



**Department of Environmental & Occupational Health**

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**MPH in Environmental Health  
 Academic Year 2008-2009**

The environmental health concentration accommodates students with various backgrounds and interests, who desire careers related to the environmental aspects of public health. Specifically, this area of concentration provides the expertise and experience to analyze, monitor, interpret and mitigate the effects of chemical and physical contaminants, and microbial pathogens in water, air, soil, and food on public health. It prepares students in the M.P.H. program for technical and administrative jobs in the governmental and private sectors. By the conclusion of the M.P.H. program, a student in the environmental health concentration will be able to:

1. Assess environmental health threats that affect the health of the public.
2. Understand the interplay between theory and practice of environmental health management.
3. Understand environmental protection strategies and approaches to reduce environmental health risks.
4. Identify, develop, apply and modify an appropriate research approach to an environmental health problem based on constraints and available resources.
5. Analyze quantitative and qualitative data to describe environmental conditions that have impacts on human health.
6. Synthesize data from a variety of sources, reflective of multidisciplinary perspectives, to develop strategies for addressing complex environmental health problems. Use biostatistics and statistical software to analyze an environmental health problem.
7. Interpret and present findings in written and verbal format from an environmental health and public health perspective.

**Environmental Health Curriculum (48 Semester Credit Hours)**

**CORE COURSES: 15 SCH**

|      |      |  |       |
|------|------|--|-------|
| BIOS | 5210 | Biostatistics for Public Health I            | 3 SCH |
| ENVR | 5300 | Environmental Health                         | 3 SCH |
| EPID | 5100 | Principles of Epidemiology                   | 3 SCH |
| HMAP | 5210 | Introduction to Health Management and Policy | 3 SCH |
| SCBS | 5115 | Behavioral Foundations of Public Health      | 3 SCH |

**REQUIRED COURSES: 12 SCH**

|      |      |   |       |
|------|------|---|-------|
| ENVR | 5330 | Environmental and Occupational Toxicology | 3 SCH |
| ENVR | 5345 | Physical Hazards                          | 3 SCH |
| ENVR | 5380 | Environmental Health Microbiology         | 3 SCH |
| ENVR | 5410 | Environmental Data Analysis               | 3 SCH |

**PRACTICE EXPERIENCE: 3 SCH**

|     |      |                                   |       |
|-----|------|-----------------------------------|-------|
| SPH | 5855 | Public Health Practice Experience | 3 SCH |
|-----|------|-----------------------------------|-------|

**ELECTIVE COURSES: 18 SCH**

|      |      |  |         |
|------|------|--|---------|
| ENVR | 5310 | Exposure and Risk Assessment                 | 3 SCH   |
| ENVR | 5311 | Air Pollution and Health                     | 3 SCH   |
| ENVR | 5325 | Industrial Hygiene                           | 3 SCH   |
| ENVR | 5370 | Arthropods and Public Health                 | 3 SCH   |
| ENVR | 5420 | Texas-Mexico Border Health Issues            | 3 SCH   |
| ENVR | 5500 | Biomarkers in Environmental Epidemiology     | 3 SCH   |
| ENVR | 5550 | Introduction to Genomics and Public Health   | 3 SCH   |
| ENVR | 5910 | Independent Study in Environmental Health    | 1-3 SCH |
| ENVR | 6600 | Spatiotemporal Environmental Health Modeling | 3 SCH   |
| EPID | 6690 | Occupational Epidemiology                    | 3 SCH   |

- Students may substitute an elective course not on this list only with prior written approval of their advisor.
- Courses not approved as substitutes will not be applied toward the degree plan.
- For the Texas - Mexico Border Health Issues course ENVR 5420, all students must have a Passport prior to taking this course, and international students must also have a US multi-entry Visa and purchase a travel visa for Mexico prior to taking this course.

**CULMINATING EXPERIENCE:**

Comprehensive Exam (see details below)

- Upon approval by the student's advisor and the department chair, students may elect to complete a Thesis for the culminating experience. In this case, students will take 12 SCH of "ELECTIVE" coursework and 6 SCH of Thesis.

Students who select the comprehensive exam option do not register for a course in order to take the exam. In order to take the exam, a student must have a grade point average of 3.0 or higher. Students are responsible for informing the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health of their intentions to take the exam. A student who encounters a last minute emergency (sickness, death in the family, etc.) may appeal to the exam committee for an opportunity to take a makeup exam. Students who fail the exam may, upon recommendation of the department chair, be allowed to retake a different exam. However, an opportunity for retaking the exam is not automatic, and students may only retake the exam once.

MPH students enrolled in the thesis as part of their degree plan are required to demonstrate that they are actively working toward its completion. This requires confirmed submission of written materials and on-going consultation with committee members within the first and subsequent semesters of registering for thesis credit. It is the responsibility of the student to maintain contact with their thesis advisor and committee members to assure satisfactory progress. MPH students choosing the thesis option but not making satisfactory progress as determined by their advisor may be required to take the comprehensive exam instead of the thesis or may be required to take additional courses to assure sufficient knowledge and skills needed to continue the research project. Any action taken as a result of not meeting the above expectations is subject to the discretion of the department chair.

MPH students can use attendance at departmental seminars towards the 200 hours for the Public Health Practice Experience (SPH 5855) as follows: The practicum must include attendance at a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 16 departmental seminars. This is equivalent to a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 16 credit hours being credited

towards the 200 hours of the practicum required. All students must complete at least 8 credit hours of seminars for graduation.