

**Ph.D. Program in Public Health Sciences  
With Specialty in Biostatistics  
AY 2010-2011  
University of Illinois at Chicago, School of Public Health**

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**Minimum credit hour requirement: 96 semester hours**

**Admission Criteria:** An M.S. in biostatistics or statistics. Admitted only in the Fall semester.

**Required semester hours for program completion:** 96 semester hours (48 sh must be taken at UIC), consisting of:

- 32 sh of coursework (can include up to 7 sh in a collateral area)
- 32 sh of dissertation research
- 32 sh of credit transferable from an earned MS in biostatistics or statistics.

<b>1.</b>	<b>Course Work</b>	<b>32 sh</b>
	<u>Requirements</u>	<u>Subtotal: 13 sh</u>
	Offered every fall semester:	
	BSTT560 Large Sample Theory	2 sh
	EPID403 Intro. to Epid. Principles and Methods	3 sh
	Offered alternate fall semesters:	
	BSTT561 Advanced Statistical Inference (odd numbered yrs)	3 sh
	BSTT562 Linear Models (even numbered yrs)	4 sh
	Register at least one semester during program (offered every fall and spring):	
	BSTT595 Seminar	1 sh
	<u>Electives</u>	<u>Subtotal: 19 sh</u>
	Choose <i>at least three</i> of the following (offered alternate years)	12 sh
	BSTT563 Generalized Linear Models (spring, even #d yrs)	- 4 sh
	BSTT564 Missing Data (spring, even #d yrs)	- 4 sh
	BSTT565 Computational Statistics (fall, even #d yrs.)	- 4 sh
	BSTT566 Bayesian Methods (fall, odd #d yrs)	- 4 sh
	BSTT567 Advanced Survival Analysis (spring, odd #d yrs)	- 4 sh
	Additional electives	7 sh
	(May include courses from above list; courses from a collateral area; additional semesters of BSTT595. May not include BSTT400, BSTT401, BSTT410, BSTT505, BSTT523, BSTT524, or BSTT525)	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Doctoral Preliminary Examination</b>	
	- Offered every year in September.	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Dissertation (IPHS 599)</b>	<b>(minimum) 32 sh</b>
	- Includes Dissertation Research, Proposal Approval, and Defense	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Transferred MS credit</b>	<b>32 sh</b>
	- For earned Masters degrees in biostatistics or statistics.	
	<b>PROGRAM TOTAL</b>	<b>96 sh</b>

## Other Important Program Information – PhD in Biostatistics

\*\* See the SPH Online Student Handbook for complete details on all program requirements.

### Program Completion Requirements

Students with a prior MS have 7 calendar years to complete the PhD program. Students without a prior MS have 9 calendar years to complete the program. Students with a relevant prior MS will transfer 32sh of course credit towards the PhD. This must be documented and approved on the initial Program Proposal.

### Performance Standards

Biostatistics majors are allowed only one grade of C in required courses. A student who receives two Cs in required courses will not be allowed to graduate from the program. A student may re-take a course one time and attempt to replace the C with a higher grade.

### Program Proposal

Students are required to complete and submit a program proposal during their second semester in the PhD program. This document outlines the student's plan for coursework and research. The program proposal requires the approval of the student's academic advisor, the divisional academic coordinator, and the division director.

### PhD Preliminary Examination

Students should review the SPH Student Handbook for guidelines on the procedures and regulations surrounding the preliminary exam.

This examination is conducted in two parts: written and oral. The exam is not final until both parts are completed at which point the student will be given a: 1) Pass, 2) Conditional Pass or 3) Failure status. With the assistance of the advisor, the student should select appropriate faculty for his or her preliminary examination committee. The committee must be comprised of five members at a minimum, having at least two faculty members with tenured status. The committee will administer the full preliminary examination, the details of which are as follows:

- I. The written exam includes both in-class and take-home portions. The in-class portion is scheduled for 4 hours, while students have 1 week to complete the take-home portion. Material for the exam is based primarily on the 500-level biostatistics courses as well as the required statistics courses.
- II. The oral examination follows the written examination (within one month) and may re-examine students based on the answers to the written portion or include additional material based on required coursework.

### Guidelines for PhD Dissertation Research in Biostatistics

The PhD dissertation in Biostatistics at UIC SPH represents the culmination of a student's doctoral training. The thesis or dissertation process is composed of two distinct components: a) the development of the dissertation proposal in conjunction with a dissertation advisor and committee, and b) conduct of the dissertation research and the writing of the dissertation. The dissertation proposal is developed under the guidance of the student's dissertation advisor. Past experience indicates that a close working relationship between the student and advisor greatly facilitates the proposal writing process. The dissertation proposal should be developed as soon as possible after the student passes his or her doctoral preliminary examination. With the assistance of the advisor, the student should select appropriate faculty for his or her dissertation committee. The committee must be comprised of five members at a minimum, having at least two faculty members with tenured status, and one member outside of UIC. The dissertation committee will meet with the student to approve the dissertation proposal, and to determine that the student is adequately prepared to undertake it. If human subjects are involved, the student must undergo Institutional Review Board (IRB) training and review *prior to conducting research*.

The thesis committee will re-convene at the completion of dissertation research to participate in the dissertation defense. After the student successfully defends, he or she will submit a paper copy of the dissertation to the SPH Director of Student Affairs, for approval of the thesis format. **Prior to the defense, the student should obtain and read carefully the Graduate College Thesis Manual for rules and regulations regarding the writing and submission of a doctoral dissertation.**

Note: the written and defended thesis is required for submission mid-semester. Students are advised to plan their program completion and graduation accordingly.

### Instructional Experience

Each PhD student is required to obtain experience in classroom teaching.

- Planning, leading, and evaluating a minimum of two classroom sessions.
- All instructional efforts should be supervised and evaluated by appropriate faculty. Documentation should accompany this evaluation to clearly rate student efforts, using the "Session Evaluation Questionnaire" (SEQ).
- The date and description of the student's teaching experience should be recorded on the student's PhD program proposal.
- Students with relevant prior teaching experience may petition to waive this requirement.

**For further information, contact Dr. Sally Freels, Section Coordinator, at (312) 996-4763 or [sallyf@uic.edu](mailto:sallyf@uic.edu).**