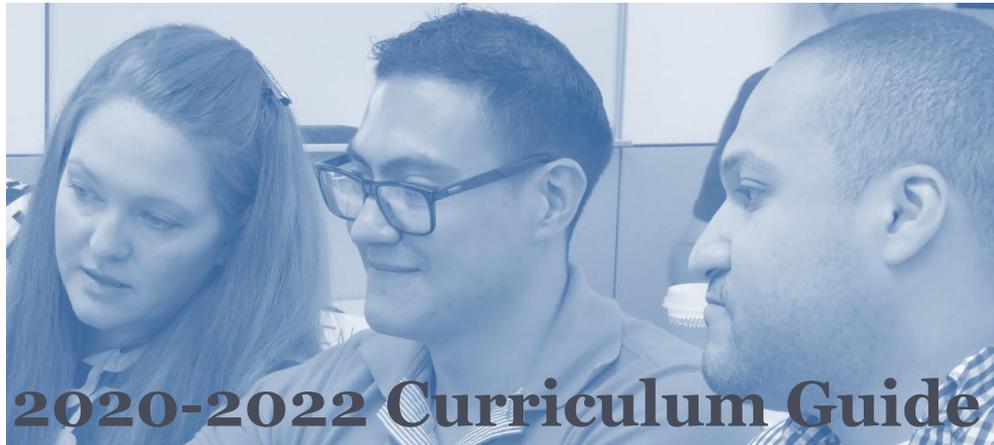
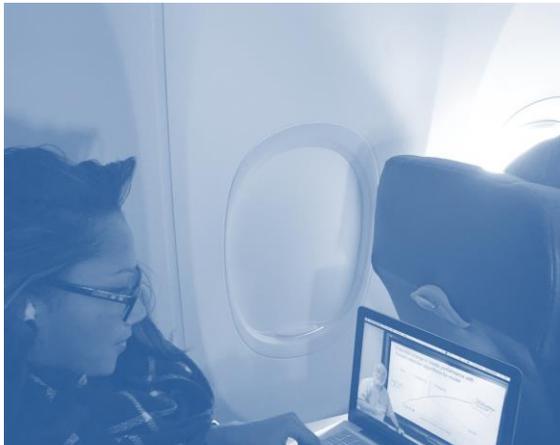




HARVARD
T.H. CHAN

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH



2020-2022 Curriculum Guide

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: [hsph.me/mphepi](https://hsph.harvard.edu/mphepi).

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

Program Description:

The Master of Public Health (MPH) 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 some of the world's most accomplished faculty. Through a combination 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 needed 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 to 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 2020 (conducted remotely due to COVID-19) and June 2021.
- **Online:** You will earn roughly two-thirds of your credits online through courses that include interactive exercises, modular video sessions, and case-based studies.
- **In the Field:** Mentored by Harvard faculty, you will complete a self-designed, year-long practicum project culminating in a final presentation before graduation.

Program Competencies for MPH in Epidemiology Program

- 1.) Develop comprehensive knowledge of the study 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 for 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, complete program requirements within the designated time to degree, and 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.

Pass/Fail Grading Policies: Updated with 2020 COVID-19 Policies

Students enrolled in an MPH program at the School usually are allowed a maximum of 12.5 pass/fail credits during the degree program. Therefore, MPH in Epidemiology students are required to have at least 32.5 ordinal graded credits from courses.

However, in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the School has added a pass/fail option for all Harvard Chan courses offered in Fall 2020. MPH students may choose to take any of their credits during the Fall 2020 semester as pass/fail. Pass/fail credits taken in Summer or Fall 2020 do not count toward the 12.5 pass/fail credit limit.

The pass/fail policy for Spring 2020 has not yet been determined. Clear guidance will be sent once available.

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 a semester will be charged a continuation fee.

Add/Drop Deadline:

MPH in Epidemiology students should follow the same last date to enroll/last date to drop deadlines as other Harvard Chan School students. The exact deadline can be obtained from the [Academic Calendar Summary](#) on the [Registrar's Office website](#).

It is strongly recommended that students not join courses after they begin, to avoid missing any required assignments or group project work during the first two weeks of the course.

Elective Courses: Updated with 2020 COVID-19 Policies

It is not recommended that MPH-EPI students take elective courses during the first year in the program. However, due to COVID-19, MPH-EPI students in their first year may register for one course (in addition to EPI 522) during the Fall 2020 semester. MPH-EPI students will be allowed to register for any fall course that typically would be on campus, but is now being offered online, without submitting a petition (assuming they have met any pre-requisites). Please note: most fall courses have priority enrollment. If there is space in a course, MPH-EPI students will be granted access during Wave 3, which begins on August 28, 2020.

Students who wish to take one of the online electives that are part of the MPH-EPI program (described on page 7 of this guide) are required to submit a petition, along with a detailed reason explaining why the course is essential to their study in the first year. Petitions should focus on a specific course and not be a general request for any elective that is available.

During their second year of the program, students can choose from a variety of online MPH-EPI electives in the Fall and Spring semesters. Elective course credits vary from 1.25 to 2.5 credits. The current list of elective courses can be found beginning on page 7.

MPH Public Health Core Course (Required for All MPH Students)

ID 100, Foundations for Public Health

All MPH students are required to complete a school-wide online, asynchronous, 1.0 credit course, ID 100, *Foundations for Public Health*. This course will begin on July 20th and will run through Fall 1. Students will be automatically given access to the first portion of the course materials via Canvas, and can complete this part of the course at their own pace. The remainder of the course will be available at the beginning of Fall 1. To receive credit for this course, students must enroll in ID 100 via *my.harvard* prior to the fall/fall 1 add/drop deadline. The course instructor, Professor Sue Goldie, will hold a synchronous session during Fall Orientation on Monday, August 24th from 10:15am – 11:15am ET, which will be recorded for students who are unable to attend live. MPH-EPI students do not have to attend Fall orientation so this session is optional.

MPH 101, MPH Qualitative Methods for Public Health

All MPH students are required to complete MPH 101 in Fall 2020. This course is a self-paced, non-credit course, which is expected to take approximately 10 hours.

Cross Registration and On Campus Courses:

Students enrolled in the MPH in Epidemiology generally are unable to take courses on campus during the academic year or cross-register for other courses within Harvard University due to their non-resident student

status. This policy has been slightly changed for Fall 2020 due to COVID-19. Please read the policy under “Elective Courses”.

WinterSession:

MPH in Epidemiology students are eligible to attend on-campus courses during 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 U.S. on an F-1 student visa. In order to be eligible for F-1 status during the WinterSession, 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 WinterSession to meet the 5 credit limit.

Practicum Registration:

Students are required to register for the practicum course (EPI 945) in both the Fall and Spring semesters during Year 2 of the program. All students register for EPI 945 for 2.5 credits in the Fall semester. Students can count EPI 945 for either 2.5 or 5 credits during the Spring semester, which allows them 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 Integrating Learning Experience:

All students in the MPH in Epidemiology are required to make a presentation as the final product of their practicum project. The MPH in Epidemiology does not have an option to write a thesis. The presentation initially is done online, during the virtual component of the Symposium. In addition, it is strongly recommended that students attend the in-person component of the MPH in Epidemiology Practicum 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 2020 (was remote due to COVID-19) and June 2021 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 student who has paid their financial requirements, but still has 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>.

Additional Resources Available for MPH in Epidemiology Students:

MPH in Epidemiology iLibrary

Students who enroll in the program are given access to the MPH in Epidemiology iLibrary in Canvas. The iLibrary is a repository that has a variety of useful information including podcasts, videos, data analysis tutorials, lecture notes, external epidemiology resources, and career resources. We are in the process of expanding and re-organizing the iLibrary over the next year.

MPH in Epidemiology Course Overview

Course Name	Course ID	Credit
Year 1		
Introduction to Epidemiology & Biostatistics	ID 207/ID 208	7.5/2.5
Foundations for Public Health	ID 100	1
Qualitative Methods for Public Health	MPH 101	0
Analytic Methods for Epidemiology	EPI 522	5
Confounding Control: A Component of Causal Inference	EPI 524	2.5
Study Designs for Epidemiologists	EPI 525	2.5
Year 2		
Core Areas in Public Health	MPH 100	5
Ethical and Regulatory Issues in Human Research	HPM 549	2.5
Health Economics and Applications to Global Health Policy	HPM 260	2.5
Electives (Fall Semester)		
Analysis of Publicly Available Databases for Epidemiologic and Health Services Research	EPI 526	2.5
Design and Conduct of Trials in Preventive Medicine	EPI 527	2.5
Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis	EPI 528	2.5
Applications of Epidemiology	EPI 529	1.25
Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods for Public Health	HPM 559	2.5
Wintersession (Optional)		
Other On-Campus Courses	<i>See course catalog for winter courses.</i>	
Electives (Spring Semester)		
Linear and Longitudinal Regression	BST 215	2.5
Introduction to Data Mining and Risk Prediction	EPI 288	2.5
Applications of Epidemiology	EPI 529	1.25
Infectious Disease Epidemiology	EPI 530	1.25
Practical Scientific Methods for Improving Health and Health Care	HPM 506	2.5
Decision Science for Public Health	RDS 202	2.5
Practicum		
MPH-EPI Practicum Project and Culminating Experience	EPI 945F and EPI 945S	5 or 7.5
Total Credits: 45		

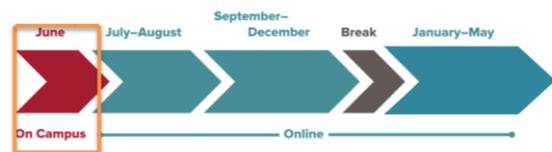
Year 1: June 2019 through May 2020

ID 207 – Introduction to Epidemiology and Biostatistics

7.5 credits

Online, three weeks, June 2020

At the conclusion of ID 207/208, 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 critical 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.



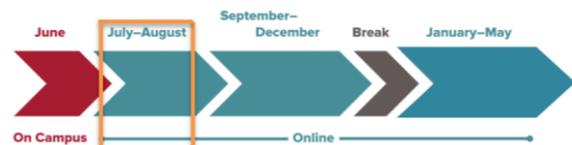
ID 208 – Introduction to Epidemiology and Biostatistics

2.5 credits

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

Online, six weeks, July through August 2020

At the conclusion of ID 207/208, 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 critical 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 2020

EPI 522 will cover a wide variety of methods used to analyze epidemiologic data. It will start with a review of the basic principles of causal inference and use of causal diagrams to identify confounding. This will provide a basis for introducing regression-based methods to control for confounding, including logistic regression and propensity score analysis. The course will also cover survival analysis and Cox proportional hazards regression for time-to-event data, extensions of logistic regression (including ordinal logistic regression, multinomial logistic regression, and conditional logistic regression), and methods for developing and validating prediction rules based on regression models. Finally, the course will discuss methods for handling missing data. Students will learn to implement these analytic methods using the Stata statistical software package, and they will apply these methods to a research question by working on a group project with a publicly-available dataset.



EPI 524 – Confounding Control: A Component of Causal Inference

2.5 credits

Online, seven weeks, January through March 2021

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. EPI 524 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 score methods, the parametric g-formula, inverse probability weighting of marginal structural models, and instrumental variable methods as means for confounding control.

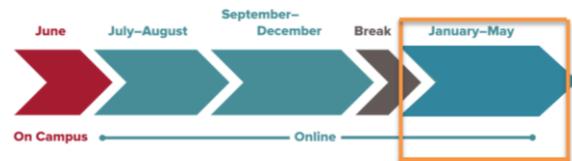
EPI524 is designed to be taken after EPI522. The models described in EPI524 are for time-fixed dichotomous exposures and dichotomous, continuous, and failure time (e.g., survival) outcomes.

EPI 525 – Study Designs for Epidemiologists

2.5 credits

Online, eight weeks, March through May 2021

EPI 525 reviews the main study designs currently used to describe, predict, and investigate the causes of adverse health outcomes in humans. We will examine general principles, interpretation, strengths, and limitations of the study designs that are commonly used for population research. The course covers ecological, cross-sectional, cohort, case-control, and case-only designs in a number of different settings. Issues related to study population identification, exposure and disease definition and ascertainment, misclassification, confounding, and generalizability are considered in the light of typically available data sources. Idiosyncrasies of several fields, from infectious disease to occupational epidemiology, and their relevance to the selection of an optimal study design are discussed.



Year 2: June 2021 through May 2022

MPH 100 – Core Areas in Public Health

5 credits

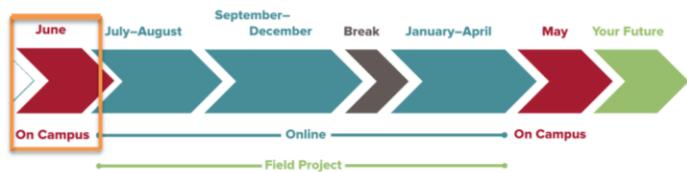
On-campus, three weeks, June 2021

MPH Public Health Core introduces MPH-EPI students to four key public health arenas: health systems, budgeting and resources management, policy and politics, and the social, behavioral, and structural determinants of health. Each of the content areas will be taught by faculty experts in these respective fields. Faculty will offer foundational frameworks and theories, discuss relevant research, explore potential interventions to improve health status and health outcomes, and encourage participants to apply their learning to current US and international issues. After learning the basics of how to write two critical communication/advocacy formats, i.e. policy memos and op-eds, students will author one of each type as the two primary graded assessments in this course.

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

On-campus, two weeks, June 2021

HPM 549 introduces ethical and regulatory requirements for review, conduct and oversight of research involving humans. Topics include 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 discussions of case studies covering a variety of topics. Students will also have the opportunity to obtain hands-on experiences such as participating in a mock IRB meeting.

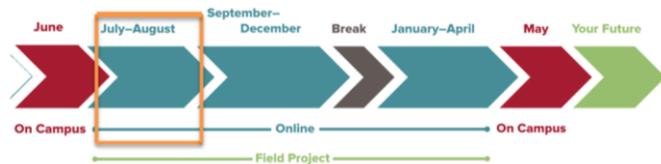


HPM 260 – Health Economics with Applications to Global Health Policy

2.5 credits

Online, six weeks, July through August 2021

Students will learn how to analyze current health policy issues through the application of basic economic principles. No previous economics training is required. HPM 260 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.



Electives Options: Fall 2021

Online, September through December 2021

EPI 526 – Analysis of Publicly Available Databases for Epidemiologic and Health Services Research **2.5 credits**

EPI 526 addresses the use of existing public use databases to study important questions related to clinical risk factors, treatment, outcomes, and health policy. The course is designed to bridge coursework in epidemiological methods and biostatistics by providing practical experience manipulating and analyzing publicly available databases and complex surveys. Special attention is 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 designs 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 databases will be emphasized throughout the course, and key statistical issues will be addressed, including appropriate analyses of complex survey designs. 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**

EPI 527 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**

EPI 528 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.

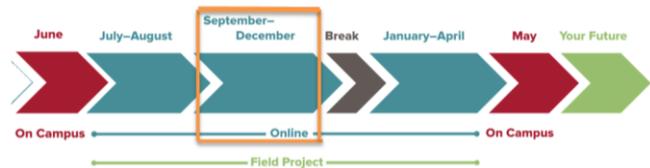
EPI 529 – Applications of Epidemiology**1.25 credits**

EPI 529 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.

HPM 559: Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods for Public Health**2.5 credits**

HPM 559 course will provide an introduction to qualitative methods in public health research. It is aimed at students who have little or no prior knowledge of qualitative research methods, and an interest in using or conducting qualitative research to inform health policy and practice. The course is designed to introduce students to fundamental questions, principles, and skills necessary to critically design, conduct, interpret and evaluate qualitative research. Throughout the course, the emphasis will be on gaining and reflecting on practical experience of designing qualitative research projects and using core qualitative methods.

We begin by considering the question “why qualitative research?” reflecting on the philosophical foundations of qualitative approaches and considering the value of qualitative methodologies for health research. We explore the implications for designing and evaluating qualitative research projects, taking account of ethical considerations and the practical constraints of conducting research in diverse applied settings. The remaining sessions focus on developing practical skills for conducting qualitative research: generating data through interviews, focus groups, and observations, and analyzing qualitative data. Students will have opportunities to design and plan qualitative studies, to conduct and evaluate interviews, and to practice analyzing qualitative data. As an introductory level course, it necessarily aims to cover a breadth of topics; it does not, therefore, provide in-depth or advanced coverage of any one aspect of qualitative data collection or analysis.



Elective Options: Spring 2022

Online, January through May 2022

BST 215 – Linear and Longitudinal Regression

2.5 credits

BST 215 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 Machine Learning and Risk Prediction

2.5 credits

EPI 288 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

EPI 529 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 530 – Infectious Disease Epidemiology

1.25 credits

EPI 530 will introduce students to the conception and application of infectious disease modeling in epidemiology. We will cover the global burden of infectious diseases, the dynamics of infectious diseases with different transmission routes, simple modeling approaches to understand epidemic dynamics, and the ways in which models can be used to understand the mechanisms of transmission and the impacts of interventions. Case studies will be used to familiarize students with specific applications of the theoretical models discussed. Throughout, the emphasis will be on a practical understanding of how these methods can be used and on the rigorous evaluation of the modeling literature.

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

2.5 credits

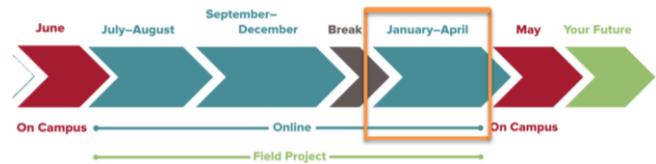
You will learn the fundamentals of improvement science. You will learn how to apply practical scientific methods and tools in improvement programs and projects in health and health care – or in other fields where evidence has not been translated into optimal results. The course will emphasize a particularly 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 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 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 2021

2.5 credits

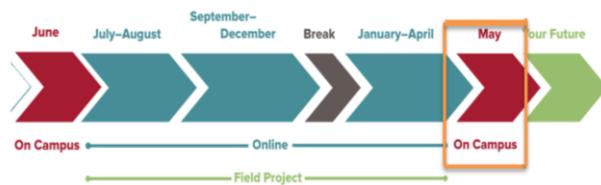
Spring 2022

2.5/5 credits

Online, Fall 2021 and Spring 2022

On campus, Week of Harvard Commencement

Students in the Master of Public Health in Epidemiology (MPH-EPI) Program develop a practicum project 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 is usually an applied research project that includes 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 students in selecting an appropriate practicum topic and identifying a Harvard mentor. This is accomplished via online meetings during the Fall and Spring semesters. Once students finalize the topic for the practicum, they submit a brief 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 online and possible on-campus presentation of the results of the practicum in May.



On Campus Course Elective Options: WinterSession 2021 (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
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Details on the MPH Practicum Project

A highlight of the Harvard MPH in Epidemiology is the student-initiated and faculty-mentored practicum project, which gives students the opportunity to apply the skills learned from coursework to a real project. Under the personalized mentorship and oversight of a Harvard faculty member, each student develops and initiates a practicum proposal. The culmination of the degree program is a presentation to the faculty and students in this program as part of a Symposium before graduation. 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. During the Fall semester of the first year of the program, students complete a survey about their initial ideas for a practicum. This is followed by an individual contact with 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 Harvard practicum mentor, before the student returns in June for their second on-campus session.

Students who do not have a clearly-developed plan for a practicum project 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 can be used for the practicum project. . Once the student selects the topic and database for a Practicum, a mentor can be identified 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 (EPI 945) as either pass/fail or ordinal.

Academic Calendar for the MPH in Epidemiology Program 2020-2022

On Campus

June 2020: June 1 – June 19

Online

Summer 2020: July 6 – August 14

Fall 2020: August 31 – December 18

Spring 2021: January 25 – May 12

Spring 1: January 25 – March 12

Spring 2: March 22 – May 12

On Campus

June 2021: June 7 – June 25

Online

Summer 2021: July 6 – August 13

Fall 2021: August 30 – December 17

Spring 2022: January 24 – May 13

On Campus

MPH-EPI Symposium 2022 (Possible Dates):

Monday, May 23, 2022 and Tuesday, May 24, 2022

Harvard Chan School Convocation: Wednesday, May 25, 2022

Harvard University Commencement: Thursday, May 26, 2022

Please check the academic calendar online for a complete listing, including School holidays, add/drop and pass/fail deadlines, WinterSession dates and School recesses:

<https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/registrar/academic-calendar>

Students are expected to observe all deadlines.