

**Doctor of Philosophy Program in Public Health Sciences
With Specialty in Cancer Epidemiology
AY 2008-2009
UIC School of Public Health**

Minimum credit hour requirement: 99 semester hours

1. Required Courses

1.1 Schoolwide Requirements

EPID	403	Introduction to Epidemiology: Principles & Methods	3 sh
BSTT	400	Biostatistics I	4 sh
BSTT	401	Biostatistics II	<u>4 sh</u>
Total			11 sh

1.2 Program Area Requirements

EPID	406	Epidemiologic Computing	3 sh
EPID	404	Intermediate Epidemiologic Methods	4 sh
EPID	410	Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases	2 sh
EPID	411	Epidemiology of Chronic Disease	3 sh
EPID	501	Advanced Quantitative Methods in Epidemiology	4 sh
EPID	591	Current Epidemiologic Literature	2 sh
EPID	595	Research Seminar	1 sh
BSTT	505	Logistic Regression and Survival Analysis	<u>2 sh</u>
Total			21 sh

1.3 Cancer Epidemiology Requirements

	CHSC 514 or HN 594	National Epidemiology	3 sh
EPID	515	Survey of Cancer Epidemiology	3 sh
EPID	516	Advanced Cancer Epidemiology	2 sh
EPID	520	Genetics in Epidemiology	2 sh
EPID	554	Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology	2 sh
EPID	594	Special Topics: Social Epidemiology	3 sh
EPID	594	Special Topics: Surveillance Epidemiology	<u>3 sh</u>
			18 sh

2. Electives

16 sh

- At least one biological science class relevant to student's research area is required if no prior biological sciences background. 4 sh
- Remaining electives 12 sh

3. Dissertation Research

32 sh (min.)

- Research in the Public Health Sciences – PhD (IPHS 599)
- Involves Preliminary Examination, Dissertation Proposal Approval, and Dissertation Defense

4. Additional Schoolwide Requirements

Investigator 101 - What Researchers Need to Know Before Research Can Start
HIPAA Research 101

5. Preliminary Examination Preparation

Three 500-level substantive area courses (Cancer Epidemiology (EPID 515), Advanced Cancer Epidemiology (EPID 516) and Genetics Epidemiology (EPID 520)) will prepare Cancer Epidemiology students for the substantive sections of the preliminary examination.

Instructional Experience

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

- Planning, leading, and evaluating a minimum of two classroom sessions (Serving as a TA in EPID 400/403 will fulfill this requirement).
- All instructional efforts should be supervised and evaluated by appropriate faculty. Documentation should accompany this evaluation to clearly rate students 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.

Other Important Program Information

** 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 may transfer up to 32sh of course credit towards the PhD.

Performance Standards

In addition to school-wide standards, for students majoring in epidemiology no grade below "B" is acceptable in any Epidemiology or Biostatistics course. If a grade below "B" is achieved in such a course, it may be repeated once. Failure to maintain this standard will be grounds for dismissal from the Epidemiology Program.

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

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 four areas: core and intermediate methods, advanced methods and two substantive areas. Students can select any two substantive areas in which they have completed a 500 level class. There are three 3-hour in-class examination sessions and a take-home component. The in-class sections focus on core and intermediate methods and substantive areas, and the take-home focuses on advanced methods. A student's collateral area will not be addressed in the written component. The results of the written examination may be discussed generally with each student prior to the oral, but response to specific questions will not be discussed.
- II. The oral examination follows the written examination (within one month) and may reexamine students based on the answers to the written portion or include additional material based on required coursework.

PhD Dissertation Research in Epidemiology (IPHS 599)

The PhD dissertation in Epidemiology 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*.

A typical epidemiologic dissertation proposal will involve investigating the risk factors for a particular disease using a cohort, case-control or cross-sectional research design. Emphasis is placed on primary data collection though in some instances secondary analysis of already collected data may be permitted. In this situation, extensive manipulation of data must be involved to address a specific hypothesis with several components. The dissertation research must be creative and original and add significant new knowledge to the field of epidemiology. It is expected that the thesis results will be suitable for publication in a peer-reviewed scientific journal.

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.

Suggested Program Schedule – PhD in Epidemiology
UIC School of Public Health
Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics
AY 2008-2009

YEAR	FALL				SPRING				SUMMER							
Year 1	BSTT	400	Biostatistics I	4 sh	BSTT	401	Biostatistics II	4 sh	EPID	591	Current Epidemiologic Literature	2 sh	EPID	591	Current Epidemiologic Literature	2 sh
	EPID	403	Introduction to Epidemiology: Principles & Methods	3 sh	EPID	404	Intermediate Epidemiologic Methods	4 sh	CHSC	411	Nutritional Epidemiology	3 sh				
	EPID	406	Epidemiologic Computing	3 sh	EPID	410	Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases	2 sh								
	CHSC	401	Behavioral Sciences in PH	3 sh	EPID	411	Epidemiology of Chronic Diseases	3 sh								
	Total			13 sh	EPID	595	Research Seminar	1 sh								
					Total			14 sh	Total							5 sh
Year 2	EPID	515	Survey of Cancer Epid	3 sh	EPID	501	Advanced Quantitative Methods In Epidemiology	3 sh	Electives							4 sh
	EPID	520	Genetics Epidemiology	2 sh	EPID	516	Advanced Cancer Epi	2 sh								
			Biological Science Requirement	4 sh	EPID	554	Occupational & Env Epi	2 sh								
	BSTT	505	Logistics Regression & Survival Analysis	2 sh	EPID	594	Social Epidemiology	3 sh								
	EPID	595	Research Seminar	1 sh	EPID	594	Surveillance Epidemiology	3 sh								
	Total			12 sh	Total			13 sh	Total							4 sh
Year 3	IPHS	599	Research	8 sh	Preliminary Examination				IPHS	599	Research	6 sh	IPHS	599	Research	6 sh
			Prep for Doctoral Preliminary Exam		IPHS	599	PhD Research	6 sh			Dissertation Proposal					
			Electives	4 sh	EPID	595	Research Seminar	1 sh			*RECOMMENDED: Online IRB training					
			Teaching Requirement													
	Total			12 sh	Total			7 sh	Total							6 sh
Year 4	IPHS	599	PhD Research	12 sh	IPHS	599	PhD Research	0 sh	IPHS	599	PhD Research	0 sh	IPHS	599	PhD Research	0 sh
			* Dissertation Defense (minimum 98 sh option)													
Year 5	IPHS	599	PhD Research	0 sh	IPHS	599	PhD Research	0 sh	IPHS	599	PhD Research	0 sh	IPHS	599	PhD Research	0 sh
																* Dissertation Defense (continuing research under zero credit hour guidelines)

* Students who continue dissertation research beyond the minimum required 98 sh may choose to register for zero semester hours under specific guidelines. See the Graduate College Graduate Catalog and the School of Public Health Handbook for important details. Students may also register for elective and research credit beyond the 99 sh minimum if they so choose.