EPIDEMIOLOGY, DrPH

Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) degree program is a full or part-time degree program designed for students with at least two years of relevant work experience or relevant professional skills and requires at least two years of coursework, followed by an average of two years of research towards a doctoral dissertation (also referred to as a thesis on official forms and committees). The doctoral degree program targets students with specific career goals in public health research, teaching, and/or leadership.

DrPH students focus on identifying public health problems and creative solutions, implementation, and evaluation through their research. Training is offered through a core methodologic sequence with the addition of more focused courses in specialized areas. Students are expected to tailor their curricula, working with their advisers to create a comprehensive plan of study and research. DrPH theses can be either problem-centered or be based on original research, but must be worthy of publication, and approved by the Department and a committee of thesis (dissertation) readers.

The DrPH program requires that students:

• Hold an MPH degree or its equivalent from a CEPH accredited program or school;
• Complete at least 64 credits of coursework with a cumulative 3.0 GPA (B or higher average);
• Successfully pass the Department comprehensive examination;
• Complete a practicum experience;
• Present a doctoral proposal seminar in the Department;
• Pass the Departmental Oral Examination;
• Pass the School-wide Preliminary Oral Examination;
• Develop and conduct independent research culminating in a doctoral dissertation in an approved format;
• Present their dissertation research in a final seminar (open to the public);
• Successfully defend their dissertation during the Final Oral Examination.

Students work closely with their advisers and Thesis Advisory Committee to develop their research questions and design their projects to address those questions and to conduct the dissertation research.

nb: the DrPH is a legacy program and is not currently accepting applications. Plans are underway to join the School-wide DrPH in Fall 2022.

Program Requirements

The DrPH degree is an advanced professional degree program designed for the student who has a Master of Public Health (MPH) or equivalent degree and who intends to pursue a leadership career in the professional practice of public health. The mission of the DrPH program is to prepare graduates to advance the public’s health through the integration and application of a broad range of knowledge and analytical skills in leadership, practice, policy analysis, program management, and professional communication coupled with preparation in a specific disciplinary public health field. The DrPH program prepares graduates to apply these skills and methods in both academic and non-academic settings as well as in either a public agency or private sector settings that emphasize improving the health of the public. In addition to completing the required coursework, all DrPH students must complete a public health practicum. The DrPH thesis must be based on original research, worthy of publication, and approved by the Department and a committee of thesis readers. Unlike the PhD and ScD programs, however, the DrPH program does not require primary data collection. The DrPH degree may be completed on either a full-time or a part-time basis. However, all doctoral students in the Department of Epidemiology are expected to train to be public health leaders and educators. By following an apprenticeship model, students take courses, learn to teach methods and concepts to a wide audience, conduct a rigorous examination of the existing science, and discover and contribute new knowledge to the field. Thus we require students to complete a residency, participate fully in journal clubs, research-in-progress meetings, programmatic activities, and scientific poster sessions and conferences. Doctoral students serve as teaching assistants, conduct research, and prepare a dissertation of the caliber expected of graduates of the Johns Hopkins University.

Residency

A minimum of 128 credits is required to complete the DrPH doctoral degree. The residency requirement (completed by maintaining full-time registration of four consecutive terms of at least 16 credits each) must be completed during the first year of the program. To broaden perspective and to enhance the student’s capabilities for work in public health or disease-related fields, at least 18 credits of coursework are required in courses from at least two other departments outside the student’s primary department. At least nine of these credits must be taken at JHSPH. Students who have completed a master’s degree at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and are continuing into the doctoral program, must complete 18 new credits outside of Epidemiology, in at least two different departments of the school and complete 18 credits within the Department of Epidemiology, to establish the grade point average. Of note: University and Schoolwide requirements do not count toward the 18 credits outside of the department.

Track Specific Activities

Each Track holds journal clubs, research-in-progress meetings, and other activities, which Track students are expected to attend. These activities are opportunities to engage and interact with Track faculty, fellow students, and post-doctoral fellows, and to participate and present in the topic area of the Track. All doctoral students are expected to participate in their Track. If a student for some reason wishes to switch tracks during the course of their degree, they must schedule a meeting with the Senior Academic Program Manager, Frances Burman (FranBurman@jhu.edu) to ascertain whether a switch is feasible to still meet graduation requirements in time and to complete a formal form.

Quarterly Doctoral Meetings

Doctoral students and the Doctoral Program Directors meet quarterly. The agenda is developed by the Epidemiology Student Organization (ESO) doctoral student representatives in consultation with the program co-directors. These meetings provide a forum to learn about academic policies and deadlines, and for students to raise questions and concerns, and for all to hear the answers. All doctoral students are expected to attend these meetings.

Academic & Research Ethics (and Avoiding Plagiarism) Course Requirement

All doctoral students must enroll in PH.550.860 Academic & Research Ethics at JHSPH during the first term of doctoral enrollment at the School. The Avoiding Plagiarism at JHU training developed by JHU’s Sheridan Libraries course material is contained within the PH.550.860 Academic & Research Ethics at JHSPH course. This online course, administered through CoursePlus. All students are required
to complete this online course by the end of their first term enrolled. In the course, students are asked to upload two certificates to a CoursePlus Dropbox showing completion of both parts of this course:

- Certificate from JHU for the Avoiding Plagiarism module
- Certificate from SPH for completion of the Responsible Conduct of Research module.

Students must also send a copy of the certificates to the Senior Academic Program Manager, Frances Burman (FranBurman@jhu.edu) with their name and “Academic & Research Ethics Requirement” in the subject line of the email.

**Responsible Conduct of Research Course Requirement**

All doctoral students must fulfill the Responsible Conduct of Research requirement. Please note, while there is a Responsible Conduct of Research module within the PH.550.860 Academic & Research Ethics at JHSPH.92, this is a separate requirement and is not fulfilled by that module contained within PH.550.860 Academic & Research Ethics at JHSPH.92.

Additionally, doctoral students who are supported by a National Institutes of Health (NIH) training grant, career development award (individual or institutional), research education grant, or dissertation research grant (including D43, D71, F05, F30, F31, F32, F33, F34, F37, F38, K01, K02, K05, K07, K08, K12, K18, K22, K23, K24, K25, K26, K30, K99/R00, KL1, KL2, R36, T15, T32, T34, T35, T36, T37, T90/R90, TL1, TU2, and U2R) must repeat this in-person requirement every four years. This requirement can be met by completing either of the following two courses:

- PH.550.600 Living Science Ethics - Responsible Conduct of Research (1st term)
- PH.306.665 Research Ethics and integrity: U.S. and International Issues (3rd term)

**Departmental Core and Required Courses**

The Doctoral Level Core Requirements listed by year and term for all Epidemiology doctoral students. Students complete Core Courses, Track-Specific Courses, a course outside of their track, and recommended courses appropriate to provide a base for their intended research. Students who group their electives and recommended courses in a cohesive theme may wish to complete one of the many Certificates (https://www.jhsph.edu/academics/certificate-programs/) offered by the Department and School. Doctoral students who have a strong interest in methodology may apply for and complete the Concurrent MHS in Biostatistics (https://www.jhsph.edu/departments/biostatistics/academics-and-student-life/degree-programs/mhs/) while enrolled in the doctoral program.

**REQUIRED: Core Courses for all doctoral students in Epidemiology**

Core Courses should be completed during the first year of enrollment in preparation for the Written Comprehensive Examinations and as preparation for the Teaching Curriculum. (see the PhD program for the core courses)

**Year 1**

First Term:
CHOOSE ONE: 140.621.02 Statistical Methods in Public Health I or 140.651 Methods in Biostatistics I and 340.751 Epidemiologic Methods 1
340.853.01 First-Year Epidemiology Doctoral Seminar
340.860 Current Topics in Epidemiologic Research
550.860 Academic and Research Ethics
Avoiding Plagiarism Course requirement must be completed by the end of 1st term

Second Term:
CHOOSE ONE: 140.622.02 Statistical Methods in Public Health II or
140.652 Methods in Biostatistics II
340.752 Epidemiologic Methods 2
340.853 First-Year Epidemiology Doctoral Seminar
340.860 Current Topics in Epidemiologic Research
550.865 Public Health Perspectives in Research
May be waived if student holds an MPH from a CEPH accredited program within the past 10 years

Third Term:
CHOOSE ONE: 140.623.02 Statistical Methods in Public Health III or 140.653 Methods in Biostatistics III
340.753 Epidemiologic Methods 3
340.853 First-Year Epidemiology Doctoral Seminar
340.860 Current Topics in Epidemiologic Research
Fourth Term:
CHOOSE ONE: 140.624 Statistical Methods in Public Health IV or 140.654 Methods in Biostatistics IV
340.840 Special Studies and Research Epidemiology (with your adviser)
340.860 Current Topics in Epidemiologic Research

Year 2

First Term:
340.860 Current Topics in Epidemiologic Research
340.863 Doctoral Seminars in Epidemiology
Second Term:
340.860 Current Topics in Epidemiologic Research
340.863 Doctoral Seminars in Epidemiology
Third Term:
340.860 Current Topics in Epidemiologic Research
40.863 Doctoral Seminars in Epidemiology
Fourth Term:
340.860 Current Topics in Epidemiologic Research
340.715 Problems in the Design of Epidemiologic Studies: Proposal Development and Critique

**Additional REQUIRED courses**

All doctoral students are required to complete a course in the Responsible Conduct of Research. Doctoral students who are supported by a National Institutes of Health (NIH) training grant, career development award (individual or institutional), research education grant, or dissertation research grant must also complete the must repeat this in-person Responsible Conduct of Research requirement every 4 years. This requirement can be met by completing following courses (should be taken in Year 1 or 2): 306.665 Research Ethics and Integrity (3rd Term).

**All DrPH students must have completed the MPH program Core courses or equivalent during their MPH or advanced training. Waiver requests are handled by the Admissions and Credentials Committee.**

**Additional REQUIRED courses (take each one)**

**First Year**
Term 1 PH.340.731 Principles of Genetic Epidemiology 1 4 (recommended for year 1 but may be taken in year 2, satisfies the out-of-track requirement as well)

Term 2 PH.340.645 Introduction to Clinical Trials 3 (recommended for year 1 but may be taken in year 2)
Second Year
Term 1: PH.340.660 Practical Skills in Conducting Research in Clinical Epidemiology and Investigation
3
340.770 Public Health Surveillance (2nd Term)
306.665 Research Ethics and Integrity: US and International Issues (3rd Term)
340.769 Professional Epidemiology Methods (3rd Term)

The DRPH Program requires the following selections before completion of graduation.
CHOOSE ONE Health Policy course:
300.600 Introduction to Health Policy (1st Term)
300.712 Formulating Policy: Strategies and Systems of Policymaking in the 21st Century (2nd Term)
308.602 Role of Government in Health Policy (2nd Term)
380.624 Maternal and Child Health Legislation and Programs (2nd Term)
380.740 Nutrition Programs, Policy, and Politics in the US: The Impact on Maternal, Child, and Family Health (2nd Term)
180.629 Environmental and Occupational Health Law and Policy (3rd Term)
221.650 Health Policy Analysis in Low and Middle-Income Countries (3rd Term)
306.650 Public Health and the Law (3rd Term) o 380.665 Family Planning Policies and Programs (3rd Term)
180.628 Introduction to Environmental and Occupational Health Law (4th Term)
300.652 Politics of Health Policy (4th Term)

CHOOSE ONE Management Sciences course:
221.602 Applications in Managing Health Organizations in Low and Middle-Income Countries (1st Term)
221.722 Quality Assurance Management Methods for Developing Countries (1st Term)
312.601 Fundamentals of Management for Health Care Organizations (2nd Term)
317.610 Risk Policy, Management, and Communication (2nd Term in-person; 4th Term online)
221.604 Case Studies in Management Decision-Making (3rd Term)
221.608 Managing Non-Governmental Organizations in the Health Sector (3rd Term)
221.610 Pharmaceutical Management for Under-served Populations (3rd Term)
312.655 Organizational Behavior and Management (4th Term)

CHOOSE ONE Communication course:
317.610 Risk Policy, Management, and Communication (2nd Term in-person; 4th Term online)
410.650 Introduction to Persuasive Communication: Theories and Practice (2nd Term)
410.654 Health Communications Programs I: Planning and Strategic Design (3rd Term)
410.755 Health Communications Programs (3rd and 4th Terms, online)
410.655 Health Communications Programs II: Implementation and Evaluation (4th Term)
410.663 Media Advocacy and Public Health: Theory and Practice (4th Term)
301.645 Health Advocacy (4th Term)
312.670 Negotiation in Health Care Settings (4th Term)

Goals and Practicum:
340.810 Field Placement in Epidemiology

Students may enroll in any term and must complete 16 credits. Students completing this requirement during the summer term should register for 1 credit during the following first term.

Additional RECOMMENDED Courses
CHOOSE ONE Community/Cultural Orientation course:
410.620 Program Planning for Health Behavior Change (1st Term in-person; 4th Term online)
410.733 Communication Network Analysis in Public Health Programs (1st Term)
224.689 Health Behavior Change at the Individual, Household, and Community Levels (2nd Term)
221.688 Social and Behavioral Foundations of Primary Health Care (3rd Term)
380.611 Fundamentals of Program Evaluation (3rd Term)
410.610 Health and Homelessness (3rd Term)
410.630 Implementation and Sustainability of Community-based Health Programs (4th Term)

CHOOSE ONE Human Rights course:
180.636 Human Rights and Health Seminar (2nd Term)
340.683 Human Rights for Public Health Practitioners (3rd Term)
340.639 Assessing Epidemiologic Impact of Human Rights Violations (4th Term)
180.600 Special Topics in Health and Human Rights: Public Health Implications of Health as a Human Right (Winter Institute)

Courses approved for the "OUTSIDE OF TRACK" requirement
All students must complete one introductory topical epidemiology course outside of the chosen track. Courses approved by the Curriculum Committee to meet this requirement are listed below.
340.731 Principles of Genetic Epidemiology (1st Term)
340.645 Introduction to Clinical Trials (2nd Term)
340.624 Etiology, Prevention, and Control of Cancer (2nd Term)
340.627 Epidemiology of Infectious Disease (2nd Term)
340.666 Foundations of Social Epidemiology (2nd Term, offered every other year)
340.607 Introduction to Cardiovascular Disease Epidemiology (3rd term)
340.616 Epidemiology of Aging (4th Term)
340.680 Environmental and Occupational Epidemiology (4th Term)
330.603 Psychiatric Epidemiology (2nd Term)
380.664 Reproductive and Perinatal Epidemiology (4th Term)

DrPH students take the Part A exam and the General Epidemiology Part B exam. Full descriptions of each and procedures are described in the PHD section.

Additional Requirements:
Comprehensive Exam:
A two-day comprehensive examination is administered to all degree-seeking doctoral students in May of their first academic year. By the time of the exam (known as "the comps"), students should have completed 64 credit units (one full year of residence); Epidemiology 340.751-753, Biostatistics 140.621-624 or 140.651-654; and the required 1st year Epidemiology coursework in their Track. Topics covered on the exam include general epidemiologic methods and knowledge, history of epidemiology, and contemporary issues and leaders in public health. The first day of the exam (Part A) tests student knowledge of general epidemiology concepts and methods. The second day of the exam (Part B) is Track-specific, and tests knowledge of concepts presented in the
required courses for each Track. Students must pass both parts of the written comprehensive exam. Doctoral students must attain at least a 75% to pass. A repeat examination may be allowed, but is not guaranteed. Failure to pass one or both sections of the exam may result in dismissal from the doctoral program or from the Department.

Comprehensive Examination Grading Policy
The Comprehensive Examination is graded by Department of Epidemiology faculty according to a rubric determined by the Comprehensive Examination Committee. Final grades are distributed to students via CoursePlus by mid-to-late July. Students who wish to view their exam should set up an appointment with the Academic Coordinator, Ms. Ebony Moore (eamoore@jhu.edu). Students who score below 75% are allowed to formally request writing a re-grade of specific questions. Re-grade requests must include a justification for a change in points allocated for each question being contested; requests without appropriate justification will not be considered. A new score will be assigned for each question that is re-graded. This score may be equal to, greater than, or less than the original score awarded and cannot be contested a second time. Re-grade requests are handled by the faculty on the Comprehensive Examination Committee.

Thesis Advisory Committee
The role of the Thesis Advisory Committee is to provide continuity in the evaluation of the progress and development of the doctoral student. The Thesis Advisory Committee is assembled by the doctoral student and his/her adviser(s). The Thesis Advisory Committee consists of the thesis adviser and at least two additional faculty members who hold either primary or joint appointments in Epidemiology. If the student has a co-adviser, the co-adviser should serve on the Thesis Advisory Committee. Additional faculty within and outside of the School may also be recruited. The Thesis Advisory Committee for DrPH students must also include a fourth member with expertise in public health practice; this public health professional (either a faculty member or an individual working in a practice setting) should be involved from the beginning of the DrPH student’s dissertation work. Committee membership is permitted to change during research. This committee should not be confused with the Preliminary or Final Oral Examination Committees. The Thesis Advisory Committee decides when the student is ready to proceed through each of the milestones needed to complete the degree requirements, including the Doctoral Proposal Seminar, the Departmental and Preliminary Oral Examinations, and the Final Oral Examination. Annual formal meetings of the Thesis Advisory Committee are required, but meetings may and should occur more frequently. It is the student’s responsibility to schedule meetings.

Tips for doctoral students for a successful annual formal meeting of the Thesis Advisory Committee:
Prior to each meeting, draft an agenda and distribute a one-page progress report. After each meeting, send a written report of the items discussed and decisions reached to the members for approval.
Maintain a log of the meetings to aid in writing the annual progress report and financial support documentation.

Once the Thesis Advisory Committee is formed, submit the Thesis Committee Approval Form to Ebony A. Moore (eamoore@jhu.edu) in W6508C.

Dissertation Research Proposal
The 12-page dissertation research proposal is developed during the second year during Terms 1-3 in 340.863 Doctoral Seminars in Epidemiology and is the final project for the course 340.715 Problems in the Design of Epidemiologic Studies: Proposal Development and Critique. The dissertation proposal must be reviewed and approved by the Thesis Advisory Committee prior to scheduling the Doctoral Proposal Seminar.

Doctoral Proposal Seminar
After the Thesis Advisory Committee has approved the student’s 12-page dissertation research proposal, the student must orally present his/her proposal as a Doctoral Proposal Seminar to the Department. Students should present a prepared presentation (typically PowerPoint) approximately 40-45 minutes in length, followed by approximately 15-20 minutes of questions and discussion. The Proposal Seminar is presented during the Friday Epidemiology Seminars (also known as Current Topics in Epidemiologic Research) on Fridays from 12:15-1:20pm in Sheldon Hall. The thesis adviser must attend, and Thesis Advisory Committee members and the Track Director are strongly encouraged to attend.

Doctoral Proposal Seminars are advertised to the Department at large, and students and their advisers should personally invite other faculty and colleagues to attend. The best way to prepare for this seminar is to attend Doctoral Proposal Seminars presented by peers. After the Thesis Advisory Committee has approved the student to present their Doctoral Proposal Seminar, the student should work with the adviser and Thesis Advisory Committee to pick a seminar date. To schedule a date, students must submit the Doctoral Proposal Seminar Form, which include preferences for seminar dates (1st, 2nd and 3rd). This form requires the signature of the adviser and the Track Director.

Departmental Oral Examination

Purpose
After the Thesis Advisory Committee has approved the Dissertation Research Proposal and the student has presented the Doctoral Proposal Seminar, the next step is sitting for the Departmental Oral Examination. The purpose of the Departmental Oral Examination is to determine whether the student has both the ability and knowledge to undertake significant research in his/her general area of interest, including (1) capacity for logical thinking; (2) breadth of knowledge in relevant areas; and (3) ability to develop and conduct research leading to a completed thesis. Discussion of a specific research proposal, if available, may serve as a vehicle for determining the student’s general knowledge and research capacity. However, this examination is not intended to be a defense of a specific research proposal.

Examination Committee Membership
The Committee for DrPH students should consist of four members: the adviser; the public health professional serving on the student’s Thesis Advisory Committee; and two other members and one alternate member, all of whom have primary appointments in the Department of Epidemiology. Thesis committee members, including co-advisers, are NOT permitted to serve on the Departmental Oral Examination with the exception of the student’s adviser, who must participate. All Professional and Scientist Track faculty may serve on the Committee. Students are not required to attend meetings of the Committee prior to the exam and should not expect that committee members will discuss what questions will be asked.

Conduct of the Examination
Prior to the exam, students should submit to the Oral Examination Committee a SINGLE PAGE summary of the dissertation proposal, including the specific aims, hypotheses, and methods. Committee members may request the longer 12-page Dissertation Research Proposal. The examination should be completed in one and a half hours, but may be concluded earlier or later as determined by the Committee. At the start of the exam, students will present a brief talk of no more than 10 minutes that concisely summarizes the aims, hypothesis, methods, limitations and significance of their proposed
dissertation research. This presentation may be a distillation of the Doctoral Proposal Seminar.

Department Oral Examination Form
This Department Oral Examination Form is due to Ms. Ebony Moore (eamoore@jhu.edu) at least 14 days prior to the start of the exam. With approval of the Thesis Advisor, the form should be submitted after presenting the Doctoral Proposal Seminar and incorporating any key input from the Seminar into the Dissertation Research Proposal.

Scheduling
The Academic Coordinator, Ms. Ebony Moore, will schedule the room and send a memo to examiners prior to the exam date.

Examination Outcome
The possible outcomes of the examination are: Unconditional Pass, Conditional Pass, or Failure. Conditional Pass requires the student and Examination Committee to agree on a remedial course of action designed to be completed within two weeks of the exam. Students who fail will be required to re-take the oral examination within six months. Two failures of the Departmental Oral Examination will result in dismissal from the degree program. For more information about the Departmental Oral Examination, please review the Department of Epidemiology Student Guidelines for the Departmental Oral Examination.

Preliminary Oral Examination (also colloquially known as the Schoolwide Oral Examination)

Purpose
The purpose of the Preliminary Oral Examination is to determine whether the student has both the ability and knowledge to undertake significant research in his/her general area of interest, including (1) capacity for logical thinking; (2) breadth of knowledge in relevant areas; and (3) ability to develop and conduct research leading to a completed thesis. Discussion of a specific research proposal, if available, may serve as a vehicle for determining the student’s general knowledge and research capacity. However, this examination is not intended to be a defense of a specific research proposal. Examination Committee Membership

The Committee consists of five members (the student’s primary adviser and four other members), and two alternates. Members must come from at least three departments within University, with representation from at least two departments in the Bloomberg School of Public Health. At least one Committee member must be an associate or full professor in a department other than Epidemiology. Thesis Advisory Committee Members may serve on the Preliminary Oral Examination Committee. For DrPH students, the fifth member on the preliminary oral committee must have professional practice experience related to the public health problem addressed by the student. The fifth member is not necessarily a faculty member of the University and will be approved to serve on the Committee by the program director, based on a submitted curriculum vita. The Committee member fulfilling this practice experience must be explicitly designated on examination forms. Either one scientist track or one adjunct faculty member may serve on the Exam Committee, but not both # Alternates must hold appointments of assistant professor or higher. Of the two alternates, one must hold an appointment with the Department of Epidemiology and one must hold an appointment in a department other than Epidemiology Preliminary Oral Examination Form.

DrPH form
This form cannot be submitted until after the student has successfully passed the Departmental Oral Examination. This form must be submitted to JHSPHExams@jhu.edu a minimum of 30 days prior to the proposed examination date. No exceptions. This form requires signatures from Fran Burman, the adviser, and the Department Chair. The student is responsible for obtaining the required signatures in that order. The form should therefore be submitted to Fran Burman at least 3-4 days prior to the date of submission to the Registrar’s Office. Scheduling The student is responsible for scheduling the room for the exam, requesting Multimedia support if needed, and sending a memo to examiners confirming the date, time and location of the exam prior to the exam date.

Examination Outcome
The outcome of the exam is Unconditional Pass, Conditional Pass, or Failure. Should the student receive a conditional pass, the Committee remains standing until the conditions have been met. The consequence of failure is decided by the Committee: (1) no re-examination; (2) re-examination by the same committee; (3) re-examination in written form and conducted by the same committee; or (4) re-examination by a new committee.

Doctoral Dissertation (DrPH)
The focus of the DrPH degree program is on the scholarship of application and translation as carried out in the practice of public health. Knowledge contributed by individuals with this degree is expected to have a direct application to public health practice. The content of the dissertation should reflect the focus of the degree program and the career paths of DrPH graduates. The DrPH dissertation should demonstrate the student’s capacity for public health analytic work. Its specific content is to be developed by the student in consultation with his/her adviser. The dissertation must be based on original research, worthy of publication, and acceptable to the Department of Epidemiology. DrPH original research may include collecting and analyzing data addressing the public health problem to be studied; however, the DrPH program does not require original data collection. The DrPH dissertation must also meet the following criteria: 1. addresses a practical problem confronting a leader in public health practice; 2. represents original thought and work; 3. uses a rigorous and scientifically defensible analytic component, and 4. is based on a conceptual model that relates the work to existing knowledge and to practice. Follow the School’s written guidelines for the preparation of the dissertation. The dissertation is a requirement for partial fulfillment of the DrPH degree. Students may consult the School’s Policy and Procedures Manual for the DrPH program, which is available online.

Final Defense Seminar
As a culminating experience for the doctoral student, the student will present a formal, public seminar. This requirement provides experience for the student in preparing a formal seminar, provides the faculty and Department with an opportunity to share in the student’s accomplishments; and gives a sense of finality to the doctoral experience on behalf of the student. Students typically present a formal public seminar in conjunction with the Final Oral Examination. If possible, students are encouraged to give their Defense Seminar during the Friday Epidemiology Seminar series (please contact Ms. Frances Burman, franburman@jhu.edu regarding scheduling), but the seminar may be scheduled for any day/time during normal working hours. Students are responsible for making the appropriate room reservations / Multimedia requests unless s/he will be presenting as part of the Friday Epidemiology Seminar series.
Final Oral Examination Committee Membership (Thesis Readers)

For DrPH students, the Committee consists of five members (the student’s adviser and four other members), and two alternates. Members must come from at least three departments within the University, with representation from at least two departments in the Bloomberg School of Public Health. Two readers must be from the Department of Epidemiology (the student’s adviser and one other member); with approval of the Committee on Academic Standards, the Department may nominate an individual from outside the Department to replace a departmental reader. At least one Committee member must be an associate or full professor in a department other than Epidemiology. Either one scientist track or one adjunct faculty member may serve on the Exam Committee, but not both. The Committee of Thesis Readers for PhD and ScD students may be increased to five voting members, provided that the conditions stated above are satisfied. The fifth voting member for DrPH students must have professional practice experience related to the public health problem addressed by the student. The fifth member is not necessarily a faculty member of the University, and will be approved to serve on the Committee by the program director, based on a submitted curriculum vita. Committee member fulfilling this practice experience must be explicitly designated on examination forms. Alternates must hold appointments of assistant professor or higher. Of the two alternates, one must hold an appointment with the Department of Epidemiology and one must hold an appointment in a department other than Epidemiology. This committee should not be confused with the Thesis Advisory Committee Distribution of Dissertation to Thesis Readers Committee members are encouraged and expected to communicate to the student specific recommendations for changes in the thesis prior to the Final Oral Examination. The student is, therefore, expected to distribute the thesis to the committee at least four weeks before the date of the oral defense. The Dissertation Approval Form signed by the student’s adviser should accompany the thesis at the time it is distributed to the committee members.

Appointment of Thesis Readers and Final Oral Examination Committee Form

This form must be completed and submitted to JHSPHEXams@jhu.edu a minimum of four weeks prior to the proposed examination date. No exceptions. The student is responsible for scheduling the room for the Final Oral Examination. Conduct of the Examination If one of the officially appointed members of the committee fails to appear on the date fixed for the defense, the previously approved alternate must be prepared to discharge the responsibility of the absent individual. A Final Oral Examination may not be held with fewer than four officially approved faculty members present in the room. The adviser must be among the members present; an alternate may not serve for the adviser. Only approved members of the Committee of Thesis Readers will be permitted to participate in the examination.

Examination Outcome

The possible outcome of the exam is determined by closed ballot as Acceptable, Conditionally Acceptable, or Unacceptable. If one or more members require substantive changes to the thesis (Conditionally Acceptable), the specific nature of these changes and the time expected for the student to complete them will be provided to the student in writing. The appropriately revised thesis must be submitted to each of the members for final approval. If one or more members feel that the candidate’s understanding of the written thesis is inadequate (Unacceptable), or that the thesis in its present form is not acceptable, then the candidate has failed. Reexamination would be in order unless there is a unanimous recommendation to the contrary. Reexamination is normally conducted by the same committee, but a new committee may be selected by the Chair of the Committee on Academic Standards if petitioned by the student.

The DrPH degree is an advanced professional degree program designed for the student who has a Master of Public Health (MPH) or equivalent degree and who intends to pursue a leadership career in the professional practice of public health. The mission of the DrPH program is to prepare graduates to advance the public’s health through the integration and application of a broad range of knowledge and analytical skills in leadership, practice, policy analysis, program management, and professional communication coupled with preparation in a specific disciplinary public health field. The DrPH program prepares graduates to apply these skills and methods in both academic and non-academic settings as well as in either a public agency or private sector settings that emphasize improving the health of the public. In addition to completing the required coursework, all DrPH students must complete a public health practicum. The DrPH thesis must be based on original research, worthy of publication, and approved by the Department and a committee of thesis readers. Unlike the PhD and ScD programs, however, the DrPH program does not require primary data collection. The DrPH degree may be completed on either a full-time or a part-time basis.

PPM

The Policy and Procedures Memorandum for the DrPH legacy program was distributed to the students upon enrollment and is no longer available online. The document below is a screen capture downloaded from the legacy program.


Please review the CEPH Competencies (https://e-catalogue.jhu.edu/public-health/ceph-requirements/).