TROPICAL MEDICINE, PHD

The PhD program in Tropical Medicine is an advanced degree that prepares students to pursue careers in tropical medicine. The PhD graduate is expected to have knowledge across a wide range of tropical diseases as well as sustained experience in the conduct of research in one or more content areas. Graduates of the PhD program pursue careers in basic and applied research in academic institutions, governmental agencies, industry and nonprofit organizations.

Program Competencies (https://sph.tulane.edu/trmd/phd/)
- Demonstrate proficiency in an core area of expertise/research specialization
- Demonstrate proficiency in the design and conduct of studies and protocol development
- Analyze collected data using appropriate techniques
- Synthesize results and knowledge to address unanswered questions to public health problems
- Communicate original research methods and results to peer groups, students, practitioners/industry, and the general public

Requirements

The PhD program requires a minimum of 72 post baccalaureate degree credits, with at least 30 credits of advanced courses work taken at SPHTM. Up to 42 credits may be applied from a MPH or other master's degree. The master's courses are reviewed and only courses fulfilling the required competencies may be applied toward the 72 credits for the PhD. Prerequisite or equivalent courses will not count in the 30 credits of advanced study, but may count toward the total 72 credits. The advisor works with the students in identifying the course of study in the doctoral program.

Prerequisite Coursework from prior master's degree

Students without a foundation in public health and tropical medicine should take the following courses in advance of any other required coursework. Prerequisite Public Health courses (SPHL) will not count in the 30 credits of advanced doctoral study but may count toward the total 72 credits required for the PhD.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course ID</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPHL 6020</td>
<td>Foundations in Public Health</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPHL 6050</td>
<td>Biostatistics for Public Health</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPHL 6060</td>
<td>Epidemiology for Public Health</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>TRMD 6050</td>
<td>Medical Helminthology</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>TRMD 6060</td>
<td>Medical Entomology</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>TRMD 6070</td>
<td>Medical Protozoology</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>TRMD 6200</td>
<td>Impact Evaluation in GH</td>
<td>3</td>
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Advanced Doctoral Study

Methods
- BIOS 6040 Intermediate Biostatistics 3
- EPID 7120 Epidemiologic Methods II 3

Advanced Topics in Tropical Medicine
- TRMD 7020 Infectious Disease Seminar (taken twice) 1
- TRMD 7180 or TRMD 7800 Immunoparasitology (OR) 2
- Adv Medical Entomology
- TRMD 7820 or TRMD 7420 Malaria (OR) 2
- Pop Bsed Malaria Prev and Ctrl
- TRMD 8100 Laboratory Rotation 2

Electives 17

Laboratory Research Rotations - Doctoral students are required to enroll in TRMD 8100–Laboratory Rotation at least once and up to three times with different faculty to obtain research experience and training in different specialized areas. The rotations will acquaint the student with the different research programs available in the department and assist the student in choosing a permanent dissertation advisor. The student may also register for (TRMD 8990) Doctoral Independent Study in conjunction with a laboratory rotation.
TRMD 9990 – Dissertation Research - Doctoral students who have completed required doctoral course work but not defended their prospectus are required to register for (TRMD 9990) Dissertation Research to maintain continuous registration in the PhD program. Credits earned in TRMD 9990 (2 credit hours) do not count toward the 30 required credits for the PhD.

TRMD 9970 – Dissertation -Doctoral candidates who have defended their prospectus and are engaged in research are required to register for (TRMD 9970) Dissertation until the degree is awarded.

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.

Comprehensive Exam
Students are required to pass a written comprehensive examination that demonstrates general knowledge of Tropical Medicine and research applications. The department administers a written comprehensive examination upon completion of the required coursework. Candidates must successfully complete the comprehensive exam requirement to move on to dissertation research.

Doctoral Committee
(See PhD Handbook (https://sph.tulane.edu/doctoral-students/))

After successful completion of the comprehensive examination, the student forms a dissertation committee and develops a prospectus. The committee must include a minimum of three members with at least two faculty from the Department of Tropical Medicine and one external to the school.

Prospectus
(See PhD Handbook (https://sph.tulane.edu/doctoral-students/))

Students work with their advisor and doctoral committee to determine a research hypothesis and prepare a prospectus of proposed dissertation research. The research prospectus is presented and defended at least one semester before the dissertation defense. Following the successful defense of the prospectus, students are admitted to PhD candidacy and proceed with dissertation research.

Dissertation
(See PhD Handbook (https://sph.tulane.edu/doctoral-students/))

Students must conduct original research and defend a dissertation based on that research. The dissertation research demonstrates scholarly work and is the basis for the dissertation. The student defends the dissertation to their committee; the dissertation committee and SPHTM Executive Faculty approve the dissertation.