Master of Public Health in Epidemiology

Online/On Campus/In the Field; Two-Year, Part-Time Program

For more information about the program, please visit: hsp h.me/mphepi.

For inquiries, please feel free to contact Stephanie Lemoine, Academic Program Manager, at mph epi@hsph.harvard.edu or 617-432-1558.
**Program Description:**

The Master of Public Health in Epidemiology will prepare you for new levels of leadership and investigation in your career while fitting around your busy schedule. As an MPH in Epidemiology student, you will study with one of the world’s most accomplished epidemiology faculties. By combining the best of online, in-person, and in-the-field learning, this rigorous part-time, two-year degree program will provide you with the advanced research and epidemiological skills you need to pursue senior positions in academia, hospitals, public health agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector. The MPH in Epidemiology is designed for individuals seeking specialization in advanced quantitative methods of epidemiology and its applications for clinical and population health research, policy and programs.

**The Format: Maximum Flexibility, Indelible Experience**

The MPH in Epidemiology’s unique part-time format—a blend of on campus, online, and field learning—combines the best of what the Harvard Chan School has to offer and is designed to fit the lives of busy professionals.

- **On Campus:** The program includes two, three week intensive on campus sessions in June 2018 and June 2019. Students will then return to campus the week of graduation to participate in a culminating experience symposium highlighting the work they have done on their practicum projects.
- **Online:** You will earn roughly two-thirds of your credits via interactive exercises, modular video sessions, and case-based studies, all conducted online.
- **In the Field:** Mentored by Harvard faculty, you will complete a self-designed, year-long practicum concluding in a practicum project and presentation.

**Program Competencies for MPH in Epidemiology Program**

1.) Develop comprehensive knowledge of the student design principles of epidemiology to provide a quantitative approach for addressing health problems
2.) Develop comprehensive knowledge of the quantitative methods of epidemiology and biostatistics to provide a quantitative approach to addressing health problems
3.) Critically evaluate published clinical and public health articles and grant proposals.
4.) Execute a literature review and summarize knowledge about health issues of interest.
5.) Implement and interpret the results of a study to address a clinical or public health issue.
Program Policies for MPH in Epidemiology Students:

**Academic Standing:**
In addition to meeting course load requirements and distributions, Harvard Chan School students must remain in good academic standing, must complete program requirements within the designated time to degree, and must meet the following academic conditions:

- All MPH in Epidemiology students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.7 (B- average) or above in order to graduate from the program.
- All students enrolled in an MPH program at the School are not able to exceed 12.5 pass/fail credits. Therefore, MPH in Epidemiology students are required to have at least 32.5 ordinal graded credits from courses.

**Leave of Absence:**
Students in the MPH in Epidemiology have the option of taking a leave of absence from the program; however the first year of the program must be taken in sequence. The program recommends that if students are planning to take a leave of absence, they take a leave for at least the entire semester (summer, fall, spring). Students who wish to take a leave of absence for part of semester will be charged a continuation fee.

**Add/Drop Deadline:**
MPH in Epidemiology students are held to the same add/drop deadlines as other Harvard Chan School students. Usually these deadlines occur at the end of the second week of the course. The exact deadline can be obtained from the Academic Calendar Summary on the Registrar’s Office website: https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/registrar.

It is strongly recommended that students not join courses after they begin so as to not miss any required assignments during the first two weeks of the course and also not miss any group assignments for course projects.

**Elective Courses:**
During the second year, students in the MPH in Epidemiology program will have a series of online electives to choose from in the fall and spring semester. Elective course credits vary from 1.25 to 2.5 credits. The current list of elective courses can be found beginning on page 6.

**Cross Registration:**
Students enrolled in the MPH in Epidemiology may take courses at other schools within Harvard University,
but they may not count towards the MPH in Epidemiology degree. Please keep in mind the majority of cross registered courses require students to be in the Boston area for an entire semester.

**Wintersession:**

MPH in Epidemiology students are eligible to attend online and on-campus courses which are offered through the School’s wintersession (January Term). To view the wintersession course offerings, please visit the school’s [course catalog](#).

Any international student who attends an on-campus course as part of a degree program must come to the US on an F-1 student visa. In order to be eligible for F-1 status during the winter term, international students must register for at least 5 credits of coursework. Unfortunately, most of the courses during winter are only 1.25 credits and some courses may overlap. Therefore, it may not be possible in the winter term to meet the 5 credit limit.

**Practicum Registration:**

Students are required to register for the practicum course in both the fall and spring semesters during Year 2 of the program. Students are able to count the practicum for either 2.5 or 5 credits during the spring semester, which allows students the option of taking fewer electives during the second year of the program. Students who decide to take the full amount of electives (two in each semester) should only register for 2.5 credits of practicum work in the spring semester.

**Practicum Project and Culminating Experience:**

Students in the MPH in Epidemiology are required conduct a presentation as a final result of their practicum project. The MPH in Epidemiology does not have an option to write a thesis. It is strongly recommended that students attend the MPH in Epidemiology Symposium in May during the week of the Harvard Commencement.

**International Students:**

International students will be required to attend the two, three-week on campus sessions in June 2018 and June 2019 on a student visa. This policy includes students from Canada. The Harvard Chan School is unable to extend the student visa past year June session since the remainder of the program is completed online.

**Tuition:**

Students are billed a flat rate at the beginning of each semester (summer, fall and spring). A continuation fee is charged for any students who have paid their financial requirements, but still have academic requirements to finish.
**Student Handbook:**
For further information on the Harvard Chan School’s policies, please consult the student handbook at: https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/student-handbook/academic-support.

**Additional Resources Available for MPH in Epidemiology Students:**

**MPH in Epidemiology iLibrary**
Students who enroll in the program will be given access to the MPH in Epidemiology iLibrary. The iLibrary has a variety of helpful information that includes podcasts, videos, data analysis tutorials, lecture notes, external epidemiology resources and career resources.
# MPH in Epidemiology Course Overview

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Course ID</th>
<th>Credit</th>
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<td><strong>Year 1</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction to Epidemiology &amp; Biostatistics</td>
<td>ID 207</td>
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<td>Introduction to Epidemiology &amp; Biostatistics</td>
<td>ID 208</td>
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<td>Analytic Methods for Epidemiology</td>
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<td>Confounding Control: A Component of Causal Inference</td>
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<td>Critical Thinking and Action for Public Health Professionals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ethical and Regulatory Issues in Human Research</td>
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<td>Health Economics and Applications to Global Health Policy</td>
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<td><strong>Electives (Fall Semester)</strong></td>
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<td>Analysis of Publicly Available Databases for Epidemiologic and Health Services Research</td>
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<td>Design and Conduct of Trials in Preventive Medicine</td>
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<td>Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis</td>
<td>EPI 528</td>
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<tr>
<td>Applications of Epidemiology</td>
<td>EPI 529</td>
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<td>Other On-Campus Courses</td>
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<td>See course catalog for winter courses.</td>
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<td><strong>Electives (Spring Semester)</strong></td>
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<td>Linear and Longitudinal Regression</td>
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<td>Introduction to Data Mining and Risk Prediction</td>
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<td>Applications of Epidemiology</td>
<td>EPI 529</td>
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<tr>
<td>Infectious Disease Epidemiology</td>
<td>EPI XXX</td>
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<td>Practical Scientific Methods for Improving Health and Heath Care</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Practicum</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>MPH-EPI Practicum Project and Culminating Experience</td>
<td>EPI 945F and EPI 945S</td>
<td>5 or 7.5</td>
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<td><strong>Total Credits:</strong> 45</td>
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Year 1: June 2018 through May 2019

ID 207 – Introduction to Epidemiology and Biostatistics 7.5 credits

On-campus, Three-weeks, June 2018

At the conclusion of this course, students will have gained a solid understanding of basic principles and methods of epidemiology and biostatistics; learned how to apply these principles and methods to the evaluation of relevant public health questions; and developed the ability to critically analyze the epidemiologic and public health literature. Methods of instruction will include lectures, videos, seminars, exercises, and a group project. This is part of a 10 credits intensive course, and has two components: 3-weeks on campus in June, and a 6-week online component in July and August.

ID 208 – Introduction to Epidemiology and Biostatistics 2.5 credits

ID 208 is an online extension of ID 207, taught by the same faculty.

Online, Six-weeks, July through August 2018

At the conclusion of this course, students will have gained a solid understanding of basic principles and methods of epidemiology and biostatistics; learned how to apply these principles and methods to the evaluation of relevant public health questions; and developed the ability to critically analyze the epidemiologic and public health literature. Methods of instruction will include lectures, videos, seminars, exercises, and a group project. This is part of a 10 credits intensive course, and has two components: 3-weeks on campus in June, and a 6-week online component in July and August.

EPI 522 – Analytic Methods for Epidemiology 5.0 credits

Online, September through December 2018
The goal of this course is to familiarize you with many of the common analytic methods used by epidemiologists to obtain valid measures of the effect of a risk factor on an outcome. It will cover the basic principles of causal inference and confounding and review stratification as a method to control for confounding. This will provide a basis for introducing regression-based methods to control for confounding, including logistic regression and its extensions (ordinal logistic regression, multinomial logistic regression, and conditional logistic regression), as well as propensity score analysis. The course also will cover survival analysis and Cox proportional hazards regression for time-to-event data. Finally, the course will discuss methods for handling missing data. You will learn to implement these analytic methods using the Stata statistical software package.

**EPI 524 – Confounding Control: A Component of Causal Inference**

*2.5 credits*

Online, Seven-weeks, January through March 2019

Controlling for confounding is a fundamental component of epidemiologic research. EPI524 describes models for confounding control (or adjustment), their application to epidemiologic data and the assumptions required to endow the parameter estimates with a causal interpretation. The course introduces students to two broad sets of methods for confounding control: methods that require measuring and appropriately adjusting for confounders, and methods that do not require measuring the confounders. Specifically, the course introduces outcome regression, propensity core methods, the parametric g-formula, inverse probability weighting of marginal structural models, and instrumental variable methods as means for confounding control.

EPI524 is designed to be taken after EPI522. The models described in EPI524 are for time-fixed dichotomous exposures and dichotomous, continuous, and failure time (e.g., survival) outcomes.
EPI 525 – Study Designs for Epidemiologists  
2.5 credits

Online, Eight-weeks, March through May 2019

This course reviews the main study designs currently used to describe, predict and understand the causes of adverse health outcomes in humans. The course discusses the principles and interpretation of ecological, cross-sectional, cohort, case-control and case-only designs in a number of different settings. Strengths and limitations of the study designs that are commonly used for research will be considered. Issues related to study population identification and ascertainment; exposure and disease definition, misclassification, confounding and generalizability are considered in the light of data sources typically available. Ideas from several fields, from infectious disease to occupational epidemiology, and their relevance to study design and to public health are discussed. The course offers formal presentations where main methodological concepts are reviewed. The theory will be followed by an active discussion of publications covering a variety of topics. Students will critically evaluate published studies and prepare a proposal to study a specific research question.

Year 2: June 2019 through May 2020

ID 216 – Critical Thinking and Action for Public Health Professionals  
5.0 credits

On-campus, Three-weeks, June 2019

Successful public health practitioners need the knowledge, skills, and leadership traits to address challenging public health issues in an increasingly complex and interconnected world. Whether in government, non-profits, hospitals and health systems, or other organizations, public health professionals are called upon to think analytically and creatively, engage and communicate effectively with multiple constituencies, develop sustainable strategies, and lead teams to implement workable solutions.
This interdisciplinary course is an introduction to the field of public health, incorporating ways of thinking and approaches from environmental health, social and behavioral science, life science, health policy and management, global health, ethics, communication and many other critical disciplines. The objective is to enable students to gain fundamental, crosscutting public health content knowledge and skills in order to begin approaching and solving public health problems in a thoughtful, systematic and comprehensive manner, i.e. to think and act like public health professionals.

Using an active learning approach, students are engaged through case studies, debates, team projects and real world experiences to expand their capabilities in effective, ethical decision making while immersed in complex situations. Fields of study are investigated through the lens of current, and very real, public health issues taught by experts in those areas.

**HPM 549 – Ethical and Regulatory Issues in Human Research   2.5 credits**

On-campus, Two-weeks, June 2019

This course introduces ethical and regulatory requirements for review, conduct and oversight of research involving humans. Topics include public health ethics; ethical issues in biomedical and public health research; regulations and guidelines governing human subjects research; financial and non-financial conflict of interest; international research and research misconduct. The course offers formal presentations/lectures, combined with active classroom discussion of case studies covering a variety of topics. Students will also have the opportunity to obtain hands-on experiences such as participating in mock IRB meetings a mock study site audit.
HPM 260 – Health Economics with Applications to Global Health Policy

2.5 credits

Online, Six-weeks, July through August 2019

Students will learn how to analyze current health policy issues through the application of basic economic principles. No previous economics training is required. The course will begin with an introduction to health economics. The concepts we will be learning are widely generalizable to both industrialized and developing country contexts and students are encouraged to learn from and teach each other about the different health systems of which participants have experience. Among the topics we will discuss are health insurance coverage, physician payment incentives, consumer decision making, and competition.

Diversity and inclusiveness are fundamental to public health education and practice. It is a requirement that you have an open mind and respect differences of all kinds. I share responsibility with you for creating a learning climate that is hospitable to all perspectives and cultures; please contact me if you have concerns or suggestions.

Electives Options: Fall 2019

Online, September through December 2019

EPI 526 – Analysis of Publicly Available Databases for Epidemiologic and Health Services Research

2.5 credits

This course addresses the use of existing public use databases to study important questions related to clinical risk factors, treatment, outcomes, and health policy. Special attention will be devoted to publicly available U.S. databases that are commonly used for epidemiologic and health services research and are readily available to new investigators. Such databases offer several advantages including their representative sampling time frames allowing generalizability to larger populations, timeliness, and ability to evaluate trends, geographic variation, or rare conditions. Strengths and
limitations of data sources will be considered. Practical issues in obtaining, linking, and analyzing large databases will be emphasized throughout the course, and key statistical issues will be addressed, including survey sampling and risk-adjustment. Students will complete programming exercises with STATA statistical software, prepare a proposal to analyze a specific research question using a public use database, and conduct analyses to address their research questions.

**EPI 527 – Design and Conduct of Trials in Preventative Medicine**

2.5 credits

This course is designed for students interested in the design, conduct, analysis, and interpretation of trials in preventative medicine. This course will balance current knowledge and concepts in clinical trial methodology alongside the operationalization of how to effectively conduct a trial. Students will learn the components of a trial protocol and manual of operations, and gain insights on the pragmatic aspects of trial design, management, analysis, and interpretation. We will also have students gain first-hand experience both in the design and conduct of a small-scale, short-term clinical trial, and perspective as a participant in a trial. This course will enable students to apply their knowledge to published trial findings to understand their place in clinical practice and guidelines.

**EPI 528 – Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis**

2.5 credits

This course introduces students to the science of research synthesis. Principles and methods for conducting a systematic and quantitative review are illustrated through case studies of public health and medical issues, with emphasis on exploring sources of variation in various settings. The course will introduce research databases, reference management software, pooled estimates and sources of heterogeneity, bias, and practical applications.

**EPI 529 – Applications of Epidemiology**

1.25 credits

This course provides students with a wide variety of applications of epidemiology methods from a menu of modules that reflects active research by the members of the Department of Epidemiology at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Modules contain 3-4 videos (total length approximately one hour) on a common topic and are listed by the twelve Areas of Interest within the Department of Epidemiology. These
include Cancer Epidemiology and Cancer Prevention, Cardiovascular Epidemiology, Clinical Epidemiology, Environmental and Occupational Epidemiology, Epidemiologic Methods, Epidemiology of Aging, Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Genetic Epidemiology and Statistical Genetics, Neuro-Psychiatric Epidemiology, Nutritional Epidemiology, Pharmacoepidemiology, and Reproductive, Perinatal, and Pediatric Epidemiology.

Students are required to view the videos and complete the assignments related to eight modules from the listed menu.

**Elective Options: Spring 2020**

Online, January through May 2020

**BST 215 – Linear and Longitudinal Regression**

This course is intended for students who are already very comfortable with fundamental techniques in statistics. The course will cover methods for building and interpreting linear regression models, including statistical assumptions and diagnostics, estimation and testing, and model building techniques. These models will be extended to handle data arising from longitudinal studies employing repeated measurement of subjects over time.

**EPI 288 – Introduction to Data Mining and Risk Prediction**

This course will present an introduction to the methods of data mining and predictive modeling, with applications to both genetic and clinical data. Basic concepts and philosophy of supervised and unsupervised data mining as well as appropriate applications will be discussed. Topics covered will include multiple comparisons adjustment, cluster analysis, principal component analysis, and predictive model building through logistic regression, classification and regression trees (CART),
multivariate adaptive splines (MARS), neural networks, random forests, and bagging and boosting.

**EPI 529 – Applications of Epidemiology**  
1.25 credits

This course provides students with a wide variety of applications of epidemiology methods from a menu of modules that reflects active research by the members of the Department of Epidemiology at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Modules contain 3-4 videos (total length approximately one hour) on a common topic and are listed by the twelve Areas of Interest within the Department of Epidemiology. These include Cancer Epidemiology and Cancer Prevention, Cardiovascular Epidemiology, Clinical Epidemiology, Environmental and Occupational Epidemiology, Epidemiologic Methods, Epidemiology of Aging, Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Genetic Epidemiology and Statistical Genetics, Neuro-Psychiatric Epidemiology, Nutritional Epidemiology, Pharmacoepidemiology, and Reproductive, Perinatal, and Pediatric Epidemiology. Students are required to view the videos and complete the assignments related to eight modules from the listed menu.

**EPI XXX – Infectious Disease Epidemiology**  
2.5 credits

**HPM 506 – Practical Scientific Methods for Improving Health and Health Care Epidemiology**  
2.5 credits

In this course you will learn the fundamentals of improvement science. You will learn how to apply practical scientific methods and tools in improvement programs and projects in health and health care – or in other fields where evidence has not been translated into optimal results. The course will emphasize a particularly flexible and practical methodology, The Model for Improvement, but will cross-walk this model with other approaches you are likely to encounter, including Lean and Lean Six Sigma. In addition, you will benefit by leveraging relevant methods from other scientific disciplines that can accelerate improvement, especially epidemiology, qualitative and ethnographic methods, program design and evaluation, information science and data analytics, and behavioral science/behavioral economics. You will practice what you learn by designing, implementing, and evaluating personal improvement projects. Since you may wish to
present and/or publish your improvement work in the future, course faculty will offer tips on performing rigorous, publishable projects (including obtaining approval from institutional ethics review boards) as part of the routine work. You will practice what you have learned by critiquing published quality improvement studies. You will synthesize and apply course fundamentals at the end of the term by examining how system strengthening can help address the challenges and opportunities in global equity and social justice issues.

**RDS 202 – Decision Science for Public Health**  
**2.5 credits**

Challenges in public health policy and clinical medicine are marked by complexity, uncertainty, competing priorities and resource constraints. This course is designed to introduce the student to the methods and applications of decision analysis and cost-effectiveness analysis in clinical and public health decision making. The objectives of the course are: (1) to provide a basic introduction to the methods and tools of decision science, and to recognize when, how, and in what context they can provide value in clinical and public health decision making; (2) to equip students with the ability to structure and bound a decision problem logically (articulating the objective, perspective, and time horizon), identify key elements (alternatives, uncertainties, and outcomes) and influential factors (preferences, risk attitudes, values); (3) to provide students with basic skills in revising probabilities given new information, building and analyzing decision trees, conducting cost effectiveness analysis, performing sensitivity analyses, and communicating results; (4) to enable students to thoughtfully and critically evaluate published analyses conducted to evaluate or inform clinical strategies, health technologies, and public health policies in developed and developing countries.
EPI 945F and EPI 945S
MPH-EPI Practicum Project and Culminating Experience

Fall 2019 2.5 credits

Spring 2020 2.5/5 credits

Online, Fall 2019 and Spring 2020

On campus, Week of Harvard Commencement

Students in the Master of Public Health in Epidemiology (MPH-EPI) Program develop an offsite practicum under the supervision of a Harvard University faculty member, often from but not restricted to, the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. This practicum may include aspects of epidemiology, biostatistics, decision sciences, or other quantitative aspects of public health. Students apply the competencies learned in core courses to an actual investigation that they select. During the first year of the program members of the MPH-EPI Practicum Committee assist the students in selecting an appropriate practicum topic and identify the Harvard mentor for it. This is accomplished by small-group and individual meetings with students while on campus in June of the first year, followed by online video-conference meetings during the subsequent year. Once students finalize the topic for the practicum, they submit one-page description of the practicum, along with name(s) of suggested mentors to the MPH-EPI Practicum Committee. Once approved, the committee recruits the mentor for the practicum, who works with the student to complete the practicum by the end of the second year of the program. This exercise will culminate with an on-campus presentation of the results of the practicum in May of the second year prior to graduation.
On Campus Course Elective Options: Wintersession 2020 (January Term)

MPH in Epidemiology students can view the wintersession courses on the course catalog. The majority of wintersession courses are 1.25 credits. Some courses may be offered at conflicting times. Please be sure to view the schedule. As a reminder, international students may not be able to take on campus courses during the wintersession due to their visa stats. Please see the wintersession policy for international students on Page 4.

The Harvard Chan School Department of Global Health also offers a variety of field trips during the wintersession term. The field trips usually require an application and information will be sent to students via email. Both domestic and international MPH in Epidemiology students are eligible to apply for the Global Health field trips.

**Total Number of MPH Credits:** 45 credits
**Details on the MPH Practicum Project**

A highlight of the Harvard MPH in Epidemiology is the student-initiated and faculty-mentored Practicum, giving students the opportunity to apply the skills learned from classes taken on campus and online. Under the personalized mentorship and oversight of a faculty member from the Harvard Chan School or other Harvard Departments, each student develops and initiates a practicum proposal. The culmination of the degree program is a PowerPoint presentation to the faculty and students in this program as part of a symposium during the final on campus session of the program, the week of the Harvard Commencement. This culminating experience will provide the opportunity for students to showcase their mastery of program competencies to the Harvard community.

The process by which students complete the MPH in Epidemiology practicum involves group mentoring during the first year of the program and individual mentoring during the second year. In the fall semester of the first year of the program, students are sent a survey asking about initial thoughts for a practicum. This is followed by an individual contact by a member of the MPH in Epidemiology Practicum Committee, to discuss the student’s thoughts for a Practicum topic. The MPH in Epidemiology Practicum Committee meets during the spring semester to discuss each student’s ideas for a practicum and recruit the Practicum mentor for any project that is approved by the committee as appropriate for a practicum and ready to be initiated; with the goal of approving a project for a practicum and identifying the Practicum mentor, before the student returns in June for their second on campus session.

Students who do not have a clear developed project for a practicum by the second June session will meet with a member of the Practicum Committee or the instructor of the fall elective course on Analysis of Publicly Available Databases for Epidemiologic and Health Services Research (EPI 526). This course describes multiple databases that are available for public use, and provide the basis for a capstone project chosen by the student using one of these data bases. Once the student selects the topic and database for a Practicum, a mentor is assigned to work with that student.

Students earn either 5 or 7.5 credits for completing the practicum. Student can elect to take their practicum, credits as either pass/fail or ordinal.
Academic Calendar for the MPH in Epidemiology Program 2018-2020

**On Campus**
**June 2018:** June 4 – June 22

**Online**
**Summer 2018:** July 6 – August 17

**Fall 2018:** September 4 – December 21

**Spring 2019:** January 28 – May 17
Spring 1: January 28 – March 15
Spring 2: March 25 – May 17

**On Campus**
**June 2019:** June 3 – June 21

**Online**
**Summer 2019:** July 8 – August 16

**Fall 2019:** September 3 – December 20

**Spring 2020:** January 27 – May 15

**On Campus**
**MPH-EPI Symposium 2020:** Tuesday, May 26, 2020

**Harvard Chan School Convocation:** Wednesday, May 27, 2020

**Harvard University Commencement:** Thursday, May 28, 2020

Please check the academic calendar online for a complete listing, including School holiday, add/drop and pass/fail deadlines: https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/registrar/academic-calendar

Students are expected to observe all deadlines.