

The University of Oklahoma
College of Public Health
Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology



Doctor of Philosophy
Epidemiology

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) is an advanced, research-oriented Graduate Program which requires in-depth study of and research in Epidemiology

1. Prerequisites

Students applying to the PhD in epidemiology must have completed a master's degree program (MPH or MS) in epidemiology or equivalent. Applications of Microcomputers to Data Analysis (BSE 5013) or equivalent, Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases (BSE 5303) or equivalent, and Epidemiology and Prevention of Chronic Diseases (BSE 5363) or equivalent. With approval of the department and the graduate dean, up to 40 credit hours from the master's program may be counted toward the PhD.

2. Required Courses

22 credit hours

Departmental Epidemiology Courses 12 credit hours
BSE 6192 Grant Writing
BSE 6194 Advanced Epidemiologic Methods (if not taken for MPH)
BSE 5343 Methods in Infectious Disease Epidemiology
BSE 6323 Molecular and Genetic Epidemiology

Note: Students who have already taken any of these may substitute another epidemiology course with the approval of their advisory committee.

Students who previously have not completed the MPH core courses or earned a MPH degree will complete the overview course in the first academic year of enrollment:

- BSE 5960 Overview of Public Health (3 credit hours)

Departmental Biostatistics Courses 9 credit hours
Any three of the following:
BSE 5173 Biostatistics Methods II
BSE 5663 Analysis of Frequency Data
BSE 6643 Survival Data Analysis
BSE 6663 Multivariate Biostatistics
BSE 6563 Longitudinal Data Analysis

Note: students who have already taken more than two (2) of these course may substitute other Biostatistics courses with the approval of their advisory committee.

Graduate College Requirement:

BSE 5111 Scientific Integrity in Research 1 credit hour

3. Elective Courses

6 credit hours

Students must select at least six credit hours of elective courses in Epidemiology, in addition to those listed above. These must be approved by the student's advisory committee.

Courses: BSE 5980, 6950, or 6980 may not be used to satisfy this requirement.

4. Dissertation

The student must enroll for at least 22 credit hours in Research for Doctoral Dissertation (BSE 6980). Up to 25 total credit hours in BSE 6980 may be counted toward the degree.

5. Additional requirements and Expectations of Doctoral Students:

- a. Students are required, prior to initiation of doctoral research, to complete training in Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) and Protection of Human Research Subjects. The training includes completion of two sections of the CITI course (Protection of Human Research Subjects and Responsible Conduct of Research), attendance at the OUHSC IRB In-House Education Program, and successful completion of a one credit course in RCR approved by the Department.
- b. Students are required to attend the departmental and college seminars during the spring and fall semesters.
- c. Students may be enrolled part-time (minimum six credit hours in spring and fall semesters) while completing their coursework requirements but are expected to enroll full-time once the dissertation research begins.
- d. Students are required to achieve a working knowledge of methods, programming, and applications of computers as used in epidemiology prior to admission. This knowledge may be acquired by formal class work or by experience acquired either before entering the program. Completing BSE 5013 (or equivalent) with a passing grade will satisfy this requirement.
- e. Students are required to achieve a basic knowledge of the biomedical sciences as they relate to human health and disease. This requirement may be satisfied in one or more areas. Any coursework needed to satisfy this requirement may be taken at this or another institution, either before or after entering the program.
- f. Tools of research are required. The purpose of the research tool is to increase research proficiency by developing competency in those skills deemed necessary for successful research performance. Such skills might include the ability to employ techniques of gathering, analyzing and/or presenting research data or reading, writing, or speaking one or more foreign languages in which there occurs significant technical publications in the student's area of research.
- g. Students must pass a general written and oral examination. Students must complete the defense of the dissertation within five years of the end of the semester within which the general examination was successfully completed. If the time expires before the dissertation is complete, the coursework must be revalidated by retaking and passing the general examination.

h. Regardless of whether or not the doctoral dissertation is based on original data or secondary data analysis, doctoral students should have a range of experiences in primary data collection. These experiences may be gained either prior to or during the doctoral training program. Students must have experience in a least five of the processes, with at least one from each tier. The exact experiences and potential opportunities for primary data collection will be agreed upon by the student and their advisory committee as part of their program plan.

- Experiences Involving Contacts with Research Participants
- Experiences Involving Data Collection
- Experiences Involving Instrument Development

Doctoral Student Teaching Requirements

Students are required to spend at least 40 hours participating in teaching activities in total.

This degree program is subject to the policies and procedures printed in the University of Oklahoma College of Public Health Bulletin.

9/13/2016