
Master's Degree Programs

Epidemiology master's degree programs include

- Master of Public Health (MPH) 45 credit minimum
- Master of Science (MS) 45 credit minimum
- Master of Science (MS) 30 credit minimum
- [Peace Corps Master's International MPH \(PCMI-MPH\)](#)

MASTER'S PROGRAM DIRECTOR – Nancy Glynn, PhD glynnn@edc.pitt.edu

Degree Purposes

MPH in Epidemiology

The MPH degree is designed to educate the individual on the epidemiological approach to public health. This includes a broad overview to epidemiology, biostatistics, environmental influences on health, public health planning, and health services. Applied experience may also be gained through a 200-hour internship. Although it is a terminal master's degree, it may also serve as prerequisite training for a doctoral degree program in the Epidemiology Department.

[Graduate School of Public Health Peace Corps Master's International Track](#) (PCMI)

PCMI STUDENT LIAISON – Alexandra Tambellini, amt88@pitt.edu

MS in Epidemiology

The MS degree includes a more flexible mix of courses in epidemiology and biostatistics for those with a research focus. The **45-credit MS degree** is designed, in general, for individuals who do not hold a professional degree in the health sciences or a doctoral degree. Although it is a terminal master's degree, it may also serve as prerequisite training a doctoral degree program in the Epidemiology Department.

The condensed **30-credit MS degree** is available for health professionals with graduate degrees in the health sciences (e.g. medicine, dentistry, nursing, etc.). It is meant to augment prior professional training acquired by the individual. Health professionals seeking a broader exposure to public health should consider the MPH program.

Completion Timeframes

- Master's students begin their program of study in fall term.

- Master's degree programs are typically completed in 16 months of study (fall, spring and summer terms in the first year and fall term in the second year).
- Policies concerning the Pitt Public Health statute of limitations (for program completion) and leaves of absences are identified in the **General Policies & Procedures** section of the Student Handbook.

Adding or Changing Degree Programs

- It is possible to switch from one master's degree program to another or add (request admittance into) a doctoral degree program. Refer to the **General Policies & Procedures** section of the Student Handbook for additional information.

Credit Transfers

- Refer to the **General Policies & Procedures** section of the Student Handbook.

Master's Program Course Sequences (suggested course plans for MS and MPH students)

- Refer to the [Curriculum](#) section of the Student Handbook.

MASTER'S PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Pitt Public Health & Departmental core course requirements

- Refer to the [Curriculum](#) section of the Student Handbook

Pitt Public Health Academic Integrity Module requirement

IRB (Internal Review Board) online modules (MPH & MS students)

- This online training must be completed during the first term of study.
- Completion certificates and reports generated by the IRB system must be submitted to the Epidemiology Student Services Offices by students to meet master's program graduation requirements.
- Student Services will forward information to new students concerning this requirement, and explain how to access these modules.
- Contact the student services staff with IRB questions.

Competency in Communications (MPH and MS students)

Students matriculating in the fall of 2012 or thereafter are required to submit at least one abstract about their research and give at least one oral or poster presentation at Dean's Day, the Epidemiology Department annual poster session, or scientific conferences. A [Communications Competency Requirement Record form](#) must be completed and submitted to the Student Services Offices to document fulfillment of this requirement.

Writeplacer Diagnostic (all new Pitt Public Health students)

Public Health Internships (MPH 45-credit students) [EPIDEM 2214]

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM CONTACT – Nancy Glynn, PhD glynnn@edc.pitt.edu

- After completing two terms of course work in the program, students should register for a supervised 1-4 credit internship experience. Most students complete their experience during the first summer of their study, although it is possible to actually register for the course in a different term (this may be more economical for some students). Contact the Student Services staff with questions about the procedure for internship registration.
- Students are encouraged, but not required, to develop their master's essay based on their internship.
- Requirements include a final poster presentation that is held in fall term each year. Students should consider including the following when planning their presentations:
 - Background/literature review (including justification for why the project was chosen, defining the question or problem)
 - Definition of the project and how it addresses the question
 - Methods
 - Results
 - Discussion (limitations encountered, future directions, recommendations)
- All internship forms must be completed and submitted either electronically or as hard copies to the Student Services Offices to fulfill graduation requirements (link below).
- Refer to the [Department of Epidemiology Website](#) for additional details concerning internships.

Masters Essay (MPH students) [EPIDEM 2210]

- Credits

- MPH Students should register for 1-3 credits when enrolling in EPIDEM 2210.
- Students must be registered for at least 1 course credit in the term of their graduation.
- Topic selection
 - Should be discussed with academic advisors.
- Essay composition and electronic submission, formatting requirements, length, development timelines, MPH Essay Committee composition and approval:
 - Refer to a document entitled, [Master's Essay and Thesis Guidelines](#) in the Student Handbook for more information about Epidemiology MPH essay requirements and MPH Essay Committee policies.
 - **NOTE: If student work involves data, policies, or experiences from an outside agency, organization, or practicum site, they should ensure that they follow the guidelines that may include a requirement to have a member of the agency, organization, or site on your committee. Any student who will use data or experiences from an experience at the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) must include their ACHD preceptor as a member of his/her committee. The agencies with which these members are associated should be identified in the e-mail to Lori.**
 - Students should also review the [Pitt Public Health Graduation Web pages](#).

Oral Comprehensive Examination Guidelines (MS students)

- Scroll to the document section at the link above entitled **Overview of the MS Thesis** to learn more about this milestone exam and requirements concerning the MS Comprehensive Committee that must be proposed and approved to administer it.
- Must be taken at least one month before the last day of the term in which the degree is to be granted.
- [MS Comprehensive Exam Committee composition](#)
 - **NOTE: If student work involves data, policies, or experiences from an outside agency, organization, or practicum site, they should ensure that they follow the guidelines that may include a requirement to have a member of the agency, organization, or site on your committee. Any**

student who will use data or experiences from an experience at the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) must include their ACHD preceptor as a member of his/her committee. The agencies with which these members are associated should be identified in the e-mail to Lori.

- Content is determined by each student's Thesis Committee.
 - Exam should focus on plans for thesis development and knowledge of relevant literature.

Faculty may arrange to pick up a student's file from the Student Services Office prior to the exam, along with a current student transcript. Transcripts should be requested at least one day in advance.

- Students choosing to transfer to the Epidemiology PhD program may request that their MS Comprehensive exam substitute as their PhD Overview Proposal/Exam.
 - Decisions regarding this would be made at academic advisor discretion.

Masters Thesis (MS students) [EPIDEM 2210]

- Credits
 - MS Students should register for 3-5 credits when enrolling in EPIDEM 2210.
 - Students must be registered for at least 1 course credit in the term of their graduation.
- Topic selection
 - Should be discussed with advisors
- Thesis composition and electronic submission, formatting requirements, length, development timelines, MS Comprehensive and Thesis Defense Committee composition and approval (the same committee may be proposed to administer both of these milestone exams provided that all University composition requirements are met):
 - Refer to a document entitled, [Master's Essay and Thesis Guidelines](#) in the Student Handbook for more information about Epidemiology MPH essay requirements. Scroll to the **Overview of the MS Thesis** section.
 - Students should also review the [Pitt Public Health Graduation Web pages](#).

Thesis Defense (MS students)

- Scroll to the document section at the link above entitled **Overview of the MS Thesis** to learn more about this milestone exam and requirements concerning the

MS Thesis Defense committee that must be proposed and approved to administer it.

- Format and content is determined by each student's committee.
 - Exam should focus on the thesis itself, including quality of work, interpretation of results, etc.

Faculty may arrange to pick up a student's file from the Student Services Office prior to a thesis defense, along with a current student transcript. Transcripts should be requested at least one day in advance.

Report on Requirements for Master's Degree form (MPH & MS students)

- This form should be completed by one of an MPH student's essay readers and an MS student's Committee Chair. A **separate form** should be utilized for each of the following purposes:
 - MPH essay readers (committee members) should sign the form after finally approving the student's essay.
 - MS Committee Chairs should:
 - Bring a form to the Comprehensive Exam and another separate form to the Thesis Defense.
 - Obtain committee signatures on the form when the Comprehensive Exam is passed and when final approval of a student's thesis is granted.
 - Forms should be submitted to the Student Services Office. The Student Services staff will ensure they are signed by the department chair.
 - Lori Smith, Student Services Manager and Program Administrator, will sign a Report on Requirements form to finally certify each MPH and MS student for graduation on behalf of the Department of Epidemiology.