



# Department of Epidemiology Graduate Programs and Admissions Criteria

## Information For Prospective Students



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## DEPARTMENT OF EPIDEMIOLOGY

School of Public Health and Community Medicine

University of Washington

F262 Health Sciences Center

(206) 685-1762 or (206) 543-8226

<http://depts.washington.edu/epidem>

### WHAT IS EPIDEMIOLOGY?

Epidemiology is the study of the distribution of disease in populations and the study of risk and preventive factors for disease. A good in-depth discussion of epidemiology is located on the Centers for Disease Control web-site at [http://www.cdc.gov/excite/PDF/intro\\_epi.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/excite/PDF/intro_epi.pdf).

### WHY CHOOSE UW?

Since 1974, the University of Washington has led the nation's public universities in competing for federal research and training grants. In 2004, the UW was first among public and second among all universities, public and private, in federal research awards. In addition, the Department of Epidemiology of the University of Washington is one of the most highly regarded epidemiology departments in the U.S. Our strengths include:

- The School of Public Health is consistently ranked among the top five by *U.S. News and World Report*.
- We offer rigorous training in epidemiologic methods and numerous electives in advanced methods, specific diseases and specific risk factors, taught by faculty members who have won school-wide, university-wide and national awards.

Research: The Department of Epidemiology maintains a large research program covering many areas of human disease including cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, injuries, infectious diseases (HIV/AIDS and other STDs), maternal and child health, neurological diseases, and musculoskeletal conditions. In addition, clinical, nutritional, genetic, metabolic, gender, environmental, pharmacological, psychological, behavioral, and socio-economic factors associated with disease and disease outcome are under study. The faculty's research is highly interdisciplinary and often is conducted in collaboration with outside institutions, as well as with many departments within the University.

Diversity Research: Epidemiology, as a discipline, is highly diversified in its content and application. Graduate study includes coursework in study design, statistical analysis and disease etiology (causes of disease). Increasingly, socioeconomic, cultural factors, and complementary and alternative medicine are being pursued in investigations of disease patterns and etiology, thus providing a wide range of research opportunities for students. The School offers a number of classes that address such issues.

### ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

Contact the following programs directly. Do not use the information in this brochure.

- MPH in Public Health Nutrition, MS or PhD in Nutritional Sciences: <http://depts.washington.edu/nutr>, [nutr@u.washington.edu](mailto:nutr@u.washington.edu), 206-543-1730.
- MPH, PhD, or Graduate Certificate in Public Health Genetics, MS in Genetic Epidemiology: <http://depts.washington.edu/phgen>, [phgen@u.washington.edu](mailto:phgen@u.washington.edu), 206-616-9286.

Applications are due **November 1 for International students**; (US Citizens and Permanent Residents use the following deadlines: **December 15 priority funding deadline for applicants without a U.S. doctorate**; **Final deadline for all: January 1**. The Department requires an application to the Graduate School (on-line data form) and a separate application for the Department. GRE scores are required for all applicants except MS/MPH applicants who hold a U.S. doctorate.

Acceptance to the Department of Epidemiology is very competitive. **No one criterion forms either a minimum or a guarantee of admission.** The Admissions Committee looks for a range of indicators of high aptitude, achievement and interest in epidemiology:

- 1) Undergraduate grades of A's and B's, with special emphasis on high grades in quantitative courses, if taken;
- 2) Mostly A's at the graduate level (if applicable), especially in epidemiology methods courses, if taken;
- 3) Applicants to the PhD must hold a U.S. Masters or higher at the time of entry. The conditions for very rare exceptions are listed in the PhD section;
- 4) GRE's generally in the 600's on the verbal section, the high 600's or 700's on the quantitative section, and around a 5 on the analytic section for master's applicants not planning to earn a PhD; and in the 700's on the quantitative section for PhD or master's to PhD applicants.
  - ✓ Most emphasis is placed on the quantitative section.
  - ✓ The GRE is waived only for master's applicants holding a U.S. doctorate.
  - ✓ MD/PhD applicants not funded by MSTP (see PhD section) are required to provide GRE scores.
  - ✓ If your previous GRE was lower than what is listed above, we recommend that you study intensively and retake the GRE if you think you can improve.
- 5) TOEFL score of 237 (computer) or 580 (paper test), 70 on combined listening, reading, and writing sections, (TOEFLiBT) or IELTS of 7, or higher within the last two years from international applicants.
  - ✓ Citizens of Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand and the United Kingdom, and those who hold a U.S. bachelor's degree or higher are not required to provide a TOEFL score.
  - ✓ If the GRE verbal is below the 600's, a current TOEFL is recommended to improve admission prospects;
- 6) Letters of reference which support the applicant's exceptional potential for training in epidemiology;
- 7) Well-written and appropriate goal statement indicating a good understanding of the field of epidemiology, the Department of Epidemiology at UW, areas of interest within epidemiology, and career plans;
- 8) Relevant work (especially research) experience in epidemiology or the health sciences. If the applicant has no or limited work/research experience, more emphasis is placed on excellent grades, GRE, goal statement and references.

Below are a few statistics on the Autumn 2005 cohort:

- Of 184 applicants, 104 were accepted into the program, with an admission rate of approximately 47% for applicants without a US doctorate. (The admission rate is usually in the 35% range.)
- Seventy new students enrolled.
- Thirty-three seek MPH degrees, 22 - MS, 2 - MPH/PhD, 1 - MS/PhD and 12 - PhD.
- Forty-six women and 24 men are in 2005 cohort.
- The average age is 30 years (students range in age from 21 – 51 years old).
- Students from all over the world are in the program, currently including Canada, China, India, Iran, Israel, Japan, Kenya, Peru, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam.
- Approximately 98% of students complete their degree program.

## **FUNDING INFORMATION**

The department offers a variety of funding mechanisms including research assistantships, fellowships and tuition waivers. We currently are associated with pre- and/or post-doctoral fellowship programs in cancer, cardiovascular and sexually-transmitted disease epidemiology, oral health, environmental and molecular epidemiology, health services research, interdisciplinary biomedical sciences, and maternal and child health. Most training grants are reserved for advanced PhD students or postdocs who are U.S. Citizens or postdocs and permanent residents. Research Assistantships are largely funded through research grants. The Epidemiology Program Office attempts to serve as a clearinghouse for funding opportunities. Historically, most students who accept an offer of admission are able to obtain funding by their first Autumn Quarter. However, it is extremely difficult for international students to find funding prior to arrival.

Additional information on funding is available on the **Funding Information** sheet at <http://depts.washington.edu/epidem/fundinfo.htm> and on **Fellowships Open to Epidemiology Students and Postdocs** at <http://depts.washington.edu/epidem/fellowsh.htm>. Our faculty members select most of their own fellows, trainees and research assistants. U.S. postdocs should seek funding well in advance of the degree application deadline.

Once a student begins his/her program of study, there is generally funding for those who need it. Second year students usually are in high demand because they have developed the skills to be productive epidemiology researchers and they know the faculty well. Masters students without a U.S. doctorate may have more difficulty finding funding for infectious disease research. Students (except international) are usually eligible for in-state tuition after 12 months.

## **STUDENT SERVICES**

The Department of Epidemiology offers a wide range of student services, including application advice, social events, mentoring, tutoring and access to a variety of learning opportunities and SPHCM/departmental seminars. We also keep students informed of various events coordinated through the Graduate Opportunity – Minority Achievement Program (GO-MAP). The SPHCM Office of Student Services ([sphoss@u.washington.edu](mailto:sphoss@u.washington.edu)), which has a commitment to increase enrollment of persons of color, provides a wide variety of services for students, including assistance with the admission process, tutoring in core courses, fellowships, assistantships, traineeships, social events, assistance with identifying external sources of support (private and government awards), counseling and support services.

## CAREERS IN EPIDEMIOLOGY

After graduation, Epidemiology students have pursued careers in the following fields:

- Higher Education - faculty positions for PhD or MD/MPH graduates at major research universities, including the Johns Hopkins, Harvard, Stanford and Yale Universities, the Universities of California (Berkeley, Los Angeles, and others), Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Washington, along with many others.
- Research - including positions in government, private industry and non-profit organizations (e.g., the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Kaiser Permanente, Mayo Clinic, the National Institutes of Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).
- Public Health Practice - at local and state health departments throughout the U.S. (including Public Health: Seattle King County, and the Washington State Department of Health).

Masters and Doctoral thesis/dissertation topics & graduate careers are summarized at <http://depts.washington.edu/epidem/careers.htm>. The same page also has a link to a list of organizations that hire epidemiologists and their contact information. We inform students and alumni of approximately 400 jobs and post graduation fellowship opportunities each year. Almost 100% of our graduates secure appropriate jobs in the field. The SPHCM has recently developed a jobs website at <http://sphcm.washington.edu/alumni/jobs.asp>

### *Relevant Graduate Certificate Programs*

A matriculated graduate student at the UW may apply for the graduate certificate programs listed after the PhD information in this document. Programs include AIDS & Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Environmental Management, International Health, International Relief and Development, Maternal & Child Health, and Public Health Genetics. The certificate programs provide options for a more focused degree in addition to program tracks.

### *What is the national demand for public health professionals of color?*

The need for trained professionals in public health has increased with the proliferation of health programs and agencies. Many minority communities are underserved in health care services. Today the largest underserved minority groups -- African-American, Latino, and Native-American -- are also underrepresented in the health professions. These three groups provide a largely untapped pool of public health practitioners who already possess the needed cultural and language skills.

## GENERAL REQUIREMENTS (FOR ALL DEGREES)

**Learning Objectives** for each degree program are available through the Epidemiology Web Site at <http://depts.washington.edu/epidem/learningobj.htm>.

**Courses:** Course descriptions can be accessed through the Course Catalog at [www.washington.edu/students/crscat/epidem.html](http://www.washington.edu/students/crscat/epidem.html). A list of Epidemiology courses is below. There are no foreign language requirements for any of the degree programs.

All students must take BIOST 511, Medical Biometry I, or BIOST 517, Applied Biostatistics I (unless waived). (See the Course Requirement sections below for more information.) In order to do so, students must pass a pretest involving fundamental knowledge of arithmetic operations, mathematical notation, algebra, functions

and manipulation of expressions with exponents and logarithms. An introductory knowledge of statistics and STATA is recommended, but not required. A sample pretest is mailed with admissions packets. It is recommended that students whose algebra skills are rusty, enroll in an appropriate math course at a community college or review the areas in which their knowledge is weak.

It is important to keep in mind that outside reviewers have categorized the Epidemiology Program at the University of Washington as "among the strongest in the nation and the world". We look forward to helping you achieve your goals.

For additional information, please contact:

**Kate O'Brien**

Student Services Manager

(206) 685-1762

e-mail: [epi@u.washington.edu](mailto:epi@u.washington.edu)

## Epidemiology Course List

Course No.	Course Title	Instructors	Credits	Offered
EPI 420	Introduction to Epidemiology (Undergraduate Course)	Goldberg	3	Sp
EPI 497	Epidemiology Special Electives (for Medical Students)	Faculty	var c/nc	AWSpS
EPI 499	Undergraduate Research	Faculty	var c/nc	AWSpS
EPI 503/ HSERV 503	Public Health Informatics	Karras	3	Sp
EPI 510	Epidemiologic Data Analysis	Hawes	2 c/nc	W
EPI 511	Introduction to Epidemiology (for non-epidemiology majors)	Kukull	4	A
EPI 512	Epidemiologic Methods I	Koepsell/Weiss	4	A
EPI 513	Epidemiologic Methods II	Weiss/Koepsell	4	W
EPI 514	Application of Epidemiologic Methods	Mueller	4	Sp
EPI 516 PHG519/ BIOST 516	Statistical Methods in Genetic Epi	Monks	3	
EPI 517 / PHG 511	Methods & Applications of Genetic Epid	Austin	3	
EPI 518 / PHG 518	Computer Demonstrations in Genetic Epid	Edwards	2 c/nc	
EPI 519	Epidemiology of Cardiovascular Disease	Psaty/Siscovick	3	A
EPI 520	Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases	Manhart/DiGiacomo	3	W
EPI 521 / HSERV 542	Epid of Maternal & Child Health Problems	Williams	4	W
EPI 522	Reproductive Epidemiology	Holt	3	Sp (even yrs)
EPI 524	Epid Studies of Cancer Etiology & Prevention	Li/DeRoos	3	W
EPI 526 / C MED 526	Epidemiology of Diseases Communicable From Nature	DiGiacomo	3	Sp
EPI 528	Exposure Measurement in Epidemiology	White	3 c/nc	Sp
EPI 529 / HSERV 536	Emerging Infections of Intl Health Importance	Kimball	3	W (even yrs)
EPI 529 / HSERV 536	<i>Emerging Infections of Intl Health Importance (Distance ed version)</i>	<i>Kimball</i>	3	<i>W (odd) Via On-line</i>
EPI 530 / MED 530	AIDS: A Multidisciplinary Approach	Farquhar	2 c/nc	A
EPI 531 / HSERV 531	Problems in International Health	Gloyd	4	A
EPI 532	Epid of Infectious Dis. In Resource Limited Countries	McClelland	3	Sp
EPI 533 / PHARM 533	Pharmacoepidemiology	Heckbert	3	Sp(even yrs)
EPI534/ PHARM 536	Principles for Publishing Clinical Evidence	Johnson	2	Sp (even yrs)
EPI 536 / BIOST	Categorical Data Analysis in Epidemiology	McKnight	4	A
EPI 537 / BIOST 537	Survival Data Analysis in Epidemiology	Heagarty	4	W

Course List, con't

Course No.	Course Title	Instructors	Credits	Offered
EPI 538/ NUTR 538	Nutritional Epidemiology	Beresford/ Drewnowski	3	A
EPI 539 / HSERV 539	Research Methods in Developing Countries	Gloyd/Mock	3 or 4	W
EPI 540	Introduction to Cancer Biology	Ulrich	3	W (even yrs)
EPI 542	Clinical Epidemiology	Weiss	2	Su
EPI 544 / HSERV 544	Maternal & Child Health in Dev. Countries	Mercer	3	Sp
EPI 546/ PBCi 546	Psychosocial Epidemiology	Vander Stoep	3	Sp
EPI 548	Social Determinants of Health Research Methods	Smith/Beresford	3	W
EPI 568 / ENV H 568 PABIO 568	Molecular Epid of Infectious Diseases	DiGiacomo/ Roberts	2 c/nc	W
EPI 570 / ENV H 570	Occupational & Environmental Epidemiology	Checkoway	3	Sp
EPI 571 / ENV H 571	Neuroepidemiology & Env Risk Factors	Kukull	3 c/nc	W (odd yrs)
EPI 573 / ENV H 573	Biol Measurements of Epi Research	Schwartz	3	A (odd yrs)
EPI 583	Epidemiology Seminars	Faculty	1 c/nc	AWSp
EPI 588	Preparing and Writing Research Proposals	Kristal/Reiber	2	A (odd yrs)
EPI 590	Selected Topics in Epidem or Int'l Health	Faculty	1-6	Vary
EPI 590	Vaccines	Wald	3	A
EPI 590	Introduction to Laboratory Methods in Population Health Research	Schwartz	3	Sp (odd)
EPI 590	Psychosocial Epidemiology Seminar	Vander Stoep	1	W
Epi 590	Research Operations: The Nuts and Bolts of Conducting a Study	Fitzpatrick	3	A
EPI 590	Responsible Conduct of International Research	Farquhar	3	A (offered 2 weeks prior to Autumn Quarter)
EPI 590	Intro Res Methods	Elmore/Johnston	3	Su
EPI 590	Applying GIS	Hoskins	1	Su
EPI590	Principles of Injury Research, Control and Prevention	Schiff	3	A
EPI 590	Dissertation Research Seminar	S. Davis/Holt	1	AWSp
EPI 591	Current Literature in Epidemiology (EPI Journal Club)	Faculty	1 c/nc	AWSp
EPI 592	Program Seminars	Faculty	1-6	Vary
EPI 592C/ HS 592C	Prog Sem: Maternal & Child Health Res Sem	Bell, Connell	1 c/nc	AWSp
EPI 592F / HS 592F	Prog Sem: Intl Health Program Seminars	Gloyd, Gish	1 c/nc	AW
EPI 593/ BIOST 593	Cancer Prevention Research	White	3 c/nc	AWSpSu
EPI 595	Epid Master's Practicum	Faculty	1-6	AWSpSu
EPI 600	Independent Study or Research	Faculty	var c/nc	AWSpSu
EPI 700	Master's Thesis	Faculty	var c/nc	AWSpSu
EPI 800	Doctoral Dissertation	Faculty	var c/nc	AWSpSu

# MPH Degree

## OVERVIEW

The purpose of the MPH degree program is to combine broad training in public health with specific training in the principles and methods of epidemiology. The degree requirements include course work in epidemiology, biostatistics, health services and environmental health; a practice experience in a public health agency (practicum); and completion of a research-based master's thesis. The Learning Objectives are at <http://depts.washington.edu/epidem/learningobj.htm>.

The degree is appropriate for individuals who possess an MD, DVM, DDS, or PhD degree who seek a career in public health practice or academia, or medical students interested in a combined MD/MPH program. We also consider exceptional individuals with a Bachelor's degree and a health-related background who seek the MPH to prepare for a master's-level career in public health practice or research or who plan to apply to the PhD program in Epidemiology after completion of the MPH degree. Applicants may apply for the general Epidemiology track, Maternal and Child Health, or International Health tracks (described below).

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

See [General Requirements for all Degrees](#) above.

### Course Credit Requirements:

Minimum of 63 total quarter credits	Minimum required course credits: 27 (excluding 1 credit courses, independent study and thesis)	Of the 27 course credits, 18 must be graded credits (Graduate School requirement)	9 Thesis credits (18 maximum)
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**Core Courses:** These courses must be taken for a grade. They are intended to give the student a breadth of knowledge in the field of public health. They total 21 credits, which exceed the Graduate School minimum of 18 graded credits. Total required course credits: 27 – 29, depending on courses selected.

EPI 512, 513	Epidemiologic Methods I, II	8 credits
BIOST 511** or BIOST 517**	Medical Biometry I Applied Biostatistics I	4 credits
HSERV 511	Introduction to Health Services	3 credits
HSERV510	Society and Health	3 credits

\*\*There are several options available for fulfilling the BIOST course requirement. It is highly recommended that students take a full biostatistics sequence, such as 511-12-13. The Epidemiology Program Guidelines at <http://depts.washington.edu/epidem/guide.pdf>, cover the BIOST sequences in detail.

**One of the following Environmental Health courses:**

ENVH 511A	Introduction to Environmental and Occupational Health	3 credits
ENVH 517	Children's Environmental Health	3 credits
ENVH 570	Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology	3 credits
ENVH 577	Risk Assessment for Environmental Health Hazards	3/4 credits
ENVH 584	Occupational Health & Safety: Policy & Politics	3 credits

Substitutions are very rarely allowed. They may be granted only with the approval of the student's advisor, the course instructor, the chairman of the department offering the course and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. EPI 512 and 513 cannot be waived. In order to waive BOST 511 or 517, students usually may need to take an oral exam. The Graduate School allows up to 6 graduate quarter credits to be transferred to a master's at UW with approval of the Department. These credits cannot be part of a previously completed degree or count toward the 18 graded graduate credits.

**Additional requirements:**

EPI 595	Epidemiology Master's Practicum	3 credits (6 max)
EPI Electives	Epidemiology course electives, EPI 514* recommended (Not including 1 credit courses)	6 credits
EPI 700	Master's Thesis	9 credits (18 max)

\*Epi 510, Epidemiologic Data Analysis, substantial SAS programming or data analysis experience is a prerequisite for Epi 514.

The MPH Checklist, [http://depts.washington.edu/epidem/mph\\_checklist%20wrld.pdf](http://depts.washington.edu/epidem/mph_checklist%20wrld.pdf), includes suggested timing of courses.

Students may also enroll in additional elective courses in Epidemiology and in other departments or for independent study (EPI 600) for a total of 63 credits. Relevant 400-level course work may count toward the total. Course work unrelated to health and at the 300-level or below will not count.

**MPH PROGRAM OPTIONS**

Applicants may select a general MPH degree in Epidemiology or they may apply for one of the options listed below. Students may also specialize by earning one of the graduate certificates listed after the PhD section. Students should concentrate in a specific area by selecting appropriate electives and thesis topic. The specialized MPH degrees and graduate certificates have additional course requirements, additional admission requirements and their own application forms. Applicants interested in a specialized program should contact the appropriate program office.

**Maternal and Child Health Program (MCH):** Epidemiology students may elect to apply to the Maternal and Child Health Program which is a collaborative effort between the Departments of Epidemiology and Health Services. The MCH Program combines advanced training in research methodology with comprehensive background knowledge in the public health aspects of maternal and child health problems. The primary focus is on maternal and child health in the U.S. Work experience in MCH is expected.

An MCH Graduate Certificate program, which requires less MCH background, is also available at <http://depts.washington.edu/mchprog/certificate.htm>.

Students interested in MCH should visit the web site at <http://depts.washington.edu/mchprog/> or contact the MCH Office at (206) 543-8819, [carmv@u.washington.edu](mailto:carmv@u.washington.edu) or Box 357230 to obtain specific application materials. Students interested in international MCH should consult the International Health Program below.

**International Health Program (IHP):** Health professionals who intend to devote a significant part of their careers to developing country health may be interested in applying for the International Health option. The program is interdisciplinary, focusing on community health and primary care systems in the developing world. Students learn to identify the social, political and economic determinants of illness. Planning, management and evaluation of health care systems is an integral part of the academic program.

Admission is generally limited to those with at least two years of health-related work experience in developing countries. For further information and application materials, visit the website at <http://depts.washington.edu/ihprog> or contact the program office at (206) 543-6714, Box 357660 or [ihprog@u.washington.edu](mailto:ihprog@u.washington.edu).

The International Health Graduate Certificate program requires less international health experience. Information is at <http://depts.washington.edu/ihprog/admissions/cert.htm>.

**MD/MPH:** The Department of Epidemiology offers an MPH concurrent with an MD at the University of Washington. A student must apply to and be admitted to both the School of Medicine and the Department of Epidemiology. The joint program allows a student to count 12 credits toward both degrees and to pay Graduate School tuition rather than the higher Medical School tuition for Epidemiology course work when the student is registered for 6 credits or less in the School of Medicine. Out-of-state and international students should note that only a very small percentage of non-resident students are admitted to the School of Medicine. Concurrent degree students spend the first two years of the program in Medicine. Usually in the second year, students apply to Epidemiology to earn an MPH beginning in the third year. Normally students spend their third and fourth years earning an MPH. During their fifth year, they return to the School of Medicine to commence their clinical training. Applicants should consider that many physicians change their areas of interest as they progress through medical school. Students are often better prepared to make maximum use of an MPH after completing their residency training. Also, there is considerably more funding at higher levels for physicians than for predoctoral MD/MPH students. RA salaries are not applicable to Medical School tuition, and MD students usually do not have time to hold an RA position.

**Master of Arts in International Studies (MAIS):** The Master of Arts in International Studies (MAIS) is designed for students concurrently pursuing another graduate degree in one of six professional schools at the University including the School of Public Health; and for students who enter the program after already having gained professional experience or education. All graduate students participate in a year-long core series dealing with a broad framework for the study of international issues and institutions. In addition, students take a two-course practicum series, and concentrate in two of the following three supplemental fields: regional, professional, or special topics. The MAIS program requires proficiency in a modern foreign language.

The International Studies faculty is actively engaged in searches for new cross-regional approaches and transdisciplinary methods that are neither part of the existing academic disciplines nor simple composites of several disciplinary approaches. They have funded centers that study ethnic conflict, foreign policy and security issues, and research projects on state-society relations and how empires end. They also work with many other departments and area studies programs on campus.

Students must apply to both the MAIS and MPH programs simultaneously and meet the requirements for both programs. MAIS information is at <http://jsis.artsci.washington.edu/advise/catalog/Is-ma.html>.

## MPH PRACTICUM

MPH students must complete a practicum experience in an organization or agency that provides planning or services relevant to public health. It is recommended that students complete at least one quarter of academic work before pursuing a practicum assignment.

The goals of the practicum for the MPH in Epidemiology are:

1. To help students learn how epidemiologic skills are used in the formulation and application of public health policy;
2. To provide first-hand exposure to the use of epidemiologic skills in a public health practice setting;
3. To provide a means for acquiring certain broadly useful skills for public health professionals, such as communication with people outside the field and with community organizations.

**Practicum settings:** The placements should be representative of the kinds of work settings in which MPH students might be employed in their professional careers. These might include local, state or federal public health agencies, managed care systems serving defined populations, clinical settings targeting underserved populations, or other organizations engaged in population-based disease control. Serving as a clinician (physician, nurse, etc.) in one of these settings does not constitute an acceptable public health practice experience, however. Group practica are allowed.

**Selecting a placement:** The MPH Practicum Coordinator will notify students of available practica as the opportunities come into the practicum office. The office also keeps an extensive database of agencies and opportunities. Students are encouraged to propose a project and site, which must then be approved by their Faculty Advisor.

**Requirements:** In order to participate in the practicum, students must have on file at the Epidemiology Program Office: a Criminal History Information Supplement, a Washington State Patrol Request for Criminal History Background Check, a Certificate of Bloodborne Pathogen Training, a certificate of HIPAA training, and documentation from Hall Health that their required immunizations are up to date. These forms are required by law and cannot be waived.

## MASTER'S THESIS

Once the course work is completed, the student's focus is a research project, under the guidance of a master's thesis supervisory committee. The master's thesis project may be based on research involving primary data collection, but is often a secondary analysis of data from a completed epidemiologic study (or other health dataset) to investigate a research question not yet considered in that study. The Masters Thesis Committee consists of 2 to 4 willing members, supervised by a Chair, and is selected by the student. The Chair must be a regular or research faculty member in the Department of Epidemiology (including faculty with joint appointments in other departments) and a member of the Graduate Faculty. A student may petition for an adjunct Graduate Faculty member to chair his/her committee. There is wide leeway with regard to the second committee member.

The thesis, itself, is typically organized as a potentially publishable paper (but formatted as required by the Graduate School). The decisions about acceptable thesis organization and content reside with the student's thesis committee.

# MS Degree

## OVERVIEW

The MS program offers research training in epidemiology. The program includes course work in epidemiology and biostatistics, and a research-based master's thesis is required. The Learning Objectives are at <http://depts.washington.edu/epidem/learningobj.htm>.

This degree is appropriate for physicians or other health professionals who prefer a more focused program than the MPH to prepare for research and teaching careers. We also consider exceptional individuals with a Bachelor's degree who are interested in master's level research careers, such as research project coordinator, or who plan to apply to the PhD program in Epidemiology after completion of the MS degree.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

See [General Requirements for all Degrees](#) above.

### **Course Credit Requirements:**

Minimum of 60 total quarter credits	Minimum required course credits: 27 (excluding 1 credit courses, independent study and thesis)	Of the 27 course credits, 18 must be graded credits (Graduate School requirement)	9 Thesis credits (18 maximum)
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### **Required Courses:**

EPI 512, 513	Epidemiologic Methods I, II	8 credits
EPI 514*	Application of Epidemiologic Methods	4 credits
BIOST 511, 512, 513, or	Medical Biometry I, II, III	12 credits or
BIOST 517 - 518	Applied Biostatistics I, II	8 credits

\*EPI 510, Epidemiologic Data Analysis, substantial SAS programming or data analysis experience is a prerequisite for EPI 514.

The above core courses must be taken for a grade, which will total 20 – 24 credits, more than the Graduate School minimum of 18 graded credits.

Substitutions or waivers, based on prior course work or extensive work experience, may be made with the approval of the course instructor, the student's academic advisor and the Graduate Program Director. EPI 512 and 513 cannot be waived. In order to waive Biostatistics courses, students usually must pass an oral examination. The Graduate School allows up to 6 graduate quarter credits to be transferred to a master's at UW with approval of the Department. These credits cannot be part of a previously completed degree.

### **Students are also required to register for:**

EPI Electives	Epidemiology course electives of at least 2 credits each	2 courses
SPHCM Electives	School of Public Health electives of at least 2 credits each	2 courses
EPI 700	Master's Thesis	9 credits (18 max)

### Electives:

The two public health courses (2 or more credits each) may be from any department of the School of Public Health (including Epidemiology) or other University of Washington courses related to the biological, physical or social/behavioral factors that affect health. The 4 elective courses may NOT include courses taken for another completed degree program of another department or university.

Total required course credits: 28 - 34, depending on the courses selected. Students may also enroll in additional elective courses in Epidemiology, in other departments or for independent study (EPI 600) for a total of 60 credits. Relevant 400-level course work may count toward the total. Course work unrelated to health and at the 300-level or below will not count. To view the entire MS course plan, consult the MS Checklist at <http://depts.washington.edu/epidem/ms%20checklist.pdf>.

### MASTER'S THESIS

Once the course work is completed, the student's focus is a research project, under the guidance of a master's thesis supervisory committee. The master's thesis project may be based on research involving primary data collection, but is often a secondary analysis of data from a completed epidemiologic study (or other health dataset) to investigate a research question not yet considered in that study. The Masters Thesis Committee consists of 2 to 4 members, supervised by a Chair, and is selected by the student. The Chair must be a regular or research faculty member in the Department of Epidemiology (including faculty with joint appointments in other departments) and a member of the Graduate Faculty. A student may petition for an adjunct Graduate Faculty member to chair his/her committee. There is wide lee-way with regard to the second committee member.

The thesis, itself, is typically organized as a potentially publishable paper (but formatted as required by the Graduate School). The decisions about acceptable thesis organization and content reside with the student's thesis committee.

## PhD Degree

### OVERVIEW

The PhD program is intended to provide training in the conduct of epidemiologic studies. It differs from the MS degree program primarily in the nature and scope of the dissertation project, which in turn determines the amount of time necessary to complete the program. The Learning Objectives are at <http://depts.washington.edu/epidem/learningobj.htm>.

Candidates are considered for admission into the PhD program who have

- 1) prior graduate training to the master's (or doctoral) degree level in a health-related field from a US university,  
or
- 2) anticipated medical training within the context of a concurrent MD/PhD program at the University of

Washington.

Exceptions to the US master's requirement may be granted in very rare cases for those with substantial public health research experience, which usually should be demonstrated by at least one (preferably more) first-authored, quantitative research paper in the field of epidemiology, or a related public health discipline, published in an English language peer-reviewed journal. Meeting this requirement does not guarantee admission directly to the PhD.

Acceptance of a graduate student into a program of study leading to the doctoral degree is not implied by admission to the Graduate School, but occurs after appointment of a Doctoral Supervisory Committee and successful completion of the General Examination.

***Four to five years is usually necessary to obtain the PhD degree, depending on the data collection period and personal factors. The Graduate School requires that all work for the doctoral degree be completed within 10 calendar years of the beginning of the Master's degree if used to waive 40 of 90 required credits for the PhD.***

A series of courses is required, which must be supplemented by sufficient elective courses and independent study/research for the student to earn at least 90-quarter credits (60 credits with relevant master's degree). In addition, the student must pass the Preliminary Examination, and the written and oral General Examination, complete a research project, write an acceptable dissertation based on this research, and defend the dissertation in a public seminar before his/her Doctoral Supervisory Committee.

## **APPLICATION FROM THE MASTERS TO THE PhD PROGRAM**

Students enrolled in the MS or MPH degree program in Epidemiology at the University of Washington who wish to continue working towards the PhD in this Department should apply to the Admissions Committee during their second year (deadlines are December 15, or August 1 if the Preliminary Exam is passed at end of the second year.)

The application includes the following: 1) the departmental application form, 2) transcript of courses taken as part of the master's degree program, 3) the student's score from the Doctoral Preliminary Examination, if taken, 4) GRE scores from postdoctoral applicants, if not already supplied, and the prelim has not been taken, 5) two current letters of support from faculty and/or research supervisors including at least one from an epidemiology faculty member, 6) a summary of thesis research, 7) a letter from an Epidemiology faculty member willing to Chair the dissertation committee (optional, but strongly recommended), and 8) a goal statement to include reasons for pursuing the PhD degree in Epidemiology, and a potential dissertation topic that has received careful thought and some background research. In addition to these items, the candidate should submit his or her master's thesis title and abstract pages (if thesis is completed or near completion at the time of application).

Although the Preliminary Exam is not required for admission to the PhD program, it is recommended. Taking the Prelim at the end of the first year will give the Admissions Committee another piece of information, and will also help the student complete the PhD in a timely manner, by allowing him/her to repeat the exam at the end of the second year if he/she does not pass the first time. Although internal applicants are given special consideration for admission into the PhD program, passing the Preliminary Examination does not guarantee admission into the PhD program. A student who only has a failing Preliminary Exam grade will not be considered for the PhD.

Master's degree students admitted to the PhD program must complete all of the requirements for their master's degree prior to the PhD General Examination.

## **MD/PHD APPLICATION**

The Department of Epidemiology is pleased to consider PhD applicants interested in the concurrent MD/PhD program, which is often partially funded by the Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP) of the National Institutes of Health. The GRE is waived for MSTP applicants. We also consider medical students who are not part of the MSTP program for admission to the PhD, but they must submit GRE scores. Students spend the first two years of the concurrent program in Medicine. Usually in the second year, students apply to a specific department to earn a PhD beginning in the third year. During the third year, MSTP students continue to receive a stipend from the MSTP program, but also receive a supplement from their PhD program. From the fourth year through approximately the sixth year, MSTP students pursue the PhD. In order to participate in the PhD program in Epidemiology, MSTP students must find an advisor who can guarantee supplemental funding for their third year and complete funding, at the MSTP level, from their fourth year through completion of the PhD, which may require more than three years. Securing such a commitment could be difficult because the Epidemiology Department is dependent on NIH funding of limited duration. Epidemiology is not responsible for providing or supplementing funding for admitted MSTP applicants. It is the responsibility of the MSTP applicant to find funding for the PhD. Participants may work with the Epidemiology Program Office for assistance in contacting appropriate faculty members. MD/PhD applicants who are not part of MSTP follow the same schedule, but are not required to secure funding prior to being considered for admission. Upon completion of the PhD, students return to Medicine to begin their clinical training.

## **STEPS FOR SATISFACTORY COMPLETION**

The steps for satisfactory completion of the doctoral program are as follows, although not necessarily in this sequence:

- a. Complete the required and elective coursework,
- b. Pass the Departmental Preliminary Examination,
- c. Identify a dissertation project,
- d. Form a Doctoral Supervisory Committee,
- e. Write a brief description of the proposed project for review at a faculty meeting,
- f. Develop a detailed study proposal,
- g. Pass the General Examination,
- h. Conduct a research project,
- i. Write the dissertation,
- j. Form a Reading Committee,
- k. Present a public seminar,
- l. Pass the Final Examination (defense of thesis).

Detailed information on each step can be found in the Epidemiology Program Guidelines at <http://depts.washington.edu/epidem/guide.pdf>. Basic programmatic information is outlined below.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

See [General Requirements for all Degrees](#) above.

**Credits:** Minimum of 90 total quarter credits (60 with a relevant Masters), 18 graded graduate credits, 30 relevant course credits not including 1-credit courses, independent study, thesis or dissertation.

### Course Credit Requirements:

Minimum of 90 total quarter credits (60 with relevant Masters degree)	Total required course credits: 30 (excluding 1 credit courses)	Of the 30 required credits, 18 must be graded credits (Graduate School requirement)	27 Dissertation credits
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(If a student takes all the required core and elective courses, the total will be 34 - 45 course credits, depending on the courses selected.)

The Graduate School requires completion of 90-quarter credits at the University of Washington. With approval of the Graduate School, a recent relevant prior master's degree from another institution or department may be applied toward 30 unspecified credits provided the master's degree falls within the ten year time period allowed for completion of all work for the doctoral degree. For those with a graduate degree from another department of the University of Washington, relevant courses from that program may sometimes be used to meet the course requirements by petition if the student earned more than the number of credits required by that Master's degree. However, students (unless they hold a masters from this Department) must earn 60 total credits, 18 graded credits and 30 course credits after commencing the PhD program in Epidemiology at the University of Washington.

All credits and coursework from a master's degree in epidemiology (including an MPH in Public Health Nutrition or Public Health Genetics and an MS in Genetic Epidemiology) at the University of Washington will count towards the PhD.

Students completing a concurrent masters degree in another department at the University may be able to count up to 12 credits toward both degrees with the approval of both departments and the Graduate School.

### Required Courses:

EPI 512, 513	Epidemiologic Methods I, II	8 credits
EPI 514*	Application of Epidemiologic Methods	4 credits
BIOST 517 - 518** or	Applied Biostatistics I, II	8 credits
BIOST 511, 512, 513	Medical Biometry I, II, III	12 credits

\*EPI 510, Epidemiologic Data Analysis, substantial SAS programming or data analysis experience is a prerequisite for EPI 514.

\*\*Those with minimal statistical background may substitute BIOST 511-12-13 for BIOST 517-518. Students with a strong mathematics background (including calculus and linear algebra) may substitute the calculus-based statistics sequence BIOST 514-515 for 517-518.

BIOST/EPI 536	Categorical Data Analysis	4 credits
BIOST/EPI 537	Survival Data Analysis	4 credits

The above core courses must be taken for a grade, which will total more than the Graduate School minimum of 18 graded credits.

Substitutions or waivers, based on prior course work or extensive work experience, may be made with the approval of the course instructor, the student's academic advisor and the Graduate Program Director. EPI 512-513 and Dissertation Research Seminar cannot be waived. In order to waive Biostatistics courses, students usually must pass an oral examination. The University of Washington does not allow transfer credit at the PhD level.

EPI 590	Dissertation Research Seminar (3 quarters, 1 credit each quarter)	3 credits
EPI 800	PhD Dissertation	27 credits
EPI Elective	One infectious disease elective <sup>1</sup>	2 – 4 credits
EPI Electives	Two chronic disease or advanced methods electives <sup>2</sup>	4 – 8 credits
SPHCM Electives	Three courses in the SPHCM including EPI <sup>3</sup>	6 – 12 credits

**Electives:**

<sup>1</sup>One course (minimum 2 credits) in infectious disease epidemiology (EPI 520, 526, 529, 532, 568, Vaccines)

<sup>2</sup>Two courses (minimum 2 credits each) in epidemiologic methods or non-infectious disease epidemiology (EPI 516, 517, 519, 521, 522, 524, 528, 531, 533, 538, 539, 542, 544, 546, 548, 570, 571, 573).

<sup>3</sup>Three additional courses (minimum 2 credits each) in any department of the School of Public Health (including Epidemiology) or other University courses related to the biological, physical or social/behavioral factors which affect health. This requirement may be met by courses taken as part of a completed health-related graduate degree program at this or another university. These electives may be used to fill deficiencies in the student's biology background, to add breadth in other areas of public health or to create a minor emphasis (e.g. nutrition, genetics, cancer, etc.).

Additional courses in infectious disease or chronic disease epidemiology, as well as courses offered by other departments or schools, may be taken depending on the student's area of interest and prior academic background. After the first year, doctoral students are encouraged to continue attending the Epidemiology Seminar (EPI 583), and to attend Current Literature in Epidemiology (EPI 591). Students may also enroll in EPI 600, Independent Study and additional EPI 800, Dissertation, credits to reach the total required credits.

The student's Supervisory Committee may require additional courses to ensure that the student has adequate training in the area of epidemiology that the student is pursuing.

To view the entire PhD course plan, view the PhD checklist at <http://depts.washington.edu/epidem/phd%20checklist.pdf>.

## **DOCTORAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION**

After completion of the basic course sequences in epidemiology, doctoral degree aspirants must take and pass a Departmental Preliminary Examination. This examination is intended to test the student's ability to apply epidemiologic principles and methods which have been presented during the first year of didactic instruction.

A committee of departmental faculty members composes and scores the examination and evaluates the student's performance on it. The examination is given once a year, generally in June. It may be taken a maximum of two times. Students who fail to pass are not eligible to continue in the doctoral program. Those who pass are then eligible to take the General Examination to qualify for formal candidacy to the PhD degree.

## **DISSERTATION TOPIC**

The topic of the dissertation is chosen by the student, with advice and guidance from the faculty. Flexibility is allowed in the choice of topics as long as faculty willing to supervise the project are available. Studies of disease etiology (causes of disease) are usually conducted, but studies to evaluate preventive measures or health care programs may also be acceptable. The development of a satisfactory dissertation project is often very time consuming, and students are encouraged to begin their search for a research topic during their first year in the program. The overall goals of the dissertation project are:

- a. To assure that the student has experience in the full range of skills needed by practicing epidemiologists; and
- b. To contribute to knowledge in the field of epidemiology.

The scope of the dissertation research and the potential contribution to knowledge should be more substantial than that required for a master's thesis. Generally a satisfactory investigation for a doctoral dissertation should include the following elements:

- a. Formulation of a hypothesis or the specific aims of the project,
- b. Development of the design of the project,
- c. Planning the conduct of the project,
- d. Collection of data,
- e. Analysis of data,
- f. Interpretation of results, and
- g. Writing a report of the investigation.

The dissertation committee may approve a dissertation project without some of the above elements if the overall goals of the dissertation project (above) are met. However, in all cases the student must add new data components to a study, e.g., through subject interviews, medical record abstraction, new laboratory measures on stored specimens, or linkage of study data to other data sets. For PhD students without experience in design and implementation of primary data collection through questionnaires or abstraction of records, the Supervisory Committee should ensure that the student gains experience in these types of data collection through the dissertation or from other research or through an ancillary study to the main dissertation.

## **DOCTORAL SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE**

The student seeks faculty members willing to serve on his/her committee according to the following rules: the committee is generally composed of four or five members, including a Chair, chosen by the student who must be a regular or research faculty member of the Department of Epidemiology, and at least one additional Epidemiology faculty member. A student may petition for an adjunct Graduate Faculty member to chair his/her committee. The third member may be from outside the department or University. The committee must include

an expert in the field most relevant to the topic of the student's dissertation. The student must also choose a Graduate School Representative from another department.

## **DISSERTATION PROPOSAL**

Prior to taking the General Examination, the student must write a short dissertation proposal to be circulated to all faculty members for discussion at a faculty meeting. In addition to the brief proposal for faculty review, the student must develop a detailed dissertation proposal (covering specific aims, background, preliminary studies, methods and bibliography) according to the PHS 398 form at <http://www.grants.nih.gov/grants/forms.htm> to be given to the committee prior to the formulation of General Exam questions.

## **GENERAL EXAMINATION**

The General Examination, administered by the Doctoral Supervisory Committee, deals primarily with the general topic of the student's dissertation. It is designed to:

- a. Measure the student's ability to analyze and synthesize information;
- b. Determine whether the student has sufficient breadth of knowledge of the topic of his/her dissertation, including a clear understanding of the biology of the disease under investigation; and
- c. Evaluate whether the student has adequate knowledge of recent advances and important epidemiologic problems relevant to the student's area of interest.

The General Examination is normally taken after the dissertation proposal has been completed and before data collection for the dissertation research has begun.

The General Examination consists of two parts--written and oral. The written General Examination generally consists of 1 or 2 questions from each committee member, tailored to the student's individual dissertation topic. The oral portion includes a defense of the dissertation proposal.

## **SEMINAR/FINAL EXAM**

The doctoral candidate must present a public seminar at the UW or affiliated institution. For the final exam, the student presents his/her dissertation research and defends it by answering questions from the dissertation committee and others in attendance. The seminar may be before or concurrent with the Final Examination.

# **Relevant Graduate Certificate Programs**

(available to all UW Graduate Students)

Any student enrolled in a graduate degree program at the University of Washington who meets the prerequisites may apply for a graduate certificate program. A graduate certificate will appear on the student's transcript.

## **GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN AIDS & STDs**

The program provides training and context for the global AIDS epidemic, arguably the most pressing public health issue of our time. It aims to equip future professionals in health and social science disciplines to address the complex interplay of biomedical, social, economic, gender, political and geographic factors that impact the spread and disease course of AIDS & STD's. Controlling these epidemics will require comprehensive strategies across sectors and countries; this program will provide a framework and interdisciplinary foundation for making this possible.

In addition to providing education about the diseases themselves, students will learn about contextual issues surrounding the epidemic and individual, family, community and societal points of intervention. Various prevention and treatment approaches will be explored, with a focus on vulnerable populations (commercial sex workers, men who have sex with men, injecting drug users, adolescents, mother-to-child transmission). The program will examine these disease epidemics from both domestic and international perspectives. Students will interact with professionals currently working in the field of AIDS & STDs in clinical, research, and program management capacities.

See more information at [http://depts.washington.edu/cfas/training/grad\\_cert/](http://depts.washington.edu/cfas/training/grad_cert/)

## **GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

The next generation of environmental managers faces unprecedented challenges: accelerating advances in science and technology, businesses moving beyond compliance toward integrating the environment into the core of their strategic thinking, and growing public awareness of the role of the environment in building healthy communities and sustainable economies.

Responding to these challenges, the Environmental Management Program is based on a fundamental precept: managing the most important environmental problems and opportunities of our era requires a team of professionals from diverse fields who have the motivation, perspective, and skills to engage in creative, multidisciplinary problem solving. Graduate students from across the University learn from each other's models and perspectives and learn to appreciate the need for multidisciplinary collaboration to tackle real-world problems with profound policy, scientific, and business ramifications.

Information: <http://depts.washington.edu/poeweb/gradprograms/envmgt/>

## **GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN INTERNATIONAL HEALTH**

The program emphasizes the sociopolitical, economic, and geographic factors that, in addition to biomedical factors, have an impact on health in developing countries. This is an excellent option for students interested in international health, but who lack two-year health sciences work experience in a developing country (required for the MPH Program in International Health). It includes all the same international health coursework as the International Health MPH. Application deadline: Mid-October of each year.

Information: <http://depts.washington.edu/ihprog/admissions/cert.htm>

## **GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN INTERNATIONAL RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT**

International relief and development practitioners must have the knowledge and skills to understand and function effectively in complex situations that defy boundaries. The International Relief and Development Certificate Program provides students from diverse disciplines with an understanding of the dynamics of relief and development, and the skills necessary to work collaboratively. The program prepares graduate students for the challenges of working internationally in the aftermath of natural and man-made disasters and on poverty alleviation and long-term solutions for communities worldwide.

The program fosters a sense of collaboration across disciplines and sectors, preparing UW students for the complex and interdisciplinary challenges of relief and development work. Partnerships with international relief and development organizations are a staple of the International Relief and Development Certificate Program, including the practitioners and professionals who advise on the curriculum, visit classes as guest speakers, provide practicum opportunities, and lend their connections to network with future colleagues.

Alumni have pursued careers with diverse organizations, including PATH, USAID, Health Alliance International, Facing the Future, World Vision, International Medical Corps, The Asia Foundation, and The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Information: <http://evans.washington.edu/degree/intdev/index.php>

## **GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH**

The Graduate Certificate in Maternal & Child Health is designed to offer a coherent course of study for students interested in MCH content and tools. The coordinated sequence of courses are intended to give graduates an overview of the historical, political and legislative basis for health and social services for mothers and children in the United States, and to introduce students to the etiology and prevention of maternal mortality and major health problems, and the etiology and prevention of child mortality and morbidities associated with biomedical or psychosocial risk. Application deadline: April 15.

Information: <http://depts.washington.edu/mchprog/certificate.htm>

## **GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC HEALTH GENETICS**

The emerging field of Public Health Genetics can be defined as the application of advances in human genetics and molecular biotechnology to improve public health and prevent disease. The mission of the Institute is to provide broad, multidisciplinary training for future public health professionals, to facilitate research in public health genetics, and to serve as a resource for continuing professional education.

Information: <http://depts.washington.edu/phgen/certificateprogram/>

# **Student Resources**

**VISITING THE DEPARTMENT** (See <http://depts.washington.edu/epidem/visiting.htm> or e-mail [epi@u.washington.edu](mailto:epi@u.washington.edu) for more information.)

The Department, School of Public Health, and the Graduate Opportunity-Minority Achievement Program offer a prospective student visit day in the spring. Admitted applicants are matched with student hosts and participate in group lunches and other social functions with current students. We arrange panel discussions with faculty, staff and students focusing on issues of interest to prospective students. Students attend individual meetings with faculty members. See the above website for information on how to arrange an individual visit. In-person interviews are not required for admission.

## **DIVERSITY INFORMATION**

The University of Washington and the Department of Epidemiology have a commitment to increase the enrollment of diverse student populations.

The School of Public Health and Community Medicine has a student/faculty diversity committee to oversee diversity-related activities. The Office of Student Services (OSS) in the School can be reached at <http://sphcm.washington.edu/about/studserv.asp>, [sphoss@u.washington.edu](mailto:sphoss@u.washington.edu) or 206-685-3057. It assists students with the admissions process and provides student support services, such as counseling, tutoring, seminars and social events.

In addition to the Departmental Prospective Student Visit Day in the spring, we also promote the Graduate Opportunity-Minority Achievement Program (GO-MAP) Visit Days to admitted applicants (offered at the same time).

Besides the funding available to all students, faculty also make use of the NIH minority research funding opportunities to fund underrepresented minority students on their research grants. The Office of Student Services and the Department of Epidemiology assist minority students in locating funding.

The SPHCM OSS and the GO-MAP organize academic and social functions directed at minority students, but to which all are invited. The Department organizes seminars and conferences about research and public health involving diverse populations and promotes many events sponsored by the School and University that are of interest to students of color. In addition, the University has many student groups focusing on minority populations.

## **MENTORING**

Each student is assigned a faculty member who will serve as a temporary advisor, to assist the student in course selection and in becoming familiar with the interests and research activities of all members of the faculty so that the student can determine which faculty member is both appropriate and able to serve as thesis Chair. The Chair of the student's Master's Degree Committee or Doctoral Supervisory Committee will serve as the student's advisor once selected. Students need not locate an advisor prior to admission.

When students are having difficulty in the core classes, the Epidemiology Program Office contacts them with suggestions for improvement, arranges a personal meeting, if desired, and offers to arrange tutoring. The Department organizes multiple review sessions in the spring for the Doctoral Preliminary Examination (a prerequisite for continuation in the doctoral program) and gives students the opportunity to arrange additional review with faculty members, if desired.

## **SOCIAL EVENTS**

The School of Public Health and Community Medicine and individual Departments arranges social events and seminars, many of which are accompanied by a time for socializing and refreshments. The School organizes quarterly lunches with the Dean, a holiday reception, the spring picnic and other events for the School as a whole. The Department hosts several social functions for students and faculty during the academic year. The Student Public Health Association arranges monthly functions to bring students and faculty together around specific topics. In addition, the University has many groups which provide programming for students and/or faculty with common interests or backgrounds.

## **USEFUL WEB ADDRESSES**

**(These addresses are subject to change without notice)**

Academic Calendar: [www.washington.edu/students/reg/calendar.html](http://www.washington.edu/students/reg/calendar.html)

Administrative Offices: [www.washington.edu/students/contacts.html](http://www.washington.edu/students/contacts.html)

American Public Health Association (APHA): <http://www.apha.org/>

Bus Schedules: <http://transit.metrokc.gov/>, <http://www.communitytransit.org/>, <http://www.soundtransit.org/>

Catalog: <http://www.washington.edu/students/genocat/>

Cancer Care Alliance Shuttle (Children's Hospital):

<http://www.fhcr.org/intranet/facilities/transportation/shuttles/schedules/scca.html>

Childcare: <http://depts.washington.edu/ovpsa/childcare/>

Community of Science (funding database and researcher profiles): <http://www.cos.com/>

Counseling Center: <http://depts.washington.edu/scc>

Course Catalog: [www.washington.edu/students/crscat/](http://www.washington.edu/students/crscat/)

Diversity Information: [http://depts.washington.edu/epidem/diversity\\_statement.htm](http://depts.washington.edu/epidem/diversity_statement.htm)

<http://sphcm.washington.edu/about/studserv.asp>, <http://www.grad.washington.edu/gomap>

Epidemiology: <http://depts.washington.edu/epidem/>

Epidemiology Admissions: <http://depts.washington.edu/epidem/adm.htm>

Epidemiology Directions: <http://depts.washington.edu/epidem/EpiDirect.pdf>

Epidemiology Fellowships: <http://depts.washington.edu/epidem/fellowsh.htm>

Epidemiology Funding Information: <http://depts.washington.edu/epidem/fundinfo.htm>

Epidemiology Program Guidelines: <http://depts.washington.edu/epidem/guide.pdf>

Faculty/Staff Directory: [www.washington.edu/home/directories.html](http://www.washington.edu/home/directories.html)

Faculty/Staff Partial Tuition Exemption: [http://www.washington.edu/students/reg/tuition\\_exempt.html](http://www.washington.edu/students/reg/tuition_exempt.html)

Fellowship and Assistantships: [http://www.grad.washington.edu/fellow/fellow\\_area.htm](http://www.grad.washington.edu/fellow/fellow_area.htm),  
[www.lib.washington.edu/gfis/](http://www.lib.washington.edu/gfis/)

Financial Aid Office: [www.washington.edu/students/osfa/](http://www.washington.edu/students/osfa/)

Foundation for International Understanding Through Students (FIUTS): <http://www.fiuts.washington.edu/>

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center (FHCRC) Directions/Shuttle: <http://www.fhcr.org/about/maps/>

FHCRC Directory: <http://www.fhcr.org/directory.html>

FHCRC Investigators: <http://www.fhcr.org/science/investigators.html>

Graduate Admissions: <http://www.grad.washington.edu/admissions/>

Graduate Fellowship Calendar: [www.grad.washington.edu/fellow/FellCalendar.htm](http://www.grad.washington.edu/fellow/FellCalendar.htm)

Graduate School: <http://www.grad.washington.edu/>

Grants & Funding Information Service: [www.lib.washington.edu/gfis/](http://www.lib.washington.edu/gfis/), <http://healthlinks.washington.edu/rfs/>

Guide for Graduate Students to UW and Seattle: <http://depts.washington.edu/gpss/oldSite/guide/index.html>

Health Sciences Library: <http://healthlinks.washington.edu/hsl/>

Health Sciences Express (Harborview Medical Center, Roosevelt Clinic):

<http://www.washington.edu/admin/hsexpress/>

Health Sciences Funding Information Services: <http://www.lib.washington.edu/gfis/>

Housing: <http://hfs.washington.edu/>

Instructor Course Descriptions (available for some classes):

[www.washington.edu/students/icd/](http://www.washington.edu/students/icd/)

Insurance (Faculty/Staff including Postdoc Fellows paid thru UW): <http://www.washington.edu/admin/benefits/>

Insurance (Graduate Appointee for RA/TAs and Predoc Fellows):

<http://www.washington.edu/admin/hr/benefits/gaip/>

Insurance (Student): <http://depts.washington.edu/ovpsa/insurance.html>

Insurers (private): <http://www.ahirc.org/>, <http://www.insurance.wa.gov/consumers/health/healthinsurance.asp>

International Services: <http://depts.washington.edu/uwiso/>, [www.fiuts.washington.edu](http://www.fiuts.washington.edu)

Maps and Directions: [depts.washington.edu/epidem/visiting.htm](http://depts.washington.edu/epidem/visiting.htm)

MPH Checklist: [http://depts.washington.edu/epidem/mph\\_checklist%20wrld.pdf](http://depts.washington.edu/epidem/mph_checklist%20wrld.pdf)

MPH Practicum: <http://depts.washington.edu/mphpract/overview.html>

MS Checklist: <http://depts.washington.edu/epidem/ms%20checklist.pdf>

Off-Campus Housing: <http://depts.washington.edu/asuwsha>, <http://classifieds.nwsources.com/classified/>

Orientation Guide: <http://depts.washington.edu/epidem/Orientationguide.htm>

Parking: [www.washington.edu/admin/parking/index.html](http://www.washington.edu/admin/parking/index.html)

PhD Checklist: <http://depts.washington.edu/epidem/phd%20checklist.pdf>

Recreational Sports: <http://depts.washington.edu/ima/>

Registrar's Office: <http://depts.washington.edu/registra/offices.html>

School of Public Health: <http://sphcm.washington.edu/>

Schools (Seattle-Public): <http://www.seattleschools.org/area/main/index.dxml>

South Lake Union Shuttle (not FHCRC): <http://www.washington.edu/admin/shuttles>

SPHCM Student Services Office: <http://sphcm.washington.edu/about/studserv.asp>

Seattle and Regional Information: <http://www.pan.ci.seattle.wa.us/html/visitor/tourism.htm>

Society for Epidemiology Research: [www.epiresearch.org/memberinfo.html](http://www.epiresearch.org/memberinfo.html)

State Residency: <http://www.washington.edu/students/reg/residency.html>

Student Activities Office: <http://depts.washington.edu/sao>

Student Directory: [www.washington.edu/students/studentdir.html](http://www.washington.edu/students/studentdir.html)

Student Guide: [www.washington.edu/students/](http://www.washington.edu/students/) (Time Schedule, registration deadlines, etc.)

Student Rights and Responsibilities: [http://depts.washington.edu/epidem/student\\_rights.doc](http://depts.washington.edu/epidem/student_rights.doc)

Teaching Assistant Training: <http://depts.washington.edu/cidrweb/TAHandbook/index.html>

Time Schedule: [www.washington.edu/students/timesched/](http://www.washington.edu/students/timesched/)

Tuition: [www.washington.edu/students/sfs/sao/tuition/index.html](http://www.washington.edu/students/sfs/sao/tuition/index.html)

University Bookstore: <http://www.bookstore.washington.edu/>

Visiting Epidemiology: <http://depts.washington.edu/epidem/visiting.htm>

Washington State Public Health Association: <http://www.wspha.org/>

Writing Center: <http://depts.washington.edu/wcenter/base.html>

UAW Union (RAs/TAs/SAs): <http://www.washington.edu/admin/hr/laborrel/contracts/uaw/addons/>

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**Access Statement:** The Department of Epidemiology is committed to providing access, equal opportunity and reasonable accommodation in its services, programs, activities, education and employment for individuals with disabilities. To request disability accommodation contact the Department at [epi@u.washington.edu](mailto:epi@u.washington.edu) or 206-685-1762, or the Disability Services Office at least ten days in advance at: 206-543-6450/V, 206-543-6452/TTY, 206-685-7264 (FAX), or [dso@u.washington.edu](mailto:dso@u.washington.edu).

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