

Epidemiology



EMORY
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SCHOOL



The Epidemiology program trains future leaders in public health. Our curriculum is grounded in the methodologies of epidemiology and biostatistics enabling graduates to contribute new thinking to the field. These methodologies are applied to a broad range of clinical and public health concerns domestically and globally, including cancer, cardiovascular disease, environmental exposures, infectious diseases, and reproduction.

Our graduates leave with strong methodological skills, poised to expand the scientific knowledge of the nature of disease in human populations by developing new theories and testing those theories through epidemiologic studies. They are well prepared for positions in academia, government or private industry.

We are committed to a vision of epidemiology as more than a career for the disciplined mind. Epidemiology is a profession where one works collaboratively with others to solve real-world problems. It is a field for researchers who are concerned for others and seek to contribute to the betterment of mankind.

Abundant Research Opportunities

Our program offers a broad spectrum of research opportunities, through the Department of Epidemiology as well as through numerous health agencies affiliated with the department.

We are closely involved with four Emory based research centers:

- **CENTER FOR AIDS RESEARCH (CFAR):** The Emory CFAR exists to facilitate the conduct of scientifically rigorous basic, clinical, translational, and behavioral research in HIV/AIDS and to connect HIV/AIDS researchers within and across scientific fields. It is one of 18 CFARs across the country funded by the National Institutes of Health, and helps facilitate the domestic and international research of over 100 Emory CFAR investigators and adjunct investigators who work in one or more of five HIV/AIDS research domains.
- **CENTER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS AND RESEARCH (CPHPR):** The Center seeks to enhance the ability of communities to prepare for, respond to, and recover from terrorism, infectious diseases, or other public health threats and emergencies through research, health education, training, and service. The CPHPR was established in January 2002, to respond to the new public health challenges posed by the events of September 11, 2001, and the anthrax attacks that occurred weeks later.
- **GEORGIA CENTER FOR CANCER STATISTICS (GCCS):** The GCCS conducts research, teaching and service related to cancer surveillance and epidemiology. The Center operates cancer registries in Georgia, conducts analytic studies focused on cancer prevention and control, provides support to the cancer control program of the Georgia Department of Human Resources as well as to cancer registration and

DISCOVER

the unexpected

epidemiology for hospitals and other health care providers in the state. Projects are supported by a number of funding agencies, including the National Cancer Institute, the National Program for Cancer Registries of the CDC, and the Cancer Control Program of the Georgia Department of Human Resources.

- **WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S CENTER (WCC):** The WCC promotes the health and well-being of women and children through instruction, research, and practice. Research seeks to better understand the particular health risks experienced by vulnerable populations of women and children, and ways to provide health promotion and disease prevention care for these populations. WCC research involves multi-disciplinary teams of epidemiologists, social scientists, health services researchers, and clinicians, including public and private health providers in several states, including Georgia, Michigan, and South Carolina. The WCC is committed to translating research findings into improved public health services by providing educational experiences for practicing health care practitioners. With funding from federal grants and health foundations, the WCC writes state-of-the-art training packages, manuals, and other training materials to disseminate both research findings and new methodologies.

We collaborate closely with several other institutions with national and international reach, such as the Emory School of Medicine, the Carter Center of Emory University, Morehouse Medical School, the Georgia Division of Public Health, the American Cancer Society (headquartered in Atlanta), and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)—the world's preeminent public health agency, which is located adjacent to the Emory campus. Through these collaborations, students have access to challenging research projects as well as to career opportunities.

Faculty

The epidemiology faculty represents a broad range of interests and affiliations. Many faculty members have joint appointments with other Emory University entities, such as the School of Medicine. We also have a large number of affiliated and visiting faculty members, often affiliated with the CDC and other entities we collaborate with.

Faculty members are actively engaged in research in methodology, infectious diseases, cardiovascular diseases, cancer, reproductive, pediatric and perinatal epidemiology, neurological diseases, and environmental health. A sampling of ongoing research includes:

- Multi-generational effects of exposure to endocrine disrupting chemicals
- Oxidative stress, DNA repair and colorectal cancer
- Ambient air pollution and ER visits, birth defects and other health outcomes
- Genetic and environmental contributions to reproductive outcomes
- Geographic and racial differences in stroke incidence and mortality
- Understanding and controlling anti-microbial resistance.
- Developmental disabilities and family dynamics
- Health literacy
- The epidemiology of HIV/AIDS
- Emerging infections and public health preparedness

Our website has a complete list of faculty, with information about research interests, publications, and more. Please visit www.sph.emory.edu/epi/faculty.php.

Curriculum

Students with a bachelors degree complete two years of coursework, and students with a post-baccalaureate degree in epidemiology complete one year of coursework. The average time to complete the degree is 4-5 years.

Coursework

The curriculum emphasizes foundational courses and allows students flexibility in pursuing their own academic interests.

Courses in biostatistics, epidemiologic methods, and disease modeling lay the foundation for elective courses in specific areas such as cancer, cardiovascular disease, chronic disease, environmental health, infectious diseases, and reproductive and women's health.

Research Experience

Students complete two research assistant rotations under faculty supervision during their first two years in the program. Each rotation should be with a different faculty member and involve 10-15 hours per week of work over the course of a semester.

Qualifying Exams

The qualifying examination is both written and oral. The written exam is taken during the summer following coursework completion. The oral portion is a presentation of the protocol for the dissertation research and may also cover substantive material.

Dissertation

The dissertation is an original research project developed in consultation with an advisor and a thesis committee. A sample of recent dissertation titles include:

- Early and Mid-Gestation Maternal Plasma Cytokines in Term Pregnancy and in Association with Spontaneous Preterm Delivery
- Significance of chromosome 8p allele status in prostate cancer progression
- Population-Based Studies of the Epidemiology of Cytomegalovirus (CMV) Infection in the United States
- Water and Gastrointestinal Illness in Metro-Atlanta
- Refining the roles of genetic, environmental, and endogenous factors in Factor VIII activity levels

Training in Teaching

Scientists are often also teachers, whether in formal education or in the process of presenting to lay persons. At Emory, all doctoral students receive training in pedagogy and other elements of teaching, through the Teaching Assistant Training and Teaching Opportunity Program (TATTO) administered by the Graduate School.

Students

Our curriculum is highly quantitative and therefore we recruit students with excellent analytical skills and a strong background in math and science. Prerequisites include college calculus and biology; accepted students typically have 2-3 semesters of calculus, and at least 4 science courses (biology, chemistry, organic chemistry, or physics).

A previous graduate degree in Epidemiology or any other field is not a requirement for admission, but typically those admitted already hold an advanced degree in Epidemiology or another area.

Approximately 40 students are enrolled at any given time, with 6-10 students joining the program each year.

Students graduate from the Ph.D. program well-trained for positions in academia, government or private industry.

A sample of recent post-graduate job placement includes:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- Pfizer, Inc.
- University of Florida College of Medicine, Department of Epidemiology and Health Policy Research
- University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Department of Health Behavior and Administration

Contact Information

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About the Rollins School of Public Health

At Emory's Rollins School of Public Health, students learn to identify, analyze, and intervene in today's most pressing public health issues. The school is located in Atlanta, Georgia, often referred to as the "Public Health Capital of the World"—the city is also home to the U.S Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; CARE; the American Cancer Society; The Carter Center; the Arthritis Foundation; numerous state and regional health agencies; and health-related research programs of Emory University's Woodruff Health Sciences Center. This setting is ideal for hands-on research, collaborations with the world's leading public health agencies, and interdisciplinary work with national and international organizations.

The school comprises six academic departments: behavioral sciences and health education, biostatistics, environmental and occupational health, epidemiology, health policy and management, global health, and hosts over 20 interdisciplinary centers as well as a distance learning program.

In addition to four doctoral programs offered through the Emory Graduate School, the Rollins School of Public Health offers Master of Public Health, Master of Science in Public Health, Master of Science in Clinical Research (jointly with the Emory School of Medicine), and dual degree MPH programs with the schools of business, law, medicine, physician assistant, and nursing.

Visit www.sph.emory.edu.



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Requests for Additional Information:

RECRUITMENT AND ADMISSIONS

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800-727-6028 (domestic only)
(ask for the Epidemiology program)

(404) 727-8729 (direct line)

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<http://www.graduateschool.emory.edu>
<http://www.sph.emory.edu/epi>