

# EPIDEMIOLOGY, PHD

The PhD degree program prepares students for careers in epidemiologic research and teaching, usually in an academic setting. The PhD graduate is expected to have knowledge across a wide range of epidemiologic theory and methods as well as sustained experience in the conduct of research in one or more content areas. The PhD program has a strong theoretical base and is focused on research. The PhD is the terminal degree in Epidemiology.

## Program Competencies

1. Critique the scientific literature to assess the current state of knowledge and identify research questions for future investigation.
2. Construct an epidemiologic study to advance the field of epidemiology and public health.
3. Formulate an epidemiologic analysis plan using advanced methods to answer research questions.
4. Design teaching and learning experiences grounded in pedagogical best practices in a chosen area of expertise.
5. Develop a grant proposal for a public health research study with a compelling scientific narrative, description of investigator capacity, timeline, and budget.

## Requirements

Course ID	Title	Credits
<b>PhD Foundational Courses</b>		
SPHL 6020	Foundations in Public Health (or equivalent)	3
BIOS 6040	Intermediate Biostatistics (or equivalent)	3
EPID 7120	Epidemiologic Methods II (or equivalent)	3
EPID 7130	Observational Epidemiology	3
EPID 7160	Survey Methodology	3
<b>PhD Core Courses</b>		
BIOS 7060	Regression Analysis	3
EPID 8300	Advanced Epidemiologic Methods	3
SPHL 8080	Public Health Pedagogy	3
SPHL 8400	Public Health Grant Writing	3
EPID 7000	Departmental Seminar	0
EPID 8000	Doctoral Journal Club	0
EPID 7170	Clinical Trials: Design, Conduct & Interpretation	3
EPID 7220	Analytic Epidemiology	3
BIOS 7150	Categorical Data Analysis	3
BIOS 7300	Survival Data Analysis	3
BIOS 8350	Clustered and Longitudinal Data Analysis	3
Electives		6
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>		<b>48</b>

## Minimum Prerequisite Grade Requirements for Advanced Epidemiology Courses

Some advanced epidemiology courses have specific **prerequisite grade requirements**. Students must earn a **minimum grade of B- or B** in prerequisite courses to be eligible to enroll in subsequent coursework. Meeting the general academic standing requirements does not override prerequisite grade requirements for individual courses. Please refer to the Epidemiology Handbook or discuss with your faculty advisor, program manager, or student success advisor.

## Elective Courses

Selected from courses offered within the department, school, or university in consultation with a faculty advisor.

## Research Ethics

Students are required to take online research ethics training via CITI or another equivalent training program in research ethics. This certification must remain current throughout the program duration.

## Teaching Assistantship Requirement

All PhD students at SPHLM are required to serve as a teaching assistant (TA) for two SPHLM courses while enrolled in the PhD program. Students should register for SPHL 8070 Teaching Assistantship Educational Experience (0 credits) during the terms they complete each TA requirement.

## Comprehensive Exam

Students are required to pass a written comprehensive examination demonstrating general knowledge of epidemiologic and biostatistical methods and knowledge of the epidemiology in at least one content area. The exam will include sections on higher level epidemiologic methods, a content area and study design.

## Prospectus

Students must prepare and defend a prospectus of proposed research.

## Dissertation

Students must conduct original research and defend a dissertation based on that research.

## Model Schedule

This is an example schedule for students that have already completed the foundational courses.

Year 1		Credit Hours
<b>Fall</b>		
BIOS 7150	Categorical Data Analysis	3
SPHL 8080	Public Health Pedagogy	3
Elective		3
EPID 7000	Departmental Seminar	0
EPID 8000	Doctoral Journal Club	0
<b>Credit Hours</b>		<b>9</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
EPID 7170	Clinical Trials: Design, Conduct & Interpretation	3
BIOS 7060	Regression Analysis	3
EPID 7220	Analytic Epidemiology	3
EPID 7000	Departmental Seminar	0
EPID 8000	Doctoral Journal Club	0
<b>Credit Hours</b>		<b>9</b>
<b>Year 2</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
BIOS 7300	Survival Data Analysis	3
SPHL 7500	Public Health Grant Writing	3
EPID 7000	Departmental Seminar	0
EPID 8000	Doctoral Journal Club	0
<b>Credit Hours</b>		<b>6</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
BIOS 8350	Clustered and Longitudinal Data Analysis	3
EPID 8300	Advanced Epidemiologic Methods	3
EPID 7000	Departmental Seminar	0
EPID 8000	Doctoral Journal Club	0
<b>Credit Hours</b>		<b>6</b>
<b>Year 3</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
SPHL 9970	Dissertation Research	0
SPHL 9990	Dissertation	0
<b>Credit Hours</b>		<b>0</b>
<b>Spring</b>		
SPHL 9970	Dissertation Research	0

SPHL 9990	Dissertation	0
<b>Credit Hours</b>		<b>0</b>
<b>Year 4</b>		
<b>Fall</b>		
SPHL 9970	Dissertation Research	0
SPHL 9990	Dissertation	0
<b>Credit Hours</b>		<b>0</b>
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>		<b>30</b>

**Program String and Field of Study:** PHPHD\_GR, EPI

## Contact

To learn more about the department, visit <https://sph.tulane.edu/epid/home> (<https://sph.tulane.edu/epid/home/>).