Q. **What is epidemiology?**

A. Epidemiology is the study of factors affecting the health and illness of populations.

Q. **Should I become an epidemiologist?**

A. Are you interested in:

- Learning to confront the challenges of complex public health issues, such as determining causes of infectious and chronic disease, reducing exposure to environmental hazards, promoting healthy aging, physical activity, and women’s/children’s health, preventing injury, or designing outbreak containment plans?
- Becoming a public health detective who can apply the latest methodologies to analyze and address public health problems?
- Understanding evolving demographic and socioeconomic trends impacting the health of populations?
- Acting as an advocate for medically underserved populations by developing education programs?
- Training to prepare for a health sciences career in teaching or research in an area expected to grow?

If you responded affirmatively to any of these questions, consider epidemiology as a career!
Q. Why pursue graduate study in epidemiology at Pitt Public Health?

A. The cross-disciplinary nature of our department’s faculty (over 60) and staff, together with our large research base and cutting-edge curriculum, provide our students with courses and research experiences enabling them to successfully compete globally for challenging positions in public health practice, research, administration, and education.

Degree programs
We offer master’s (MPH and MS) and doctoral degree (PhD and DrPH) programs tailored to practicing health care professionals as well as those who have completed undergraduate degrees. A joint MD/PhD program is also available, in addition to a Peace Corps Master’s International Track (PCMI), associated with our MPH program.

Areas of emphasis
Areas of emphasis within the department include Aging, Cancer, Cardiovascular/Diabetes, Clinical Trials/Methods, Environmental, Genetics, Infectious Diseases, Injury, Prevention/Lifestyle, Neuroepidemiology, Psychiatric, Global Health, and Women’s Health. Students generally take a series of school and department-level core courses and select additional coursework in one or several of the above areas.

Our uniqueness:

✓ The Pitt Public Health Department of Epidemiology is one of the top 5 to 10 in the US according to a recent National Research Council Survey. Our high ranking reflects the many research opportunities offered by our faculty and the high research productivity of our students.

✓ Our location. In January 2014, Pittsburgh was named the Most Affordable City in America and 18th Most Affordable City in the World by Demographia. Criteria for this ranking included median household income and median home price. Also early this year, The Atlantic rated Pittsburgh #2 on its list of “Top Ten Places to Pursue the American Dream.”

✓ The Physical Activity and Women’s Health areas of emphasis in the Department of Epidemiology were among the first to be offered by an American school of public health.

✓ Our MPH students gain invaluable experience in a variety of public health settings through our summer internship program.

✓ Connections with the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC), one of the country’s premier health care systems and research centers. This environment provides students with opportunities to expand professional networks and participate in a wealth of learning experiences and events involving internationally recognized experts.

Other Department of Epidemiology program features and student resources:

✓ Opportunities for hands-on experience in ongoing research studies through mentoring relationships with world-class faculty. Members of our faculty were awarded approximately $24 million in total research funds in fiscal year 2014.

✓ Funding programs (Graduate Student Researcher and training grant positions) available to selected doctoral degree applicants and students.
Comprehensive career services exclusively for Pitt Public Health students, including opportunities for networking with potential employers and internship providers, and access to PittBridges, our online system for information about public health internships, fellowships and jobs, year-round workshops, and individualized counseling.

Q. What is it like to study and live in Pittsburgh?

A. The city and its quaint surrounding neighborhoods are our campus!

Pittsburgh continues to grow as a national hub for biotechnology and medical research. The University of Pittsburgh Medical Center is ranked as one of the top 10 hospital systems in the nation, and the only hospital in western Pennsylvania to be named to U.S. News & World Report’s prestigious national Honor Roll for excellence in 15 specialty areas. UPMC was rated the #1 hospital in Pennsylvania and #1 in the city of Pittsburgh.

To learn more about living in the Pittsburgh area, please visit www.visitpittsburgh.com and www.coolpgh.pitt.edu.

Other Pittsburgh facts:

✓ The population is diverse; people from around the world live, study, and work here.
✓ Pittsburgh is a city with a smaller town atmosphere; crime rates are lower, many neighborhoods are safe for families, cost of living is reasonable, people are friendly.
✓ Cultural, art, music, professional sports, and educational venues abound.

You’ve learned more about us. We’d like to hear from you!
Contact us to discuss our programs or request additional information.

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