POPULATION HEALTH: EPIDEMIOLOGY, PH.D.

This is a named option within the Population Health Ph.D. (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/population-health-sciences/population-health-phd/#text)

ADMISSIONS

GRADUATE SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

Graduate admissions is a two-step process between academic degree programs and the Graduate School. Applicants must meet requirements of both the program(s) and the Graduate School. Once you have researched the graduate program(s) you are interested in, apply online (https://grad.wisc.edu/admissions).

Requirements | Detail
--- | ---
Fall Deadline | January 15
Spring Deadline | This program does not admit in the spring.
Summer Deadline | This program does not admit in the summer.
GRE (Graduate Record Examinations) | Required.*
English Proficiency Test | Every applicant whose native language is not English or whose undergraduate instruction was not in English must provide an English proficiency test score and meet the Graduate School minimum requirements (https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/#english-proficiency).
Other Test(s) (e.g., GMAT, MCAT) | n/a
Letters of Recommendation | 3

* For applicants who have completed a doctoral degree, GRE scores are preferred, but we will accept scores from the entrance exam required for the doctoral degree (e.g., MCAT, LSAT).

Applications are welcome from students with diverse academic backgrounds. Students with strong academic preparation in the biological/medical sciences, quantitative analysis, and/or population health related social sciences are strongly encouraged to apply. Historically, many applicants who have succeeded in our program have come to the program with backgrounds in fields as diverse as microbiology, genetics, nutritional sciences, medicine, nursing, pharmacy, veterinary medicine, environmental sciences, political sciences, business, sociology, education, engineering, psychology, and economics.

New students are admitted to start in the fall semester of each school year. Applications are due by January 15 of each year. Late applications are not accepted.

Minimum requirements are:

1. Applicants must fulfill all Graduate School requirements.
2. Applicants must have an undergraduate degree with a grade point average of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale). Successful applicants generally have GPAs well above 3.0.
3. GRE scores no more than five years old are required for admission. Applicants with professional degrees may substitute their scores for the entrance exam that was required for the degree (e.g., MCAT, LSAT), if taken within the last 5 years. For more information on the GRE, see this link (http://www.ets.org/gre).
4. Applicants whose native language and language of study is not English must submit official TOEFL scores. Scores must be no more than five years old at the start of the semester for which an applicant is applying. Further details are available on the Graduate School website (http://grad.wisc.edu/admissions/requirements). Note that the minimum test scores for the program are higher than those required by the Graduate School. Students can submit scores for the TOEFL or the IELTS exam. For the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL (http://www.toefl.org)), a minimum score of 580 (written), 237 (computer-based), or 92 (Internet-based) or above is absolutely required. For the International English Language Testing System (IELTS (http://www.ielts.org)), a minimum score of 7 is required. Use ETS institution code 1846.
5. At least one semester of advanced quantitative preparation (calculus is strongly preferred) with a grade of "B" or better.
6. A personal statement is required.
7. Three letters of recommendation are to be submitted electronically.

Upon entry to the graduate programs, students are matched with a faculty advisor. Faculty advisors help students hone their interests, assist with identifying research projects, provide support for career development, and link students to the greater campus community. Students have the benefit of regular dialogues with faculty members. Seminars and integrated discussion groups allow for increased interaction with core faculty and community lecturers. Finally, the work of students is valued as evidenced by their entries in the annual department poster session, participation in public health symposia, authorship of publications, and involvement in community/research projects.

FUNDING

GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

Resources to help you afford graduate study might include assistantships, fellowships, traineeships, and financial aid. Further funding information (https://grad.wisc.edu/funding) is available from the Graduate School. Be sure to check with your program for individual policies and processes related to funding.

PROGRAM RESOURCES

Students admitted to our degree programs are automatically considered for any available scholarships, traineeships, or graduate assistant positions in the department. The most common forms of funding support for our students are assistantships, traineeships, and fellowships.
REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Review the Graduate School minimum academic progress and degree requirements (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policiesandrequirementstext), in addition to the program requirements listed below.

NAMED OPTION REQUIREMENTS

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode of Instruction</th>
<th>Face to Face</th>
<th>Evening/Weekend</th>
<th>Online</th>
<th>Hybrid</th>
<th>Accelerated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mode of Instruction Definitions

- **Evening/Weekend**: These programs are offered in an evening and/or weekend format to accommodate working schedules. Enjoy the advantages of on-campus courses and personal connections, while keeping your day job. For more information about the meeting schedule of a specific program, contact the program.

- **Online**: These programs are offered primarily online. Many available online programs can be completed almost entirely online with all online programs offering at least 50 percent or more of the program work online. Some online programs have an on-campus component that is often designed to accommodate working schedules. Take advantage of the convenience of online learning while participating in a rich, interactive learning environment. For more information about the online nature of a specific program, contact the program.

- **Hybrid**: These programs have innovative curricula that combine on-campus and online formats. Most hybrid programs are completed on-campus with a partial or completely online semester. For more information about the hybrid schedule of a specific program, contact the program.

- **Accelerated**: These on-campus programs are offered in an accelerated format that allows you to complete your program in a condensed time-frame. Enjoy the advantages of on-campus courses with minimal disruption to your career. For more information about the accelerated nature of a specific program, contact the program.

CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

**Minimum Credit Requirement**

- 51 credits

**Minimum Residence Credit Requirement**

- 39 credits

**Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement**

- 100% of all coursework taken as a graduate student must be in graduate-level coursework; courses with the Graduate Level Coursework attribute are identified and searchable in the university's Course Guide (http://my.wisc.edu/CourseGuideRedirect/BrowseByTitle).

**Overall Graduate GPA Requirement**

- Students must maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25 in all graduate work (including transfer credits) unless conditions for probationary status require higher grades.

- Students must also maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.25 or better in all coursework completed while enrolled in the population health graduate program. No grade of BC or lower in epidemiology required courses will be accepted for the degree.

**Other Grade Requirements**

- Ph.D. candidates should maintain a 3.5 GPA in all core curriculum courses and may not have any more than two Incompletes on their aMaintain no more than 6 credits of Incomplete (I) grades during any semester record at any one time.

**Assessments and Examinations**

- Full-time students have up until the end of their third year to pass the qualifying exam and their first sitting must occur no later than the end of their second year. Part-time students are expected to pass the exam before the end of their fourth year (regardless of whether the student is continuously enrolled) and their first sitting must occur no later than the end of their third year.

**Language Requirements**

- No language requirements.

**Doctoral Minor/Breadth Requirements**

- All doctoral students are required to complete a 10-credit minor.

**REQUIRED COURSES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POP HLTH/B M I 451</td>
<td>Introduction to SAS Programming for Population Health</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POP HLTH/B M I 551</td>
<td>Introduction to Biostatistics for Population Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POP HLTH/B M I 552</td>
<td>Regression Methods for Population Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POP HLTH/B M I 651</td>
<td>Advanced Regression Methods for Population Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POP HLTH 795</td>
<td>Principles of Population Health Sciences</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POP HLTH 796</td>
<td>Introduction to Health Services Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POP HLTH/SOC 797</td>
<td>Introduction to Epidemiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POP HLTH 798</td>
<td>Epidemiologic Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POP HLTH 820</td>
<td>Graduate Research Seminar</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POP HLTH 805</td>
<td>Advanced Epidemiology: Causal Inference in Epidemiological Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or POP HLTH 806</td>
<td>Advanced Epidemiology: Practice of Epidemiology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Select a minimum of 1 credit of course work in &quot;the responsible conduct of research&quot;</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POP HLTH 794</td>
<td>Biological Basis of Population Health ^1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POP HLTH 820</td>
<td>Graduate Research Seminar ^2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Credits**: 39-41
Some students must complete this course. 
PhD students must take POP HLTH 820 Graduate Research Seminar twice.

### Responsible Conduct of Research courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B M I 826</td>
<td>Special Topics in Biostatistics and Biomedical Informatics (Ethical Conduct of Research for Data Scientists)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MED HIST 545</td>
<td>Ethical and Regulatory Issues in Clinical Investigation (Offered in Fall. Med Hist 545 does not fulfill all the NIH requirements for training in the responsible conduct of research for certain T and F awards.)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURSING 802</td>
<td>Ethics and the Responsible Conduct of Research (Offered in Spring)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SURG SCI 812</td>
<td>Research Ethics and Career Development</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OBS&amp;GYN 955</td>
<td>Responsible Conduct of Research for Biomedical Graduate Students (Offered in Fall)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OBS&amp;GYN 956</td>
<td>Advanced Responsible Conduct of Research for Biomedical Students (Offered in Spring)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other courses may be substituted as approved by the advisor and the director of graduate studies.

### Epidemiology Electives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POP HLTH/ NUTR SCI 621</td>
<td>Introduction to Nutritional Epidemiology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POP HLTH 713</td>
<td>Epidemiology of HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POP HLTH 750</td>
<td>Cancer Epidemiology</td>
<td>2-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POP HLTH/ KINES 791</td>
<td>Physical Activity Epidemiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POP HLTH 801</td>
<td>Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POP HLTH 805</td>
<td>Advanced Epidemiology. Causal Inference in Epidemiological Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POP HLTH 806</td>
<td>Advanced Epidemiology. Practice of Epidemiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POP HLTH 847</td>
<td>Cardiovascular Epidemiology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POP HLTH/AN SCI/ GENETICS 849</td>
<td>Genetic Epidemiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POP HLTH 904</td>
<td>Special Topics in Epidemiology</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POP HLTH/ KINES 955</td>
<td>Seminar - Physical Activity Epidemiology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Beyond the minimum required by the Graduate School lies with the degree program faculty. Policies set by the academic degree program can be found below.

### NAMED OPTION-SPECIFIC POLICIES

#### GRADUATE PROGRAM HANDBOOK

The Graduate Program Handbook (https://pophealth.wisc.edu/grad/academicGuide) is the repository for all of the program's policies and requirements.

#### PRIOR COURSEWORK

**Graduate Work from Other Institutions**

With program approval, students are allowed to count a maximum of 12 credits of graduate coursework taken from other institutions as a graduate student. Coursework earned five or more years prior to admission to a doctoral degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

**UW–Madison Undergraduate**

No credits from a UW–Madison undergraduate degree are allowed to count toward the degree.

**UW–Madison University Special**

With program approval, students are allowed to count no more than 12 credits of coursework numbered 300 or above taken as a UW–Madison University Special student. Coursework earned ten or more years prior to admission to a doctoral degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

#### PROBATION

A student not meeting guidelines for satisfactory progress will be placed on probation for one semester and will be reviewed by the steering committee following the probationary semester. Students may be dropped or allowed to continue by the committee based on review of progress during the probationary semester.

#### ADVISOR / COMMITTEE

All students will have a hold placed on their registration each semester. Students must meet with their advisor once each semester for academic advising to have the hold removed.

#### CREDITS PER TERM ALLOWED

15 credits

#### TIME CONSTRAINTS

Dissertation required. Doctoral students have a maximum of five years from the date of passing the preliminary examination to take the final oral examination and deposit the dissertation.

Doctoral degree students who have been absent for five or more consecutive years lose all credits that they have earned before their absence.

### OTHER

n/a

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**POLICIES**

The Graduate School's Academic Policies and Procedures (https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy) provide essential information regarding general university policies. Program authority to set degree policies.
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES
Take advantage of the Graduate School’s professional development resources (https://grad.wisc.edu/pd) to build skills, thrive academically, and launch your career.

PEOPLE

Faculty: Professors Durkin (chair), Cruickshanks, Gangnon, Kanarek, Mullahy, Oliver, Patz, Remington, M. Smith, Trentham-Dietz; Associate Professors Astor, Bautista, Burns, Ehrenthal, Engelman, Malecki, Peppard, Sethi; Assistant Professor Warren-Andersen