PhD in Public Health

Admission Requirements

In addition to the Graduate College minimum requirements, applicants must meet the following program requirements:

- **Baccalaureate Field** A major in the biological, physical, or social sciences is preferred. Students applying to the primary concentration in Environmental and Occupational Health must have completed a full year of general chemistry, at least one semester of organic chemistry, and two semesters of calculus; one course in human physiology is also required for those interested in a secondary concentration in the ASAC-ABET Accredited MS Program in Industrial Hygiene, Occupational Safety, and Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology. Those interested in the ASAC-ABET Accredited MS Program in Industrial Hygiene must meet the criteria listed above. In addition, applicants should have a prior degree in the physical/life sciences or engineering fields with course work in physics, chemistry, biology, or mathematics. Relevant work experience or significant physical or life science or engineering course work may be considered for applicants with undergraduate degrees in other, nonscience fields.

- **Grade Point Average** At least 3.00/4.00.

- **Tests Required** GRE General. For GRE General tests, combined verbal and quantitative scores must be at least 300.

- **Minimum English Competency Test Score**
  - TOEFL 80, with subscores of Reading 19, Listening 17, Speaking 20, and Writing 21 (iBT Test); 60, with subscores of Reading 19, Listening 17, Writing 21 (revised Paper-Delivered Test), OR,
  - IELTS 6.5, with subscores of 6.0 for all four subscores, OR,
  - PTE-Academic 54, with subscores of Reading 51, Listening 47, Speaking 53, and Writing 56.

- **Letters of Recommendation** Three required.

- **Personal Statement** Required; the statement should address the applicant’s intended research, career goals, and reason for pursuing the PhD degree in the chosen area.

- **Other Requirements**: Applicants may submit their master’s thesis as evidence of their ability to plan and complete significant health-related research.

Degree Requirements

- **Minimum Semester Hours Required** 96 from the baccalaureate; 118 from the baccalaureate for the Health Policy and Administration concentration.

- **Course Work** At least 9 hours must be in 500-level didactic courses in the student’s major area. If a collateral area is required by the major, at least 6 hours must be in the collateral area at the 500 level.

School of Public Health Core Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IPHS 520</td>
<td>Foundations of Public Health</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>EPID 403</td>
<td>Introduction to Epidemiology: Principles and Methods</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>BSTT 400</td>
<td>Biostatistics I</td>
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<tr>
<td>BSTT 401</td>
<td>Biostatistics II</td>
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Required Non-Credit Training

Information Privacy and Security/Health Privacy Training (IPS)

- **Human Subjects Research**
- **Title IX Training**
- **SPH Academic Integrity Tutorial**

- Remaining courses and their distribution depend on the student’s area of concentration. PhD students are admitted into one of the following primary concentrations: Community Health Sciences, Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, or Health Policy and Administration.

- **Dissertation** Required. Students must register in IPHS 599 for at least 32 semester hours.

- **Other Requirements** Students must obtain supervised experience in classroom teaching in at least one course for at least part of a semester.

Concentrations

Community Health Sciences Concentration Requirements

- PhD students in Community Health Sciences must complete all of the SPH Core Requirements (p. 1) for the PhD degree. Students must select 12 hours for their concentration. The student will be tested in the concentration area as part of the preliminary examination. Additional compensatory courses are required if the equivalent course work was not completed at the master’s degree level. These compensatory courses are: EPID 403, CHSC 446, BSTT 400, BSTT 401, CHSC 421, CHSC 422, or their equivalent. Advisor approval is necessary for elective course selection. PhD students pursuing a program in Maternal and Child Health or Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology have additional requirements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHSC 550</td>
<td>Advanced Theories and Topics in Community Health Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHSC 551</td>
<td>Advanced Research Methods for Community Health Sciences</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>CHSC 552</td>
<td>Advanced Analytic Methods for Community Health Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advanced analytic methods courses (3-6 hours)</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced research methods courses (3-6 hours)</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHSC 593</td>
<td>Doctoral Laboratory in Community Health Sciences Research Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHSC 595</td>
<td>Seminar in Community Health Sciences (2 hours)</td>
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Secondary Concentration

Select 12 hours for the secondary concentration

a Students must select 3-6 semester hours each from an approved menu for both the advanced analytic methods and the advanced research methods course requirements, for a total of 9 hours of advanced analytic and research methods.

b Students must enroll for one hour of CHSC 593 every semester they are in the program, for at least 6 hours in total. Students who are
otherwise eligible to register for 0 hours will also be eligible to register for CHSC 593 for 0 hours.

Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Concentration Requirements

- PhD students concentrating in Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences must complete all of the SPH Core Requirements (p. 1) for the PhD degree.
- The EOHS concentration requires that PhD students complete EOHS 595 (registering for four semesters/one hour each semester) and one graduate-level course in qualitative or quantitative methods chosen in consultation with their advisor.
- In addition, students must complete the division core, choosing at least one course in each of the following three areas:
  a. Exposure Assessment
  b. Health Assessment
  c. Risk Assessment and Policy
- Students should see their advisor for a list of courses in each area.

Health Policy and Administration Concentration Requirements

- PhD students in Health Policy and Administration must complete all of the SPH Core Requirements (p. 1) for the PhD degree. No additional course requirements are specified. In addition, a minimum of 72 hours of course work relevant to the disciplinary area of Health Policy and Administration is taken in consultation with the faculty advisor.
- Students should see their advisor for a list of courses in each area.

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<tr>
<td>HPA 420</td>
<td>US Health Care System for Public Health Practitioners</td>
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<tr>
<td>HPA 567</td>
<td>Public Health Policy Analysis</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>HPA/PSOP 573</td>
<td>Principles of Economic Evaluations of Health Care Interventions</td>
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<tr>
<td>HPA 521</td>
<td>Empirical Methods for Health Research I</td>
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<tr>
<td>HPA 522</td>
<td>Empirical Methods for Health Research II</td>
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<tr>
<td>HPA 581</td>
<td>Advanced Topics in Health Economics</td>
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<tr>
<td>IPHS 595</td>
<td>Seminar in Interdisciplinary Public Health Sciences (1 hour per semester for 4 semesters in first two years)</td>
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Selectives

Select a minimum of 9 hours from the following:
- BSTT 505 Logistic Regression and Survival Analysis
- BSTT 537 Longitudinal Data Analysis
- ECON 509 Microeconomic Theory I
- ECON 516 Development Economics
- ECON 531 Labor Economics I
- ECON 534 Econometrics I
- ECON 535 Econometrics II
- ECON 539 Microeconometrics
- ECON 555 Health Economics I
- CHSC 534 Management and Analysis of Qualitative Data
- CHSC 551 Advanced Research Methods for Community Health Sciences
- EOHS 501 Exposure Assessment Strategies
- POLS 502 Time Series Analysis for Political Science
- POLS 544 Regulatory Public Policies
- PA 582 Survey Data Collection Methods: Theory and Practice
- PA 588 Applied Survey Sampling and Analysis
- PSOP 502 Research Methods in Pharmacy Systems, Outcomes and Policy
- UPP 500 History and Theory of Urban Planning
- UPP 501 Urban Space, Place and Institutions

Electives (41 hours)

Possible 32 hours of credit from a prior master’s degree.

Secondary Concentrations

Maternal Child and Health Epidemiology (CHS students)

- Students can enter the PhD in MCH Epidemiology (MCHEPI) program through the Division of Community Health Sciences or the Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics (EPID-BSTT). Regardless of division, MCHEPI PhD students are required to take courses in both Epidemiology and Maternal and Child Health (MCH), along with courses from other disciplines that focus on the substantive, analytic, and technical aspects of the public health planning cycle. A limited amount of specially targeted federal funding is available for MCHEPI students who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents.
- See the PhD in Epidemiology for program requirements.

Interdepartmental Concentrations

Students earning a graduate degree in this department may complement their courses by enrolling in select concentrations after consulting with their graduate advisor. Interdepartmental concentrations available for this degree include:

- Black Studies (students with a primary concentration in Community Health Sciences)
- Gender and Women’s Studies (students with a primary concentration in Community Health Sciences)
- Survey Research Methodology (students with a primary concentration in Community Health Sciences)
- Violence Studies (PhD students)
- Women’s Health (PhD students)

Medical Scientist Training Program

The UIC School of Public Health has particularly strong programs in epidemiology, biostatistics, prevention research, community health, health systems management, occupational and environmental safety and health, and quantitative methods. Application to the PhD program is normally made at the time of application to the College of Medicine; however, applicants will also be considered during their first two years of medical training. Students must apply to the Medical Scientist Training Program and to the College of Medicine and indicate in their application that they are interested in one of the divisions of the UIC School of
Public Health. Criteria for admission to the program include academic excellence, prior research experience, potential for independent and creative research, and commitment to a career in academic medicine. Students receive a stipend throughout their years of study. For more information, contact:

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(312) 996-6410
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or the Medical Scientist Training Program: Larry Tobacman, MD, Director
(312) 413-1010
lst@uic.edu

or Roberta Bernstein, Coordinator
(312) 996-7473
roberta@uic.edu