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 a 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 the international, national, regional, state, or University level before they may graduate.

The Doctor of Philosophy 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.

Students earn 41-43 s.h. in the required core, as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CPH:7270</td>
<td>Principles of Scholarly Integrity: Public Health (taken first year in the fall semester for 0 s.h. and in the spring semester for 1 s.h.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>One of these:</td>
<td>BIOS:6210</td>
<td>Applied Survival Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>One of these:</td>
<td>BIOS:6310</td>
<td>Introductory Longitudinal Data Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>One of these:</td>
<td>PATH:5270</td>
<td>Pathogenesis of Major Human Diseases</td>
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<tr>
<td>One of these:</td>
<td>PATH:8133</td>
<td>Introduction to Human Pathology for Graduate Students</td>
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<tr>
<td>One of these:</td>
<td>HHP:3500</td>
<td>Human Physiology</td>
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<tr>
<td>MPB:5153</td>
<td>Graduate Physiology</td>
<td>4</td>
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Electives

Students must earn 24-28 s.h. of elective course work, of which at least 3 s.h. must be from Department of Epidemiology courses (prefix EPID) and outside their interest area.

With their advisor, students develop a plan of study that ensures substantive knowledge in a specific area in order to generate important original research. The department has many areas of research strength and several recommended plans of study.

Dissertation

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

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EPID:7000</td>
<td>Thesis/Dissertation</td>
<td>10-18</td>
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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 (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.

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.

The application deadline for fall admission is April 1.

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.

Scholarships for incoming 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.