Pitt Public Health Academic Handbook Academic Year 2016-17

Pitt Public Health Biostatistics Core Course Policy

GSPH Biostatistics Core Course Policy

March 2012 | Amended May 2016

Purpose

The purpose of this policy statement is 1) to clarify the distinction between requirements for professional degrees and for academic degrees (as defined by The Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH), and 2) to delineate a revised policy for biostatistics core courses for GSPH professional degrees.

GSPH degree types

For the purposes of CEPH accreditation, there are three types of degrees offered by the GSPH: professional public health degrees (all MPH and DrPH degrees), other professional degrees (MHA and MS in Genetic Counseling), and academic degrees (all other MS and PhD degrees).

Policy for ACADEMIC and OTHER PROFESSIONAL degrees

Neither CEPH nor the GSPH requires any specific biostatistical training. Thus statistical requirements for each of these degree programs are at the discretion of the department offering the degree, though degree programs as a whole need to be approved by the Educational Policy and Curriculum Committee (EPCC), by the University, and by CEPH.

Policy for PROFESSIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH degrees

For MPH and DrPH degrees, the GSPH and CEPH require that all students take or be formally exempted from a course that addresses the core biostatistical competencies necessary for a public health professional degree. This requirement can be met by any of the following, though many departments have more specific requirements. Students should choose among these options in close consultation with their advisors.

1) BIOST 2011
2) BIOST 2041
3) In special circumstances and with the permission of both the student's advisor and the Department of Biostatistics, other introductory statistics courses may be substituted for the above, certain PSYED courses, and certain STAT courses. However, any course or course sequence that is substituted must cover the majority of statistical methods that are used in the public health literature, and should ideally include public health application examples.