



THE UNIVERSITY *of* TEXAS

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SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

AUSTIN REGIONAL CAMPUS

DOCTORAL PROGRAMS

Frequently Asked Questions

# What doctoral degrees are offered at the Austin Regional Campus?

- The Austin Regional Campus (ARC) offers a DrPH in Health Promotion and PhD in Epidemiology

# Is it necessary to have an MPH to meet admissions requirements?

- If you are applying for the DrPH in Health Promotion, you must have an MPH degree or an equivalent masters degree with a substantial behavioral sciences component.
- If you are applying for the PhD in Epidemiology, it is best to have either a MPH or MS in Epidemiology or equivalent masters degree.

# Is it necessary to have a masters degree to meet doctoral admissions requirements?

- A completed masters degree is generally required for both the DrPH and PhD programs. Occasionally, an applicant without a masters degree can apply for direct admission into the PhD in Epidemiology. To be eligible, an applicant must meet the requirements listed below:

## Direct Admission

- A bachelor's degree that indicates the development of strong scientific and analytical skills, or
- A professional doctoral degree in a medical field, or
- A doctoral degree in a field not directly related to medicine or public health, coupled with evidence of adequate preparation in the biological sciences and mathematics, and
- Evidence of solid academic achievement, including the completion of advanced courses in a biological science, at least two semesters of college-level calculus courses (or the equivalent), and at least one course in statistics, and
- Admissions Requirements for the PhD in Epidemiology. Refer to the [Epi Handbook for more detailed information](#)

# Am I eligible for the PhD in Epidemiology if I do not have a masters degree in the natural sciences?

- If you have an MS in another area, you could apply directly to the PhD program and the admissions committee will evaluate your records. This committee might decide to accept you into the MS program with the 'right to petition', where you would take "MS" equivalent courses in epidemiology that would transfer into the PhD program.
- The backgrounds of PhD applicants who have master's degrees in other areas are evaluated individually in terms of their backgrounds to decide whether admission to the MS with the right to petition is the best option, and if so, what courses to require. Someone admitted as 'right to petition' would take [PH 2612 Epidemiology I](#), [PH 2615 Epidemiology II](#), possibly [PH 2710 Epidemiology III](#), and [PH 1725/1726 Intermediate Biostatistics I and II](#). The biostatistics course requirement might be modified for someone coming in with an MS in statistics.

# Are there any funding opportunities available for students?

- Yes, there are Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) traineeships (\$5,000), New Outstanding Student Scholarships (\$5,000), Endowed UTSPH scholarships (\$500-\$1,000), and occasionally Graduate Research Assistant (GA's), and Teaching Assistant (TA) positions available (monthly stipends) that provide free health insurance.
- Applicants with a GRE score of 1200 or above and GPA 3.5 or above will be considered for scholarship
- Students with GA or TA positions are not eligible for the HRSA traineeships

# Can the entire doctoral program be completed in Austin?

- Yes, all coursework is either taught or available in Austin. Courses not taught by Austin faculty are taught by faculty at other regional campuses or Houston through ITV (interactive TV) or online.

# What are the differences between the Austin based and Houston based doctoral programs?



- The admission and degree requirements are the same. Faculty expertise and some elective course offerings will differ across campuses.

# What research expertise is available at ARC?

- ARC faculty research focuses on the epidemiology and promotion of healthy behaviors, specifically among child and adolescents in respect to obesity prevention, tobacco prevention/control, alcohol prevention, and policies that promote healthy behavior.

# How does the admissions process work?

- Applicants follow [UTSPH Houston's application procedure requirements](#). Applications are reviewed at the regional campus and within the academic divisions in Houston as well.

# How long does it take to complete a doctoral degree at ARC?

- Coursework is generally completed in two years. Any student who has been admitted to candidacy for a doctoral degree (i.e., following successful completion of the qualifying examination) is expected to complete the degree within three years from the date of admission to candidacy.

# Will I be able to complete the DrPH in less time if I have an MPH degree?

- The DrPH requires 48 hours of coursework. The breakdown of course work is shown below. If you have taken the core courses listed below, you will need to substitute that course with another course to meet the 48 credit requirement.

Category	Semester Credit Hours	Clock Hours
Health Promotion Major Required Courses	20	
Health Promotion Major Electives	4-6	
Minor in Management/Leadership OR Policy/Leadership	9	
Breadth in Quantitative Research Methods	9 (min)	
[Minimum] Research Hours/Dissertation	3	
Practicum (DrPH)	3	180-200
Total	48-50	

# What is the difference between a PhD and a DrPH?

- The PhD is primarily a research and teaching degree. The DrPH is primarily designed for those who plan careers involving professional practice, teaching, or research.

# What is the difference between health promotion and epidemiology?

- Health promotion seeks to improve the public's health through the application of social and behavioral sciences to solving the problems of human disease and disability. Lifestyle behaviors and aspects of the social environment offer important opportunities to modify the incidence, prevalence, and mortality from many diseases. The Health Promotion Division's academic and research programs focus on identifying the modifiable determinants of health and disease and on intervening to change or eliminate those determinants. Division faculty members conduct research and teach in the areas of health promotion, health education, and/or social and behavioral aspects of population health.
- Epidemiology is a fundamental science of public health and preventive medicine with a major focus on research on the causes and prevention of disease. The methods of investigation employed by epidemiologists are applicable to a broad range of problems of human health and disease, and afford a rich variety of experiences from which to approach the substantive issues of population and community health. Environmental, genetic, and social determinants of health and disease are equally emphasized.