

EPIDEMIOLOGY (EPID)

Graduate Degree Program
College: Public Health

Abstract

The Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics offers a Ph.D. program in Epidemiology. Students in the Ph.D. program in Epidemiology master core knowledge in epidemiologic and biostatistical methods related to the design, implementation and evaluation of public health studies surrounding psychosocial, behavioral, biological, and cultural factors. Students may work with their advisor to design their own research specialization, or they may apply to one of our two specializations:

1. Social Epidemiology or
2. Environmental Epidemiology.

Our students have full access to faculty who will guide them through all phases of the program to ensure their educational goals are met. Our Washington, DC area location provides unparalleled opportunities for research experiences in public health, including placements at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (e.g., National Institutes of Health, National Center for Health Statistics), Children's National Medical Center, the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and many other national, state, and local health agencies.

Financial Assistance

The Department offers a limited number of fellowships, and graduate teaching and research assistantships.

Contact

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Website: sph.umd.edu/epib (<http://sph.umd.edu/departement/epib/>)

Courses: EPIB (<https://umd-curr.courseleaf.com/graduate/courses/epib/>) SPHL (<https://umd-curr.courseleaf.com/graduate/courses/sphl/>)

Relationships: Biostatistics (BIOS) (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/biostatistics-bios/>) Epidemiology (EPDM) (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/epidemiology-epdm/>)

ADMISSIONS

The **PhD in Epidemiology** program has a two-part application process: applicants must submit the e SOPHAS application (www.sophas.org) (<https://sophas.org/>), the centralized application service for schools and programs of public health, and the UMD Supplemental application (<http://terpengage.force.com/community/CustomLoginPage/?GradApp=True>). Both applications must be submitted, complete with all required documents and verified by the scheduled deadline (<https://sph.umd.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/graduate-application-process/>).

Applications will be reviewed when both the SOPHAS and the UMD Supplemental applications are completed and verified.

GENERAL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- A Bachelor's degree
- Minimum 3.0 undergraduate GPA
- Transcripts from all previous coursework
- English proficiency test score (TOEFL, IELTS or PTE) (international applicants (<https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/english-language-proficiency-requirements/>))
- Statement of purpose and objectives including career and educational goals, professional experience, and research areas of interest
- Response to personal experiences question(s)

PROGRAM SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

- SOPHAS application & UMD Supplemental application
- A master's degree in public health or a related field
- Three letters of recommendation
- Resume or curriculum vitae
- A writing sample, e.g., published manuscript, master's thesis, research paper, etc. If you submit a published manuscript and you are not the first author, please describe the contributions you made to the publication
- Fit between applicant's goals, expectations and research interests, program competencies, and faculty expertise
- Official GRE Test Score submission is **required**. GRE scores taken within the past 5 years should be in the 50th percentile or higher. Please have ETS send scores to SOPHAS (code 0485)

Note for applicants with foreign credentials:

- The SOPHAS application requires that applicants submit a WES credential evaluation (https://help.liaisonedu.com/SOPHAS_Applicant_Help_Center/Sending_Your_Official_Transcripts_and_Test_Scores_to_SOPHAS/Sending_Official_Transcripts_to_SOPHAS/2_Foreign_and_French-Canadian_Transcripts/)
- The UMD supplemental application requires the upload of unofficial transcripts issued in the original language with a literal English translation. Visit the Graduate School website for additional information (<https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/international-admissions/>)
- Evidence of English Language proficiency is required if the applicant does not hold a degree from a U.S. institution or from one of the English-speaking countries listed on the Graduate School website (<https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/english-language-proficiency-requirements/>)
- Language scores must be submitted both to SOPHAS and UMD supplemental application

For detailed instructions on how to apply, please visit the School of Public Health Website: sph.umd.edu/graduate-application-process (<https://sph.umd.edu/graduate-application-process/>)

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Type of Applicant	Fall Deadline
Domestic Applicants	
US Citizens and Permanent Residents	December 19, 2025 (final)
International Applicants	
F (student) or J (exchange visitor) visas; A,E,G,H,I and L visas and immigrants	December 19, 2025 (final)

RESOURCES AND LINKS

Program website: [sph.umd.edu/phd-epidemiology \(https://sph.umd.edu/academics/doctoral-degrees/phd-epidemiology/\)](https://sph.umd.edu/academics/doctoral-degrees/phd-epidemiology/)

Application Process: [sph.umd.edu/graduate-application-process \(https://sph.umd.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/graduate-application-process/\)](https://sph.umd.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/graduate-application-process/)

Admissions FAQ: [sph.umd.edu/graduate-application-faqs \(https://sph.umd.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/graduate-application-faqs/\)](https://sph.umd.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/graduate-application-faqs/)

REQUIREMENTS

- Epidemiology, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/graduate/programs/epidemiology-epid/epidemiology-phd/>)

FACILITIES AND SPECIAL RESOURCES

The Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics faculty includes individuals with multi-faceted interests in both epidemiology and biostatistics. Our faculty have research interests and expertise in the epidemiology of infectious disease and chronic disease with particular focus in the areas of HIV/STIs, cancer, health disparities, cardiovascular disease, obesity/physical activity, and sexual and reproductive health. Additional areas of specialization include social and behavioral determinants of health, aging, cultural competency, and community-based interventions. Biostatistics faculty apply statistical techniques including survival and longitudinal analysis, computational statistics, statistical analysis of genomic and proteomic data, machine learning, neuroimaging statistics, (network) meta-analysis, missing data analysis, Bayesian hierarchical methods, and bioinformatics to analyze and interpret health data.