Epidemiology, M.S.

Requirements

The Master of Science program in epidemiology requires at least 39 s.h. of graduate credit and is offered with or without thesis. Students who choose to complete the degree without thesis are required to pass a comprehensive examination. All students must maintain a g.p.a. of at least 3.00. Those who receive a grade of C in 7 s.h. of course work may be dismissed from the program.

Students are required to attend 80 percent of all Department of Epidemiology seminar meetings and journal club meetings for three semesters. They must present one scientific poster at the departmental level before they may graduate, and the department recommends that they present at the international, national, regional, state, or University level before graduating.

The Master of Science with a major in epidemiology requires the following course work.

Core Courses

Students must take CPH:7270 Principles of Scholarly Integrity: Public Health during their first year in the fall semester (enroll for 0 s.h.) and in the spring semester (enroll for 1 s.h.). They must retake CPH:7270 if they completed the course more than four years ago or if they have changed degree programs.

Electives

Students must earn a minimum of 5 s.h. in elective course work from Department of Epidemiology courses (prefix EPID) and 2 s.h. in additional graduate course work pertinent to a student's educational goals and background (the additional 2 s.h. may be earned in an epidemiology course or in another graduate course, with the advisor's approval). The following courses are recommended.

M.S. in Epidemiology: Undergrad to Grad

The Undergrad to Grad Program provides an opportunity for University of Iowa students interested in health science to earn both their undergraduate and graduate degrees in five years. Undergraduate students apply to the program by February 1 of their junior year.

For additional information, visit M.S. in Epidemiology- Undergrad to Grad on the College of Public Health website.

Admission

Applicants must apply through the Schools of Public Health Application Service (SOPHAS); they also must pay the required application fee to the Graduate College through the University of Iowa Office of Admissions when prompted. For detailed application information, visit How to Apply to the Department of Epidemiology web page.

The epidemiology faculty considers several factors when evaluating applications for admission, including Graduate Record Exam (GRE) General Test scores, grade-point average, letters of recommendation, intent and motivation for graduate study, and research interests. Students with deficiencies in one area may be admitted if all other components of their application are very strong.

All applicants must hold a baccalaureate degree and have a cumulative g.p.a. of at least 3.00. Undergraduate preparation must include two semesters of biological sciences and mathematics through algebra. Course work in statistics is highly recommended.
Applicants must have taken the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test, the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT), or the Dental Admission Test (DAT), scoring above the 50th percentile, within four years before applying to the epidemiology program. The department prefers recent test scores, particularly for applicants who completed educational programs and/or courses after taking one of these tests.

Those whose first language is not English and who do not hold a baccalaureate degree or more advanced degree from an accredited institution in the United States, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada (excluding French Quebec), English-speaking Africa, Australia, or New Zealand must score at least 100 (internet-based) on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Applicants who score 81-99 (internet-based) are required to take English fluency courses. Applicants who score below 81 are not considered for admission. In place of TOEFL scores, the department accepts International English Testing System (IELTS) scores of 7.0 or higher, with no subscore below 6.0.

All applicants and students are required to have strong written and oral communication skills.

Applicants must meet the admission requirements of the Graduate College; see the Manual of Rules and Regulations of the Graduate College.

Application deadlines for fall admission are June 1 for U.S. citizens, April 15 for international applicants.

**Financial Support**

A limited number of graduate research assistantships are available for advanced students; for information, consult the department. For information on financing education through jobs, grants, and loans, contact the University’s Office of Student Financial Aid.

Opportunities for funded predoctoral fellowships are available. Funded positions sponsored by federal agencies are available only to U.S. citizens.

**Career Advancement**

The program prepares graduate students for professional careers in which specialized knowledge of epidemiological methods and analytic techniques are essential. Graduates find employment in local, state, and federal health agencies; academic institutions; and private enterprise, such as hospitals, pharmaceutical and device companies, insurance companies, and foundations.