



Guide for new PhD students in Public Health With a specialization in ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES

The PhD degree requires a significant program of study and research that qualifies the recipient to work independently and contribute to the advancement of the field of knowledge. The emphasis is on mastery of the field and particularly on the acquisition of research skills as a basis for original work.

This document serves as a resource to be used by the student and advisor in developing the student's course of study. For additional information about PhD requirements, students are directed to the College of Public Health (CPH) *Student Handbook* (available online at <http://cph.osu.edu/academics/handbooks.cfm/>) and to the *Graduate School Handbook* (available online at <http://www.gradsch.osu.edu/>).

PROGRAM OF STUDY

The doctoral program requires a minimum total of 120 graduate credit hours or 75 credits beyond a master's degree. Of the 75 hours, a maximum of 30 hours may be given for dissertation research while a minimum of 45 hours must be in course work at Ohio State exclusive of dissertation credit. Some of the specified courses may have been included in a prior master's degree. A maximum of 45 credit hours of master's degree work may be applied to PhD requirements if approved by the faculty advisor.

Major Field (minimum 36 hours)

Required:

PUBH-EHS 731	Principles of Environmental Health	4 hrs
PUBH-EHS 732	Basic Concepts in Toxicology	4 hrs
PUBH-EHS 830	Principles of Occupational Health	4 hrs
PUBH-EHS 831	Principles of Risk Assessment	4 hrs

Select two:

PUBH-EHS 735	Intro to Water & Human Health Risk	4 hrs
PUBH-EHS 832	Principles of Exposure Assessment	4 hrs
PUBH-EHS 835	Molecular Techniques for EHS	5 hrs

In consultation with their faculty advisors, students choose 7-8 hours of electives in their major field.

Research Methods (minimum 36 hours)

PUBH-BIO 701	Design & Analysis of Studies in the Health Sciences I	4 hrs
PUBH-BIO 702	Design & Analysis of Studies in the Health Sciences II	4 hrs
PUBH-EPI 711*	Epidemiology I	4 hrs
PUBH-EPI 713	Epidemiology in Env Health	4 hrs

*The prereq for PUBH-EPI 711 is PUBH-EPI 710, which may be satisfied by passing a qualifying examination.

Select one:

PUBH-BIO 703	Problem-Oriented Approach to Biostat	4 hrs
PUBH-BIO 606	Applied Logistic Regression	4 hrs

In consultation with their faculty advisors, students select an additional 16 credit hours of research course work chosen to complement the student's major, minor, and research interests.

Minor Field (minimum 18 hrs)

Additional credits are required in a minor cognate field that is relevant to the student's research interests. Depending on the student's interests, the minor area may occur within the College of Public Health (e.g., biostatistics or epidemiology) or within other disciplines (e.g., chemistry, microbiology, engineering).

Dissertation (30 hrs maximum)

PUB-HLTH 999	Research in Public Health
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RESIDENCE REQUIREMENT

In addition to the overall credit requirement, doctoral students must fulfill the following residence requirements after the master's degree has been earned or after the first 45 hours of graduate credit have been completed (for additional information, see the *Graduate School Handbook*):

- A minimum of 45 graduate credit hours must be completed at this university;
- A minimum of three out of four consecutive quarters with enrollment of at least nine graduate credit hours per quarter must be completed while in residence at this university;
- A minimum of six graduate credit hours over a period of at least two quarters must be completed after admission to candidacy.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Advisory Committee, which guides the student's program and conducts the Candidacy Examination, is composed of a minimum of four persons meeting the following criteria:

- All committee members must be category P graduate faculty members. Category M graduate faculty members may serve on the committee with approval of the chair of the Environmental Health Sciences division and the Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) chairperson.
- The major field is represented by two members, including the student's advisor, who must have faculty appointments in Environmental Health Sciences. The advisor's principal appointment must be in the College of Public Health.

- The research methods area is represented by one College of Public Health faculty member appropriate for the curriculum of the student.
- The minor field is represented by one member appropriate for the curriculum of the student, who must come from outside the Environmental Health Sciences division and may come from outside the College of Public Health.

Students will work with their advisors to create a tentative curriculum plan during the first quarter of enrollment. The complete Advisory Committee must be formed and the student's complete curriculum plan must be approved within eight quarters of enrollment as a PhD student, or within four quarters for students who have received a master's degree in the CPH. In either case, the GSC chairperson must approve the membership of the Advisory Committee and the proposed curriculum (see Doctoral Curriculum Approval Form in Appendix I of the CPH *Student Handbook*). In addition, the complete curriculum plan must be approved at least two quarters before the student attempts the Candidacy Examination.

QUALIFYING EXAMINATION

The EHS Qualifying Examination provides the Division's Graduate Faculty with the means to assess a student's cumulative knowledge of topics and concepts related to courses taken in their completed curricula; abilities to think critically and integrate ideas and concepts; and abilities to reason and communicate in an organized and clear fashion. The EHS Qualifying Examination is a closed-book written exam covering all aspects of the student's EHS curriculum required of all EHS PhD students. The exam is in an essay format to be completed in 8 hours within a single day. Additional detail about the Qualifying Examination procedures can be found in Appendix G of the CPH *Student Handbook*.

CANDIDACY EXAMINATION

The candidacy examination is a single examination consisting of two parts. The Advisory Committee determines when the student is ready to take the Candidacy Examination and makes a recommendation to the chairperson of the GSC. The student must be registered for at least three graduate credit hours during any quarter in which the Candidacy Examination is taken, and must submit a "Doctoral Notification of Candidacy Examination" form to the Graduate School for approval at least two weeks prior to the oral exam. For more information, see Section 8.4 of the CPH *Student Handbook*.

DISSERTATION COMMITTEE/ PROSPECTUS APPROVAL

Following successful completion of the Candidacy Examination, the student forms a Dissertation Committee as soon as the student and advisor agree that it is appropriate. The Dissertation Committee is composed of no fewer than three Graduate Faculty members of the College. The student's advisor, who must be a Category P member of the Graduate Faculty, serves as chairperson. Additional Graduate Faculty members outside the College may also serve on the Dissertation Committee. The Committee must approve the Dissertation Prospectus and complete the Prospectus Approval Form (see Appendix I of the CPH *Student Handbook*). The student is ordinarily expected to prepare an acceptable draft of the Dissertation Prospectus within one year of admission to candidacy.

RESEARCH WITH HUMAN SUBJECTS

Students should work closely with their faculty advisors to complete the necessary materials to secure approval for research

with human subjects. Guidance, forms, and directions are available through the Office of Responsible Research Practices: <http://orpp.osu.edu/irb/>. All persons involved in human subjects research at OSU must complete the Collaborative IRB Training Initiative (CITI) web-based course on human subjects available at <http://orpp.osu.edu/irb/training/citi.cfm>. The Office of Responsible Research Practices also offers regular training for student researchers. Additional information is available on the Web at <http://orpp.osu.edu/irb/training/>.

RESEARCH WITH ANIMALS

Forms and directions to secure approval for research with animals also are available through the Office of Responsible Research Practices. Approval involves completion of the Animal Usage Orientation Course (either classroom or online) and the Occupational Health and Safety Training Course (online only). Information regarding these courses is available on Web at <http://orpp.osu.edu/iacuc/>.

DISSERTATION CREDITS

Following successful completion of the Candidacy Exam, the Graduate School requires doctoral students to maintain continuous enrollment in three graduate credit hours per quarter (except Summer) until they graduate. CPH students typically register for PUB-HLTH 999 credit each quarter during which dissertation work is conducted.

DISSERTATION/FINAL ORAL EXAMINATION

Students must pass a Final Oral Examination on the dissertation and submit a final, approved copy of the dissertation to the Graduate School within five years of being admitted to candidacy. In addition, students must submit a copy of the dissertation to the CPH Office of Academic Programs. For more information about the dissertation and the Final Oral Examination, see Section 8.5 of the CPH *Student Handbook*. Detailed instructions for the dissertation are available on the Graduate School's web site at <http://www.gradsch.ohio-state.edu>.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

To remain in good academic standing, graduate students must maintain a minimum 3.0 overall GPA. In addition, a B- or higher must be earned in the specialization courses. No course in which a grade of C- or below is earned may count towards the degree. For more details, see Section 11.2 of the CPH *Student Handbook*.

GRADUATION

Students must be enrolled for a minimum of three graduate credit hours during the quarter in which they wish to graduate. An "Application to Graduate" form (available on the Graduate School's Web site) should be completed by the student, signed by the advisor, and returned to the Office of Academic Programs (OAP) for processing. The deadline for submitting the signed form to OAP is the first Friday of the quarter of graduation. At the end of the quarter, students are asked to complete an Exit Survey, as explained in Section 13.12 of the CPH *Student Handbook*.

OFFICE OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Counselors are available in the Office of Academic Programs, M006 Starling-Loving Hall (614-293-3907) to provide assistance regarding College or University processes and procedures. Questions regarding the student's course work or research should be directed to the faculty advisor.