Epidemiology, M.S.

Requirements

The Master of Science program in epidemiology requires 39 s.h. of graduate credit and is offered with or without thesis. Graduate students in epidemiology 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 who choose to complete the degree without thesis are required to pass a comprehensive examination.

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 in epidemiology requires the following course work.

Core Courses

Students earn 30-31 s.h. in the required core, as follows.

**All of these:**
- EPID:4400 Epidemiology I: Principles 3
- EPID:5241 Statistical Methods in Epidemiology 4
- EPID:5600 Introduction to Epidemiology Data Management and Analysis 3
- EPID:5610 Intermediate Epidemiology Data Analysis with SAS and R 3
- EPID:5925 Epidemiology Journal Club: Evaluating the Literature 0
- EPID:6400 Epidemiology II: Advanced Methods 4
- BIOS:4120 Introduction to Biostatistics 3
- CPH:6100 Essentials of Public Health 1

**One of these:**
- PATH:5270 Pathogenesis of Major Human Diseases 3
- PATH:8133 Introduction to Human Pathology for Graduate Students 4

**One of these:**
- EPID:6550 Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases 3
- EPID:6600 Epidemiology of Chronic Diseases 3

**One of these:**
- EPID:5950 Preceptorship in Epidemiology (for nonthesis students) 3
- EPID:7000 Thesis/Dissertation (for thesis students, may be taken twice) 3

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 the 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.

**BIOS:6210** Applied Survival Analysis 3  
**BIOS:6310** Introductory Longitudinal Data Analysis 3  
**CBH:5220** Health Behavior and Health Education 3  
**HMP:4000** Introduction to the U.S. Health Care System 3  
**OEH:4240** Global Environmental Health 3

Students may need additional elective course work in order to complete the minimum 39 s.h. required for the degree.

Joint B.A. or B.S./M.S. in Epidemiology

The Department of Epidemiology and the Department of Biology (College of Liberal Arts and Sciences) offer a joint Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science/Master of Science degree program. Students pursuing undergraduate education in biology who are interested in earning an M.S. in epidemiology may apply to the joint program offered by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the College of Public Health. The joint program permits students to count 12 s.h. of credit toward the requirements of the undergraduate and graduate degree, enabling them to begin the study of public health before they complete their bachelor's degree.

Admission

Applicants to the M.S. program in the Department of Epidemiology 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. A student with deficiencies in one area may be admitted if all other components of the application are very strong.

All M.S. program 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.

All applicants to the M.S. program 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.
Applicants 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 M.S. 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 entrance 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 M.S. 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.