
Master's of Public Health (MPH) Degree Overview

Epidemiology offers one MPH degree program:

- Master of Public Health (MPH) 45 credit minimum

MASTER'S PROGRAM DIRECTOR – Nancy W. Glynn, PhD epidnwg@pitt.edu

Degree Purposes

[MPH in Epidemiology](#)

The MPH degree is designed to educate the individual on the epidemiological approach to public health. This includes a broad overview to epidemiology, biostatistics, environmental influences on health, public health planning, and health services. Applied experience may also be gained through a 200-hour internship. Although it is a terminal master's degree, it may also serve as prerequisite training for a doctoral degree program in the Epidemiology Department.

Academic Advisement and Research Mentorship

[Dr. Nancy Glynn](#) acts as an academic advisor for new MPH students. When students have completed their required coursework and are prepared to move forward with development of their culminating essay projects, they may be assigned to proceed under the direction of another Epidemiology faculty member who will act as a research mentor.

Degree Completion Timeframes

- Master's Program students typically begin their programs of study in fall term.
- The MPH program for a matriculated graduate student may be completed in 3 academic terms (fall, spring, and the following fall – a required internship is typically scheduled for the summer of the first academic year).
- University of Pittsburgh undergraduates who qualify may enter the [Pitt Public Health Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's Program](#), and complete both their undergraduate and MPH or MS program in a compressed timeframe.

- Note that Pitt undergraduates may qualify for [Pitt2Pitt scholarship](#) funding if they wish to pursue an MPH or MS program.
- **University of Pittsburgh Statute of Limitations** policy indicates that MPH students must complete their degree requirements within 5 concurrent years after their matriculation terms.

Master's Program Course Sequences (suggested course plans for MPH students)

- Refer to the **MPH Course Sequence** for matriculants in current and prior academic years in the Curriculum section of Epidemiology Student Handbook.

Student course enrollment

- Master's program students will meet individually in-person or remotely with the master's program director concerning course selection prior to each academic term.
- The student services manager and program administrator will e-mail new and continuing students instructions for self-enrollment.

Financial aid and student employment

- Contact Dr. Nancy Glynn, epidnwg@pitt.edu, with questions.

MPH PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Pitt Public Health & Departmental core course requirements

- Refer to the **Core Courses and Requirements** document in the Curriculum section of the Student Handbook to review a roster of current and prior year required coursework and experiences for the MPH.

Communications Competency Requirement

- Master's program students must complete one presentation at a professional conference or meeting approved by their advisors prior to completing their degrees. A [Communications Competency Requirement Record form](#) should be

signed and completed to document fulfillment of this experience and e-mailed to the Epidemiology Student Services Office.

Public Health Internships (MPH 45-credit students) [EPIDEM 2214]

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM DIRECTOR – Nancy W. Glynn, PhD epidnwg@pitt.edu

- After completing two terms of course work in the program, students should register for a supervised 1-2 credit internship experience. Most students complete their experience during the first summer of their study, although it is possible to actually register for the course in a different term (this may reduce tuition expenses for some students).
- Students are encouraged, but not required, to develop their master's essay based on their internship experiences. Please discuss with your academic advisor/research mentor.
- MPH students are required to create an [e-Portfolio](#) to document their internship experiences and fulfillment of required competencies. Contact Dr. Glynn with questions.
- Practicum/Internship documents required of interns and site preceptors is available on the [Pitt Public Health Forms page](#).
- Experience requirements include a final poster presentation that is held in fall term each year.

Masters Essay (MPH students) [EPIDEM 2210]

- The **MPH Essay Guidelines** section of the Student Handbook provides details concerning essay development, as well as the faculty committee that must be proposed and approved to review it and direct student ongoing research efforts.
- [Integrated Learning Experience \(ILE\) Forms](#) must be submitted to identify competencies that will be attained during essay development, and describe how/if the documented competency goals were met. Questions should be discussed with student research mentors and/or the master's degree program director. The forms include:
 - Essay/Thesis Agreement

- Essay/Thesis Final Assessment
- Essay credits
 - MPH Students should register for 1-2 credits when enrolling in EPIDEM 2210 (Dr. Glynn's section). Credits may be spread across multiple academic terms, but students are expected to participate in the EPIDEM 2210 course in the term they expect to graduate
 - Students must be registered for at least 1 course credit in the term of their graduation.
- Topic selection
 - Should be discussed with advisor and/or research mentor.

Report on Requirements for Master's Degree form

- This form must be completed and submitted after the student's essay is approved by the committee.
- It should be signed by all MPH Essay Committee readers and the Department of Epidemiology chair (or his/her designee), as evidence that the essay was approved by the committee, other degree requirements have been completed, and the student is prepared to graduate.
- Form copies must be on file in Pitt Public Health Student Affairs as well as in the Epidemiology Department.
- Students cannot be certified to graduate by the Student Services Manager and Program Administrator if these forms are not retained as noted above.
- More details about this form and its significance may be reviewed on the Pitt [Public Health Graduation Website](#).
- Contact Student Services Office to learn more about form processing.

Financial Aid

- Contact Dr. Nancy Glynn epidnwg@pitt.edu, Epidemiology Master's Program Director, for information.

Graduation

Students anticipating graduation receive support from the Epidemiology master's program director through participation in EPIDEM 2210, the Student Services Office staff, and graduation coordination staff in the school's Student Affairs Office to ensure they are aware of all required departmental and school operational processes.

Refer to the [Graduation](#) section of the Pitt Public Health Website to learn more about processes and requirement deadlines; information will also be detailed in EPIDEM 2210 course.

- Students should discuss graduation readiness with their advisors.
- If advisors confirm they are academically prepared, students should follow their recommendations to proceed, and follow protocols to electronically apply to graduate.
- Students are responsible for communicating with the Student Affairs Office graduation communication staff at stuaff@pitt.edu with questions about school-level form requirements and protocols (including uploading of their committee-approved essays).
- All Epidemiology students are certified for graduation by the Epidemiology student services manager and program administrator.