Epidemiology, Ph.D.

Requirements

The Doctor of Philosophy program in epidemiology requires a minimum of 78 s.h. of graduate credit. 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.

All doctoral students must successfully complete a qualifying examination, a comprehensive examination, a dissertation prospectus, and a dissertation. The research topic and content, which vary depending on the program of study, must be approved by the student's dissertation committee. Other degree requirements include approved electives chosen from Department of Epidemiology courses (prefix EPID) and other University of Iowa courses.

Students are required to attend 80 percent of all Department of Epidemiology seminar meetings and journal club meetings for five semesters; attendance during a student's enrollment in the M.S. program does not count toward this requirement. Students also must present a departmental seminar on their dissertation research and an oral presentation or scientific poster presentation at an international, national, regional, state, or University level before they may graduate.

The Doctor of Philosophy in epidemiology requires the following course work.

Core Courses

Students earn 39-41 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:6050 Research in Epidemiology 3
- EPID:6100 Writing a Grant Proposal 3
- EPID:6400 Epidemiology II: Advanced Methods 4
- EPID:7400 Epidemiology III: Theories 3
- BIOS:4120 Introduction to Biostatistics 3
- CPH:6100 Essentials of Public Health 1
One of these:
- BIOS:6210 Applied Survival Analysis 3
- BIOS:6310 Introductory Longitudinal Data Analysis 3
One of these:
- PATH:5270 Pathogenesis of Major Human Diseases 3
- PATH:8133 Introduction to Human Pathology for Graduate Students 4

Focus Area

Each Ph.D. student must declare a focus area. Working with the focus area coordinator, students develop a study plan that will enable them to develop substantive knowledge in a specific area that will lead to important original research. Focus areas for Ph.D. students include chronic disease/life course epidemiology, clinical and health services epidemiology, genetic epidemiology, infectious disease epidemiology, and injury epidemiology. For lists of required course work in each focus area, see Ph.D. in Epidemiology on the department's website. Individualized Ph.D. programs may be completed with the department's approval.

Electives

Students must complete a total of 23-25 s.h. of elective course work. They must earn 3 s.h. in a Department of Epidemiology course (prefix EPID) outside their focus area and at least 20 s.h. in courses in their focus area. Course selection must be approved by a student's advisor and Ph.D. plan of study committee.

Dissertation

All doctoral students must successfully complete a Ph.D. thesis.

EPID:7000 Thesis/Dissertation 10-18

Admission

Applicants to the Ph.D. 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. Students with deficiencies in one area may be admitted if all other components of their application are very strong.

Ph.D. applicants must hold a baccalaureate degree (an M.S. or M.P.H. usually is required) and must have a cumulative g.p.a. of at least 3.00. Courses in the biological, physical, and mathematical sciences provide important background; one semester of calculus, one semester of statistics or biostatistics, and two semesters of biological sciences are highly recommended. Computing skills also are desirable.

All applicants to the Ph.D. 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

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<tr>
<td>HHP:3500</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CPH:6100</td>
<td>Essentials of Public Health</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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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 Ph.D. 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 deadline for fall entrance is April 1.

Financial Support

A limited number of graduate research assistantships are available for advanced Ph.D. 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.

Scholarships for incoming Ph.D. students are available; for information, visit the Department of Epidemiology website.

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 careers as scientists, teachers, and practitioners of epidemiologic methods. Employment opportunities exist in academic institutions; local, state, and federal health agencies; and in private enterprises.