

EPIDEMIOLOGY, M.P.H.

Overview

Beginning in Fall 2023, the Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) in epidemiology will also be offered as a 100% asynchronous online degree program.

The mission of the Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) degree in epidemiology is to prepare students to apply epidemiologic methods and skills in a practice setting. Students will learn and develop skills in planning and conducting epidemiological studies; developing and evaluating surveillance programs; developing culturally appropriate protocols for data collection; performing data analysis and presenting results orally and in writing. Upon graduation, students will be competitive for positions available at state health or government health departments, private industry, clinical or university settings.

Upon completion of the M.P.H. degree program, students will be able to:

- Apply epidemiologic methods in public health settings
- Demonstrate successful achievement of epidemiology-specific competencies, and
- Demonstrate successful achievement of M.P.H. knowledge and foundational competencies

The competencies (CEPH) or learning outcomes (SACS) are described in more detail on the department website. Note that "competencies" and "learning outcomes" are two different terms to describe the same concepts. CEPH, the accrediting body for programs and schools of public health, uses the word competencies, and SACS, the USC accrediting body, uses the phrase learning outcomes.

The foundational public health knowledge competencies and the M.P.H. foundational competencies are taught and assessed in the M.P.H. core classes. The epidemiologic-specific competencies are taught and evaluated in the epidemiology M.P.H. non-core course requirements.

Learning Outcomes

1. Students will evaluate a public health surveillance system, identify salient gaps, and methods to address them.
2. Students will interpret epidemiological data and methodological descriptions to identify the type of study design and calculate appropriate measures of association.
3. Students will compare and contrast the strengths and limitations of epidemiologic study designs (randomized trials and observational studies), including biases and methods to minimize bias.
4. Students will formulate a research question and manage and analyze data from public health administrative or surveillance data, or electronic health data repositories.
5. Students will formulate a research question, determine a study design, develop a research protocol, and design a questionnaire to address a public health issue.
6. Students will critically evaluate epidemiologic scientific literature.