



Department of Environmental & Occupational Health

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MPH in Environmental Health

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. **For the culminating experience, students may choose between a thesis or a comprehensive exam. Students selecting the comprehensive exam option must take an additional six (6) semester credit hours of electives in lieu of the thesis.** 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 (45 SCH)

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	5110	Behavioral and Social Aspects 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 (to be eligible for enrollment, students must complete all core courses and at least two required courses)

SPH	5855	Public Health Practice Experience	3 SCH
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ELECTIVE COURSES: 9 SCH for Thesis option or 15 SCH for Comprehensive Exam Option

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.

CULMINATING EXPERIENCE: 0-6 SCH

SPH	5950	Thesis	6 SCH
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Or

Comprehensive Exam (see details below)			0 SCH
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Students who select the comprehensive exam option do not register for a course in order to take the exam; however, they must complete six (6) additional semester credit hours of electives. 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.