

DEPARTMENT OF EPIDEMIOLOGY

About

The mission of the Department of Epidemiology (<https://publichealth.jhu.edu/departments/epidemiology/>) is to improve the public's health by training epidemiologists and by advancing knowledge concerning the causes and prevention of disease and the promotion of health.

The Goals of the Department are to:

- Provide the highest quality education in epidemiology and thus prepare the next generation of epidemiologists
- Advance the science of epidemiology by developing new methods and applications
- Use epidemiologic methods to investigate the etiology of disease in human populations
- Use epidemiologic methods to evaluate health care delivery, prevention, and health promotion programs
- Develop methodologies for translating epidemiologic research findings into clinical medicine
- Develop approaches for applying the findings of epidemiologic research in the formulation of public policy and participate in formulating and evaluating the effects of such policy

Students gain proficiency in study designs, measurement, and inference to illuminate the distribution and determinants of health states as they identify and evaluate strategies for the prevention and control of disease in human populations. Faculty continue to honor the legacy of excellence set forth in the early days of the Department's founding, bolstering our growth, development, and numerous contributions to the field. A history of the Department (<https://publichealth.jhu.edu/departments/epidemiology/about/history/>), as well as a complete list of affiliated Centers and Institutes (<https://publichealth.jhu.edu/departments/epidemiology/research-and-practice/>), may be found on the Department's website (<https://publichealth.jhu.edu/departments/epidemiology/>).

Department Organization and Directory

Chair and Vice-Chairs

Responsible for leading the academic and research vision for the Department

- Chair: Shruti H. Mehta, PhD; Charles Armstrong Chair and Professor (<https://publichealth.jhu.edu/faculty/691/shruti-h-mehta/>)
- Vice-Chair for Research and Administration: (OPEN)
- Vice-Chair for IDARE (Inclusion, Diversity, Anti-Racism, and Equity): Otis Brawley, MD; Bloomberg Distinguished Professor (<https://publichealth.jhu.edu/faculty/3877/otis-brawley/>)
- Vice-Chair for Educational Programs: Stephan Ehrhardt, MD; Professor (<https://publichealth.jhu.edu/faculty/2694/stephan-ehrhardt/>)
- Vice-Chair for Faculty: Priya Duggal, PhD; Professor (<https://publichealth.jhu.edu/faculty/2134/priya-duggal/>)

Degree and Program Directors

- Post-Doctoral Fellowships Co-Directors: Alden Gross, PhD (<https://publichealth.jhu.edu/faculty/2884/alden-l-gross/>) and Sabina A. Haberlen, PhD (<https://publichealth.jhu.edu/faculty/3030/sabina-annette-haberlen/>)
- Doctoral Program Co-Directors: Jennifer Deal (<https://publichealth.jhu.edu/faculty/2864/jennifer-anne-deal/>), PhD and (OPEN)
- Masters Program Co-Directors: Casey Rebholz, PhD (<https://publichealth.jhu.edu/faculty/3208/casey-m-rebholz/>) and Catherine Sutcliffe, PhD (<https://www.jhsph.edu/faculty/directory/profile/2280/catherine-gayle-sutcliffe/>)
- BA-MHS Program Director: Aruna Chandran, MD (<https://publichealth.jhu.edu/faculty/1612/aruna-chandran/>)

Epidemiology Administration

Epidemiology Administration oversees the Department's policymaking, financial management, research administration, human resources and payroll, and degree program leadership.

Contact: EPIADMINAP@jhu.edu

- Department Administrator: Thomas P. Bogdan
- Interim Assistant Administrator: Ranjita Sharma
- Financial Manager: William Deysler

Academic Office and Student Funding

The Academic Office (<https://www.jhsph.edu/departments/epidemiology/academic-support-core/>) oversees the advancement of epidemiologic education and research for students and faculty through the coordination, management, and dissemination of Departmental courses, programs, and communications.

Contact: BSPH.EpiAcademic@jhu.edu

- Director of Graduate Education (OPEN)
- Assistant Director of Graduate Education and Instructor: Taylor Binnix Baylus, MA, MPH (<https://publichealth.jhu.edu/faculty/4648/taylor-binnix-baylus/>)
- Senior Financial Manager: Matthew Miller
- Senior Academic Program Coordinator: Jordan Meredith
- Communications Associate: Jonathan Eichberger, MA
- Instructor: Ayesha Khan, DrPH, MPH
- Senior Academic Program Manager: Frances S. Burman, MEd (PhD Program)
- Academic Program Manager: Justin Switzer, MLS (Masters Programs)
- Senior Academic Program Coordinator: Ebony A. Moore (Post-Doctoral Fellows)
- Academic Program Coordinator: Julie Thorne (Summer and Winter Institutes)
- Academic Program Coordinator: Lindsey Quaster
- Academic Services Assistant: Sheila Small (Certificate Programs)

Epidemiology Student Organization Organization

The Epidemiology Student Organization (<https://www.jhsph.edu/departments/epidemiology/eso/>) (ESO) was established in

1982 to facilitate student-to-student and student-to-faculty communication in the department and to advocate for student needs. The organization is composed of all students associated with the Department of Epidemiology. It is a forum for planning various student activities, ranging from volunteer opportunities to social activities. The organization is open to new ideas and initiatives from the student body, and all epidemiology students are encouraged to actively participate in ESO activities. ESO meetings are open and welcome all Epi students and Fellows.

Professional Organizations

The American Public Health Association (<https://www.apha.org/>) and the Society for Epidemiologic Research (<https://epiresearch.org/>) are the primary professional organizations in the field. Students are strongly encouraged to join professional organizations related to their topical research interests and to attend and present their research at scientific conferences sponsored by those organizations.

Scientific Publications:

American Journal of Epidemiology (AJE)

The *American Journal of Epidemiology* is the premier epidemiological journal devoted to the publication of empirical research findings, opinion pieces, and methodological developments in the field of epidemiological research. It is a peer-reviewed journal aimed at both fellow epidemiologists and those who use epidemiological data, including public health workers and clinicians. The *American Journal of Epidemiology* is published on behalf of the Department of Epidemiology and has been based in the department since its inception in 1920.

Epidemiologic Reviews

Epidemiologic Reviews, a companion publication of the *American Journal of Epidemiology*, is devoted to publishing comprehensive and critical reviews on specific themes once a year. Recent issues included the topics of The Obesity Epidemic, Epidemiologic Research on Health Disparities, and Epidemiologic Approaches to Global Health.

Research Tracks

The Tracks are the substantive and methodologic educational units of the Department. They comprise faculty, students, and fellows. The Department has eight tracks, each of which has a curriculum beyond the Department's core curriculum. Tracks are led by Track Directors.

Track Directors

- Cancer Epidemiology: Avonne Connor, PhD (<https://publichealth.jhu.edu/faculty/3095/avonne-e-connor/>)
- Cardiovascular and Clinical Epidemiology: Liz Selvin, PhD (<https://www.jhsph.edu/faculty/directory/profile/1882/elizabeth-selvin/>)
- Clinical Trials and Evidence Synthesis: Ann Margret Ervin, PhD (<https://publichealth.jhu.edu/faculty/1881/ann-margret-ervin/>)
- Environmental Epidemiology: Eliseo Guallar, MD, DrPH (<https://www.jhsph.edu/faculty/directory/profile/844/eliseo-guallar/>)
- Epidemiology of Aging: Alden Gross, PhD (<https://publichealth.jhu.edu/faculty/2884/alden-l-gross/>)
- General Epidemiology and Methodology: Keri Althoff, PhD (<https://publichealth.jhu.edu/faculty/2177/keri-n-althoff/>)
- Genetic Epidemiology: Christine Ladd-Acosta, PhD (<https://publichealth.jhu.edu/faculty/2787/christine-m-ladd-acosta/>)

- Infectious Disease Epidemiology: Becky Lynn Genberg, PhD (<https://publichealth.jhu.edu/faculty/3548/becky-lynn-genberg/>)

Cancer Epidemiology

Cancer epidemiology is the study of the distribution, frequency, and determinants of cancer and disease progression in populations worldwide. A greater understanding of the factors that impact cancer is crucial to developing effective preventive strategies to control the disease and minimize its burden. The cancer epidemiology track provides in-depth training in population-based, clinical epidemiology research related to cancer prevention, screening, early detection, and disease progression, with a focus on the more common cancers. Our graduates have made successful transitions to positions in academia, government, and private sector organizations. The track benefits from its close links with the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins, an NCI-supported training grant in cancer epidemiology, prevention, and control, community and clinical cohort studies, as well as national and international collaborations.

Cardiovascular and Clinical Epidemiology

Cardiovascular and clinical epidemiology includes the study of the determinants and distribution of cardiovascular diseases and other leading causes of disease burden in the population and approaches to their control. Training focuses on the use of epidemiologic methods in clinical research as well as interdisciplinary training on the epidemiology of cardiovascular disease. The program integrates knowledge on all aspects of disease etiology and control, including biology, behavior, prevention, and treatment. The main didactic course focuses on risk factors for cardiovascular disease and strategies for prevention. Seminar-style courses offer a more in-depth understanding of disease pathophysiology and clinical management and the role of epidemiology in informing clinical practice. Training emphasizes active participation in research and translational epidemiology using a collaborative approach, which is enhanced by close relationships between the Department of Epidemiology and clinical departments of the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine at the Johns Hopkins Hospital. The curriculum is designed to accommodate both clinical fellows who are interested in receiving a degree from the Department of Epidemiology and students who may not have a formal background in clinical medicine. Several large ongoing cohort studies and clinical trials provide a rich environment for the conduct of research.

Clinical Trials and Evidence Synthesis

Randomized clinical trials and their synthesis using systematic reviews are important to evaluate interventions. The Clinical Trials and Evidence Synthesis (CTES) Track focuses on research and teaching of key methods that make clinical trials less prone to confounding and some biases than observational study designs. Systematic Review Methodology is another cornerstone of the track. CTES offers a modern curriculum, journal clubs, research-in-progress meetings, a seminar series, and hands-on training with clinical trialists and systematic reviewers. CTES faculty and post-docs have been coordinating large, often international multicenter clinical trials across a variety of content areas like pulmonary medicine, gastroenterology, ophthalmology, neurology, psychiatry, and infectious diseases for decades. These trials and modern approaches to evidence synthesis like network meta-analysis offer ample opportunities for training, scientific discourse, and methods development.

Environmental Epidemiology

Environmental Epidemiology concentrates on the impact of environmental exposures on health and disease states in human populations. Environmental Epidemiology is a multidisciplinary activity that integrates epidemiological methods, assessment of environmental exposures, and understanding of specific disease processes to identify the health consequences of environmental exposures. Environmental Epidemiology provides basic information for risk assessment, risk communication, and environmental health policy decisions and has a central role in identifying, implementing, and evaluating strategies for the prevention and control of environmental exposures. Training in Environmental Epidemiology emphasizes active participation in large population research projects, with close collaborations across the School and with national and international collaborators.

Epidemiology of Aging

The Epidemiology of Aging is the study of disease distributions and trends that are most prominent in older adults. The primary focus of the program is studying contributors to—and consequences of—age-related physical and cognitive decline. A secondary focus of the program is on the interaction of aging with disease processes, including but not limited to Alzheimer's disease, cancer, and HIV. In addition to the core curriculum, students are encouraged to engage in monthly journal clubs, bimonthly research-in-progress seminars, and monthly seminars on aging with invited experts both internally and externally to Johns Hopkins. The Center on Aging and Health (<https://coah.jhu.edu/>) (COAH) is an additional valuable resource that provides students the opportunity to interact with faculty across multiple disciplines within the Schools of Public Health, Nursing, and Medicine, and to engage in ongoing research projects. COAH is also home to the Epidemiology of Aging and Biostatistics training program, which includes T-32 funding for eligible trainees.

General Epidemiology and Methodology

The General Epidemiology and Methodology track is designed for individuals who seek to be a generalist rather than focus on a specific area (e.g., genetics or trials) or specific disease area (e.g., cancer). Therefore, students within General Epidemiology and Methodology can individually tailor their educational focus. To help achieve this, within General Epidemiology and Methodology, there are sub-tracks: individualized, methodological, pharmacoepidemiology, and social epidemiology. For the individualized sub-track, students can design their educational programs in conjunction with their advisers. Students focusing on methodology often would like to position themselves at the intersection of epidemiological methods and biostatistics. The recommended courses within the methodology sub-track reflect this emphasis. Doctoral students with a methodology focus are encouraged to take the 140.651-140.654 Methods in Biostatistics series and consider applying for the Concurrent School-Wide Master of Health Science Program in Biostatistics (<https://publichealth.jhu.edu/academics/mhs-dept-of-biostatistics/concurrent-school-wide-master-of-health-science-program-in-biostatistics/>) program. The sub-track for pharmacoepidemiology is the study of the utilization and effects of drugs at the population level. The training focuses on providing students with the core knowledge of pharmacoepidemiology and drug safety. Finally, the social epidemiology sub-track is for students interested in measuring the social, demographic, and structural factors that impact population health and health equity.

Genetic Epidemiology

Genetic Epidemiology is the study of the human genome and its role in complex diseases. Genetic Epidemiology focuses on the study of genetic and environmental factors and their interaction in complex diseases and in normal variations. Emphasis is on understanding the methodology and approach to designing, executing, and analyzing human genetic studies. This includes didactic learning, hands-on learning with real data, and discussion of literature. Training is broad-based and collaborative and encourages participation in research from faculty in the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, the Institute of Genetic Medicine, and the School of Medicine.

Infectious Disease Epidemiology

Infectious disease epidemiology is the study of the distribution and control of infectious diseases in humans. It is a diverse field with studies ranging from cohort studies of chronic infections such as HIV to mathematical modeling of disease transmission to the emergence of disease across the human-animal interface. The infectious disease track's curriculum reflects the diversity of infectious disease epidemiology, with required classes focusing on critical biomedical knowledge and methodological techniques to provide a strong foundation for students with a diverse focus on problems in epidemiological research and practice. These include courses providing a broad overview of important infectious diseases and methods for their study, how the human body responds to pathogen exposure and study design.

Programs / Departmental Offerings (<https://publichealth.jhu.edu/departments/epidemiology/programs/>)

- Epidemiology, MHS (<https://e-catalogue.jhu.edu/public-health/departments/epidemiology/epidemiology-mhs/>)
- Epidemiology, ScM (<https://e-catalogue.jhu.edu/public-health/departments/epidemiology/epidemiology-scm/>)
- Epidemiology, PhD (<https://e-catalogue.jhu.edu/public-health/departments/epidemiology/epidemiology-phd/>)
- Non-Degree Training (<https://e-catalogue.jhu.edu/public-health/departments/epidemiology/non-degree-training/>)

Summer Institute

The Graduate Summer Institute in Epidemiology and Biostatistics (<https://publichealth.jhu.edu/academics/graduate-summer-institute-of-epidemiology-and-biostatistics/>) offers short, intensive courses in epidemiology and biostatistics intended to develop an understanding of the principles, methodologic strategies, and practical aspects of epidemiological research. The Department has offered the Summer Institute Program since 1983 and has trained thousands of students from the U.S. and around the world. Institute participants include students, clinicians, public health practitioners, physicians in training, and those considering a career in public health. Current postdoctoral fellows and degree-seeking students in epidemiology must pay 100% of institute tuition themselves. The minimum credits registration and its associated postdoctoral tuition apply in Terms 1-4. Summer Institutes are outside of Terms 1-4.

Statement on Inclusion and Diversity

The Department of Epidemiology denounces individual and systemic racism in all its forms. Developing meaningful and lasting solutions requires collaboration, research, and time. The department's

full statement on Racism as a Public Health Problem (<https://publichealth.jhu.edu/departments/epidemiology/about/statement-denouncing-racism/>), a video (<https://youtu.be/W16dp1UNsMc/>) of our intent, and accompanying commitments are on the departmental website (<https://publichealth.jhu.edu/departments/epidemiology/>).

Department diversity and inclusion activities fall under three broad overarching goals:

- Communicating epidemiologic science to broad audiences
- Addressing how diversity influences our epidemiology practice and honoring the diversity in the audiences of our science
- Fostering a culture of diversity and inclusion in the Department

Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Anti-Racism and Science (Epi IDEAS) Workgroup

Formed in November 2016 to address the needs of students, staff, and faculty, Epi IDEAS makes a difference in the academic and research life of the department and School. Epi IDEAS is a department-specific workgroup that:

- Liaises between students, student leaders, and departmental leadership about challenges and opportunities for inclusion, diversity, and equity
- Reviews and offers suggestions for curricular needs on interpreting scientific findings through a lens of diversity and inclusion
- Designs activities that encourage inclusion, diversity, and equity
- Promotes a safe learning environment within the Department

Epi IDEAS has Epidemiology students, faculty, and staff representation and builds membership each year.

Additional Resources

Resources for policy and community engagement, service, and science communication:

- Bloomberg American Health Initiative (<https://americanhealth.jhu.edu/>)
- Hopkins Day at the Market (<https://ictr.johnshopkins.edu/community-engagement/programs/day-at-the-market/>): attracts over 700 community members who learn about health topics
- Johns Hopkins Center for Health and Human Rights (<http://www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/center-for-public-health-and-human-rights/>)
- SOURCE (<https://source.jhu.edu/>)
- Urban Health Institute (<http://urbanhealth.jhu.edu/>)
- Bloomberg Office of Practice (<https://publichealth.jhu.edu/practice/>)

Student Groups:

- Epidemiology Student Organization Contact: BSPH.eso@jhu.edu
- Student Assembly (<http://www.jhsph.edu/offices-and-services/student-assembly/>) and affiliated Student Groups
- The Johns Hopkins OUTList (<http://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/lgbtq/outlist/membership/>)

Training Offerings:

- Office of Institutional Equity (Title IX, bias, gender identity, MyLearning training courses) (<http://oie.jhu.edu/training/>)

- Safe Zone Training (<https://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/lgbtq/education/safe-zone/>)

University Offices:

- Diversity at JHU (<https://diversity.jhu.edu/>)
- BSPH Inclusion, Diversity, Anti-Racism, and Equity [IDARE] (<https://publichealth.jhu.edu/about/inclusion-diversity-anti-racism-and-equity-idare/>)
- JHU Statement on Diversity & Inclusion (<https://diversity.jhu.edu/our-commitment/johns-hopkins-university-statement-of-principles-on-diversity-equity-and-inclusion/>)
- Office of Institutional Equity (<https://oie.jhu.edu/>)
- Office of International Services (<http://ois.jhu.edu/>)

Conduct and Training

All students, staff, and faculty are expected to abide by the academic (<https://e-catalogue.jhu.edu/public-health/policies/academic/academic-ethics-code/>), behavioral, (<https://e-catalogue.jhu.edu/public-health/policies/academic/student-grievance-policy/>) and research conduct (<https://e-catalogue.jhu.edu/public-health/policies/research/human-subjects-research/>) policies of the School and University.

Academic & Research Ethics (and Avoiding Plagiarism) Course Requirement

All students must complete PH.550.860 Academic & Research Ethics at JHSPH prior to or during the first term of enrollment in the School. Students must complete the Avoiding Plagiarism training (<https://guides.library.jhu.edu/avoidingplagiarism/>) developed by JHU's Sheridan Libraries, which is an online course. Students must submit the completion certificates as proof of completion of these pieces of training. Subsequent terms registration can be blocked awaiting the completion of these courses.

Office of Institutional Equity

The Office of Institutional Equity (<https://oie.jhu.edu/>) handles many issues, including: Discrimination and Harassment (<https://oie.jhu.edu/discrimination-and-harassment/>), Sexual Misconduct (<https://oie.jhu.edu/sexual-misconduct/>), ADA Compliance and Disability Accommodations (<https://oie.jhu.edu/ada-compliance/>), Religious Accommodations (<https://oie.jhu.edu/religious-accommodations/>), and Training (<https://oie.jhu.edu/training/>). All students must complete Title IX and Harassment Prevention Training (<http://lms14.learnshare.com/authenticate/Login.ClientDetect.aspx?Redirect=%2fl.aspx%3fCID%3d89%26A%3d1%26T%3d568688>). Further, the Department of Epidemiology requires Unconscious Bias Training (<https://hr.jhu.edu/learn-grow/diversity-and-inclusion-training/>) as well. OIE also defines Confidential Resources (<https://oie.jhu.edu/confidential-resources/>) and houses the Roadmap to Diversity and Inclusion (<https://diversity.jhu.edu/>), the JHU Diversity Leadership Council (<https://diversity.jhu.edu/diversity-at-jhu/diversity-leadership-council/>), and the Office of the Vice Provost for Institutional Equity (<https://provost.jhu.edu/members/shanon-shumpert/>).

Communication

Students are required to activate and monitor their jhu.edu email inbox and respond to requests politely and in a timely fashion. Staff and faculty endeavor to do the same. The Johns Hopkins University-hosted email is an official form of Department-related communication. Students have the responsibility to stay current in this communication

while enrolled and recognize that certain communications may be time critical. Failure to check for messages and failure to receive messages due to full mailboxes, spam filtering, lapses in service, or auto-forwarded email, etc., are not acceptable excuses for missing official communications. Graduates are expected to convert their emails through the Alumni Office (<https://alumni.jhu.edu/alumniemail/injhed/>).

Academic Policies

The Department of Epidemiology encourages students to identify questions and concerns, research these through this e-catalogue and the School website and bring nuanced questions to the Academic Office, the Director of Graduate Education, or their academic adviser for discussion. All requests for changes in the degree program, research track, advising team, course requirements, and departmental requirements should be submitted in writing with the endorsement of the academic adviser for review by the Admissions and Credentials Committee.

Advising Changes

The adviser has the responsibility of assisting the student in designing an academic program that meets the student's goals within the framework of the requirements of the Department and School. The adviser guides the student to appropriate resources and research opportunities. The adviser is the first point of contact in resolving academic problems and concerns. For a variety of reasons, a student/faculty member may wish to change adviser/advisee. Student-initiated changes of adviser should be made with the Academic Office, please see Departmental Forms (<https://my.jhsph.edu/sites/EPI/Departmental%20Forms/Forms/Public%20listing.aspx>) ("Change or Add New Adviser or co-Adviser Form (<https://my.jhsph.edu/sites/EPI/Departmental%20Forms/Change%20or%20Add%20Adviser%20or%20Co-adviser%20Form.pdf>)"). It is the student's responsibility to meet with the current adviser and the intended or additional adviser prior to the request and to obtain the signatures of both faculty members prior to submitting the request. Please note that epidemiology degree-seeking students seeking a primary adviser change must retain a faculty member with a full-time primary appointment in Epidemiology. Faculty wishing to initiate a change should use the same form and will need to submit a report of the student's progress to the Academic Support Core Office at the time of this request.

Enrollment Requirements

Master's and doctoral students are considered full-time students and must maintain a minimum registration of 16 credits per term continuously during Terms 1-4 through completion of all degree requirements. Students wishing to drop below 16 credits must consult with their adviser and the Academic Office. International students must also consult the Office for International Services. For additional guidance regarding registration, please see the BSPH websites:

- Records and Registration (<https://publichealth.jhu.edu/offices-and-services/office-of-student-affairs/records-and-registration/>)
- Tuition and Fees (<https://publichealth.jhu.edu/offices-and-services/office-of-admissions-services/tuition-and-fees/>)

Leave of Absence

The School offers mechanisms for students who need to take a leave of absence during the program. Students wishing to explore their options should discuss their situations with the Academic Office, review the policy statement (<https://e-catalogue.jhu.edu/public-health/policies/academic/>), and file the appropriate Leave of Absence form with the Office of Registration and Records.

Program Changes

Students are expected to complete the degree program they entered based on the review by the Admissions & Credentials Committee at the time of acceptance to the program. In rare instances, students may request changes between the MHS and ScM degree programs only. It is the student's responsibility to meet with the current adviser and the co-directors of the intended program prior to the request and to obtain the signatures signifying endorsements prior to submission to the Admissions & Credentials Committee. Transfers from the MHS or SCM to the PhD program are not permitted. Students enrolled in our master's programs must complete their degree requirements prior to enrolling in the PhD program.

Track Changes

Students may find that their research focus changes between the time of application through the time of matriculation. Students may change tracks by submitting the request form (<https://my.jhsph.edu/sites/EPI/Departmental%20Forms/Change%20or%20Add%20Adviser%20or%20Co-adviser%20Form.pdf>) to the Academic Program Manager through the second term of their first year (December 31), provided they have completed the required courses for the new track. Changes after this time require the request form, (<https://my.jhsph.edu/sites/EPI/Departmental%20Forms/Change%20or%20Add%20Adviser%20or%20Co-adviser%20Form.pdf>) letter of request, a plan for completing the courses required of the new track, and written approval from the adviser and intended track's Director. Occasionally, this may require a change in advisers as well. Other instances requiring a change in track include failure of track-related courses or the track-specific section of the comprehensive examination (Part B) and should be discussed with the Senior Academic Program Manager, the adviser, and the current and intended track directors.

Course Waivers

The Department expects students to have some familiarity with the field prior to enrollment. In the case where students have successfully completed the coursework required by the track, the director may approve waivers for similar coursework required by the track. Graduate students who believe they have passed equivalent graduate-level courses (with a grade of B or higher) at other institutions may apply for a waiver of required courses. Request Forms (<https://my.jhsph.edu/sites/EPI/Departmental%20Forms/Course%20Waiver%20Form.pdf>) should be sent to the Academic Program Manager. Requests must include a clear rationale, a course syllabus, and a transcript (unofficial is okay) from the institution where the course was taken. Waiver requests require the adviser and primary instructor's (if Epidemiology course) consent, as well as approval from the Admissions & Credentials Committee. Waivers of Track required courses require approval from the track director as well. The Epidemiologic Methods sequence 340.751-753, 340.761-764, and the completion of either 140.621-624 or 140.651-654 Biostatistics series may not be waived.

Primary Data Collection Waiver

The Curriculum Committee of the Department of Epidemiology acknowledges that in the era of "big data", many important research questions can be satisfactorily answered and insights gained from pooling large data sets. As these are often long-standing collaborative research studies, they would be impossible to complete by one student during a training program. Therefore, the department developed policy and waiver documents to be developed and discussed by the thesis advisory committee and included in the doctoral proposal document.

Students can access these under the PhD Policies section of this e-catalogue.

Student Evaluations

The evaluation of satisfactory academic progress and the individual course letter grades are handled at the School level and tied to federal regulations. Therefore, any student who earns a grade of C or lower or a cumulative grade point average below the minimum for the degree program is *automatically reviewed* by the Departmental Admissions & Credentials Committee, the Track and Program directors, and the Schoolwide Committee on Academic Standards (CAS). Students whose grades fall below the minimum standard should submit an explanation and waiver request but *should be prepared to retake the course if necessary*. For students receiving financial aid, the Office of Financial Aid will also review any C grades or grade point cumulative averages below the minimum for the degree, *which may result in a loss of financial aid for the upcoming term*. To that end, the Academic Program Managers, along with the Departmental Admissions & Credentials Committee, review mid-term grades for the Epidemiologic Methods series courses, and the Biostatistics series, and contact students whose work may place them in jeopardy. Students are permitted "1 free C" without placement on academic probation. However, students who earn a C in any of 340.751-753, 340.761-764, and/or 140.621-624 or 140.651-654 may be required to retake that course in the following year next year unless:

- Students obtain an A in at least one of the subsequent courses of the series without receiving another C (or any lower grade).
- Students pass the comprehensive exam at the appropriate level for their degree program prior to the following year.

Students are expected to earn As and Bs in Epidemiology coursework, (minimum equivalency of 80%) maintain a cumulative GPA (2.75 for master's; 3.0 for doctoral), and pass the Department Comprehensive exams at the designated level. Other grounds for removal from degree candidacy include:

- Any grade of D or F in a required course;
- Two grades of C in required courses;
- Two grades of D or F or any combination thereof in elective courses;
- Failure to maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75 for masters and 3.0 for doctoral students;
- Failure on one or both parts of the Department comprehensive exam;
- Failure to maintain progress on dissertation research/thesis projects; or
- Academic or behavioral ethics violations

In such cases, after reviewing the student's performance, the Departmental Admissions & Credentials Committee will make a decision regarding the student's continuation in the program and notify the Department Chair for a final decision. Occasionally, students may be placed on academic probation within the department prior to dismissal. This time will permit students to attempt to bring their GPA above 2.75 for master's and 3.0 for doctoral programs. Conversely, any student whose GPA removes them from academic probation will be notified and reported to the Admissions & Credentials Committee.

Students may choose to withdraw from the degree program or School at any time but should consult with their adviser and their Academic Program Manager prior to making this decision. Failure to maintain registration is considered a withdrawal from the School.

The Department fully expects that students will be able to handle the course load; however, if students experience being overwhelmed, they are encouraged to contact their adviser(s), the Director of Graduate Education, Laura Camarata, lcamarata@jhu.edu (office 443-287-2723), the Senior Academic Program Manager, Frances Burman, FranBurman@jhu.edu (office 410-955-3926), the Academic Program Manager, Justin Switzer, jswitze4@jhmi.edu, (office 410-502-9288), the Office of Student Life (<http://www.jhsph.edu/offices-and-services/office-of-student-life/>) (410-502- 2487), and/or JHSAP (<http://jhsap.org/>) (443-287-7000).

Student Funding

Students registered full-time in the School are eligible for consideration for a number of scholarships, research fellowships, and endowed awards offered by the various departments of the School. In general, notices of funding are announced in Term 2. Applicants should follow the instructions provided by the announcements. These awards are usually made in early spring for the upcoming academic year. A full list of such scholarships can be found on the School's website (<https://publichealth.jhu.edu/offices-and-services/office-of-admissions-services/funding-and-scholarships/>), which was developed to help students identify and secure outside sources of support for tuition and academic research. The Student Funding Guide (https://www.jhsph.edu/offices-and-services/student-affairs/financial-aid/_documents/Funding%20Resource%20Guide_2122.pdf) is updated annually and serves a critical purpose in outlining support for graduate students.

Contact Information

Financial Aid Office, BSPH (<http://www.jhsph.edu/offices-and-services/student-affairs/financial-aid/>), Room E1002, (410) 955-3004

Student Accounts and Business Services, BSPH (<https://www.jhsph.edu/offices-and-services/student-accounts-and-business-services/>), Room W1101, (410) 955-5725

Master's Level

The Johns Hopkins School of Public Health (not the Department) provides Master's Tuition Scholarships to all full-time MHS/SCM students. Master's students have the option of selecting either a 25% scholarship in year 1 and 50% scholarship in year 2 of training, or alternatively a 75% scholarship in their 2nd year of training. Scholarship options are selected prior to graduate training and are implemented by the BSPH Office of Financial Aid Services. The Master's Tuition Scholarship covers four terms only and is only awarded when students have registered for a minimum of 16 credits per term. In addition, Master's Degree candidates may qualify for endowments. Requests for nomination are issued every December, and applications are received and reviewed by the Department's Honors and Awards Committee; award recipients are notified in the spring.

Doctoral Level

The Department of Epidemiology is committed to helping doctoral students pay for their graduate education. Incoming doctoral students are considered for all possible training grant positions and tuition support both in the Department and at the School.

Support beyond the first year is contingent on the successful completion of 64 credits with a 3.0 GPA and must earn a grade of "B" or higher in all required courses in the core departmental curriculum that are offered for letter grading and a "Pass" grade for those only offered on a pass/

fail basis. In addition, students must successfully pass the Department comprehensive examination at the PhD level.

Each spring, students are asked to complete a student funding plan and thesis timeline regarding their anticipated needs for the upcoming year. Students receiving any form of departmental, training grant, or endowment funding must submit the student funding plan and timeline for each year of the program. The Student Financial Manager handles all tuition requests for the Department and the Admissions and Credentials Committee.

Initial appointments are made by the Admissions & Credentials Committee prior to the start of the academic year. However, continued funding support is contingent on satisfactory progress in one's doctoral program. All students must remain full-time (a minimum of 16 credits per term) during the standard academic year throughout the program to qualify for Department tuition support; part-time tuition scholarships (<16 credits/term) will not be permitted. In addition, the tuition scholarship does not apply to either the summer term nor to various summer or winter institutes held in BSPH. Finally, Department tuition support may not be repurposed for other uses (for example as a stipend) in the event of alternative funding.

Special Note: Students under special circumstances (new child-parent, poor health, extended family emergencies, etc.) may request an official Leave of Absence period from their program. It is expected that the student will pay the required leave of absence fee (\$50 per term).

Funding for the PhD program

The PhD program in Epidemiology grants four years of tuition support, stipend, individual health insurance including dental, vision, and wellness, and child support; provided the PhD students progress as expected (outlined above) and required by the academic program.

PHD STUDENT EMPLOYEE UNION AND COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT

Information about the TRU-JHU PhD Student Union and the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) can be found on this website (<https://provost.jhu.edu/education/graduate-and-professional-education/phd-union/>).

- PhD students in the Epidemiology PhD program who receive work appointments and/or health insurance premium subsidy through Johns Hopkins University are defined as PhD Student Employees under the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) dated March 29, 2024-June 30, 2027.
- This agreement has established regulations regarding stipends and wages, work hours, benefits, and conditions of appointment, many of which, but not all, are described below.
- Eligible PhD students will be contacted by the Union and may elect to join the union and pay dues or pay agency fees if they do not join the union. All eligible PhD students are under the CBA, regardless of Union membership.
- The CBA only covers work, which is limited to a max of 20 hours per week on average for stipend funding. A PhD Student Employee may voluntarily elect to participate in supplemental-funded activities beyond the 20 hours per week on average, in alignment with their funding sources and visa guidelines (for international students).
- Academic policies for the PhD program are not part of the CBA and are defined elsewhere in this website and in the Student Handbook.

This is just a summary, not the actual terms of the CBA. To review the actual terms of the CBA please click on this link (<https://provost.jhu.edu/>)

wp-content/uploads/2024/04/TRU-UE-Local-197-Johns-Hopkins-University-Contract-2024-2027.pdf).

CBA Summary

- Compensation for PhD Student Employees
 - The minimum guaranteed funding for the first 4 years for all BSPH PhD student employees. Some departments and programs may provide more in their offer letters.
 - Academic year (AY) 24-25: guaranteed minimum stipend of \$47,000 effective July 1, 2024.
 - The minimum hourly appointment rate for AY 24-25 is \$25.41/ hour for supplemental appointments and hourly wage earners.
 - PhD student employees with external awards paid through the University will have their compensation increased to the minimum stipend, if it is below the guaranteed minimum, during the period of guaranteed funding.
- Benefits
 - Enrollment information will be available through HR Benefits for Students and Learners (<https://hr.jhu.edu/benefits-worklife/health-life/student-health-benefits/resources-and-cost-of-coverage/>) and communications will be sent in advance of benefits election periods.
- Paid by the University
 - The University will pay the premiums for University Student Health Benefits Plan (SHBP), including dental and vision coverage, employee coverage for employees in full-time resident status during the terms of full appointments.
 - PhD student employees will receive subsidies of \$4,500 per child per year for eligible children under 6 years and \$3,000 per child aged 6-18 years or adult dependent, with a maximum of \$12,000 per family per year, in installments throughout the year. Enrollment information will be available during the benefits election period.
- Reimbursed by University/Departments
 - The University will pay the cost of the health insurance premiums for eligible dependent children and spouses unable to work in the US, including dental and vision. Reimbursement procedures will be available on the HR Benefits website (<https://hr.jhu.edu/benefits-worklife/health-life/student-health-benefits/resources-and-cost-of-coverage/>).
 - International students will be eligible to apply to a yearly fund to cover required visa fees. Further information will be made available once the application site is set up.
 - Students will be eligible for reimbursement for MTA All Access College Transit Passes or DC U-Passes. Registration and enrollment information will be available on the HR Benefits website (<https://hr.jhu.edu/benefits-worklife/health-life/student-health-benefits/resources-and-cost-of-coverage/>).
- Holiday/Vacation/Sick/Bereavement and Visa-Related Leaves
 - All University holidays are recognized, dates can be found here (<https://hr.jhu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022-2024-University-Holiday-Calendar-11.20.23-1.pdf>) and here (<https://hr.jhu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2025-2027-JHU-Holiday-Calendar.pdf>).
 - PhD student employees can take up to 15 vacation days per year. Additional time can be given by a supervisor.
 - PhD student employees can take up to 15 sick days per year with an additional 5 days per dependent.
 - PhD student employees can take up to 5 days of bereavement leave for the passing of immediate and extended family members

and close friends, with 1 additional day for those needing international travel.

- International PhD student employees who are required to travel out of the country in order to maintain their immigration status necessary to be able to continue their program at the University are eligible for up to fourteen (14) days with pay during the period of such travel.
- New Parent Leave and Leaves of Absences
 - PhD student employees who are new parents are eligible for 8 weeks of paid leave following birth or adoption, with an additional 4 weeks for birthing parents
NOTE: PhD students who want to take academic leave following the birth or adoption of a new child should use the New Child Accommodation policies (<https://wellbeing.jhu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/New-Child-Accommodations.pdf>).
 - Leaves of Absence (LOA), including family leave, medical leave, and personal leave, are governed by the University leave policies. Students who need to take a leave-of-absence begin the discussion with the Senior Academic Program Manager.
- Work Hours
 - No PhD student employee shall be required to perform work for more than 20 hours/week on average.
 - Teaching Assistantship (TA) hours are included in the 20 hours of work that may be assigned regardless of whether the TA is part of an academic learning experience or not.
 - Academic coursework, exams, and research related to your academic learning and dissertation are not considered work and are not included in the work hour limitations.
 - There are no restrictions on work external to Hopkins except when decreed by funding source or visa status, as long as academic progress is not impeded.
 - All work appointments (stipend or supplemental funding) require an appointment letter. Appointment letters will define the expectations and requirements of the teaching, research, or other University activity appointment. The first set of appointment letters will be generated in mid-to-end of August 2024. A PhD student employee can expect to receive an appointment letter for each work activity, which may result in multiple appointment letters during the course of the year. Students should contact their department/program administrator with any questions.
- Union Representation
 - All PhD student employee directory information will be sent to the Union unless restricted. Supplemental information will require a FERPA consent form available on SIS self-service.
 - Union Representatives are current PhD Student Employees who are elected/selected to help their fellow PhD Student Employees navigate work-related disciplines, grievances, and other procedural/policy issues. Contact TRU-JHU with questions about your division's specific Union Representatives.
 - TRU-JHU (<https://trujhu.org/>) Contact Information:
 - Phone: (443) 281-9462
 - Address: TRU-UE Local 197, PO Box 41149, Baltimore, MD 21203
 - Email: trujhu@gmail.com

Grant Application Assistance

This policy applies to any Department student proposal (for dissertation, fellowship, stipend support, or otherwise) by which an external agency awards monies to the student through the University.

The student must schedule an initial meeting with the Student Funding Manager **at least 45-60 days prior to the due date** of the proposal to discuss the terms of the application and to be oriented to internal procedures. Any application brought to the Student Funding Manager's attention less than 30 days prior to the due date will not be considered.

The student should send a copy of the PA (Program Announcement) or terms and Conditions to the Student Funding Manager prior to the meeting for review. The Student Funding Manager will assist the student with the cover page, budget, and any administrative or technical questions.

Students must work with their mentors or advisers to develop an acceptable scientific research proposal. The mentor or adviser must acknowledge a draft of the science (aims and research methods), certifying that it has met acceptable standards for submission before it is submitted to the Department Chair for final approval. A copy of the research proposal/science (Specific Aims and Research Strategy only) affirmed by the adviser/mentor must be submitted to the Department Chair **no later than 10 business days prior to the due date** for review. The adviser/mentor (not the student) should send this document to their attention certifying that the science has met an acceptable review. The student should immediately schedule a second meeting with the Student Funding Manager to review the final proposal and complete a JHURA internal information/compliance worksheet. *This second meeting should take place at least 5-7 business days prior to the due date* so the Student Funding Manager has time to coordinate and finalize the internal and sponsored proposal.

The full application must be submitted along with a signed information sheet to Johns Hopkins University Research Administration (JHURA (<https://jhura.jhu.edu/>)) **no later than 5 business days prior to the due date for review**.

Endowed Funds / Current Use Scholarships / NIH Training Grants (<https://www.jhsph.edu/departments/epidemiology/training-programs/>)

Requests for nomination are issued every December, and applications are received and reviewed by the Department's Honors and Awards Committee; award recipients are notified in the spring. A full list of Awards, Endowments, and Honors is updated regularly and posted online (<https://www.jhsph.edu/admissions/funding-for-students/>).

Doctoral Thesis Research Fund

The Department awards research grants each year to enable doctoral students to conduct research in the field of Epidemiology. The grant is designated for start-up funds of up to \$5,000 for doctoral thesis research and may be used for basic costs, such as materials and interviews. Application forms should include a statement of whether or not the project could be conducted without the Department funding, the itemized budget, and a 3–5-page thesis proposal. Applications should be submitted to the Student Financial Manager upon the successful completion of the preliminary oral examination and IRB approval. Applications are reviewed by the Honor and Awards Committee. Students must be post-oral doctoral degree candidates in the Department of Epidemiology at the time of support. The application deadlines are October 31st and March 31st of each year.

NIH NRSA T32 Training Grants (Pre- and Postdoctoral Fellowships)

The Department offers a limited number of NIH-supported, pre-and postdoctoral fellowship opportunities for U.S. citizens or U.S. permanent residents. Decisions regarding the distribution of funds for tuition and stipend support are made by the Steering Committees of each training program.

Cancer Epidemiology, Prevention, and Control Training Program***Cardiovascular Epidemiology Institutional Training Program******Epidemiology and Biostatistics of Aging Training Program******Johns Hopkins HIV Epidemiology Prevention Sciences Training Program******Renal Disease Epidemiology Training Grant (postdoctoral only)******Research in Practice: Translating Infectious Disease Epidemiology (RIP-TIDE)*****Training Awards (Non-NIH)**

MD-GEM: The Maryland Genetics, Epidemiology, and Medicine Training Program (predoctoral only): Drs. Priya Duggal and David Valle
Sponsored by the Burroughs Welcome Fund

Cochlear Center for Hearing and Public Health (<https://jhucochlearcenter.org/>): Drs. Frank Lin and Jennifer Deal

Additional training mechanisms available through the **Welch Center for Prevention Epidemiology and Clinical Research:**

- Graduate Training Programs in Clinical Investigation (<https://publichealth.jhu.edu/academics/academic-program-finder/graduate-training-programs-in-clinical-investigation/>)
- Clinical Research and Epidemiology in Diabetes and Endocrinology (<https://publichealth.jhu.edu/welch-center-for-prevention-epidemiology-and-clinical-research/train-here/training-programs/clinical-research-and-epidemiology-in-diabetes-and-endocrinology/>)

Upon notification of selection to receive support, the student may direct questions to the Student Funding Manager. Additionally, departmental students may be supported on grants housed in other departments or schools within the University.

NIH F-Level Individual Predoctoral National Research Service Awards (NRSAs)

As a result of the advisory Biomedical Research Workforce Working Group to the NIH Director, nearly all NIH institutes and centers offer individual predoctoral (F30 and F31) NRSA fellowships. The Department encourages each eligible graduate student to apply for individual fellowship grants. Interested students should first talk with their adviser(s) and the Student Financial Manager. Individual institute and center information and guidelines may differ from one another and can be explored at:

- Parent F31 for predoctoral fellowships (<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-19-195.html>)
- F31 to Promote Diversity predoctoral fellowships (<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-19-196.html>)
- Parent F30 for MD/PhD or other dual degree programs (<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-19-191.html>)

The Department hosts an annual information session at the start of Term 3. Presented by recent successful student applicants to F-level awards, and in partnership with the Student Financial Manager, this is designed to prepare interested applicants to make a decision about applying for an F-level grant.