stem cells 2. Application of functional food ingredients to metabolic diseases