

FAST FACTS: Public Health Epidemiology



CEPH Accredited
Master of Public Health (MPH) Degree
Public Health Epidemiology Program

The 45 semester credit MPH degree is offered via the Northwest Ohio Consortium for Public Health (NOCPH), a collaboration of Bowling Green State University and the University of Toledo. The University of Toledo Department of Public Health & Homeland Security coordinates the Public Health Epidemiology program. The MPH program is accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH).

What is an Epidemiologist?

The **Public Health Epidemiology** major prepares students for careers involving the study of the distribution of disease in large groups or from a population-based perspective. It involves factors affecting disease and disability in populations. As a fundamental science of public health and preventive medicine, epidemiology research has traditionally focused on questions of disease causation through population studies for both infectious and chronic diseases. Epidemiologists attempt to quantify the distribution and establish the determinants of health problems by describing and analyzing the biological, environmental, social and behavioral factors affecting health, illness and premature death. Descriptive and analytic techniques are used to gather information on disease occurrence, extend basic knowledge about the physical, mental and social processes affecting health, and develop effective disease-control measures. The products of such inquiries are also used in the formulation of health policies. Quantitative skills, including biostatistics and computer applications, are emphasized in this major. Epidemiologists work closely with other health professionals including physicians, environmental health personnel, behavioral scientists, demographers, biostatisticians, and administrators of health agencies. Epidemiologists often work for local, state, and federal governments, health care organizations, private industry, and institutions of higher education. The major objectives for the Public Health Epidemiology program are to graduate professionals that are prepared to:

- define and calculate measures of disease frequency and measures of association between risk factors and disease.
- describe the major epidemiologic research study designs and their advantages and limitations.
- describe the major sources of bias in epidemiologic research (confounding, selection bias, and measurement error) and the ways to evaluate and reduce bias.
- evaluate effect modification.
- apply criteria to support whether an association is causal.
- understand the basic terms and methods used in outbreak investigation, infectious disease epidemiology, chronic disease epidemiology, disease prevention trials and evaluation of screening tests.
- review the scientific literature with competence, synthesize findings across studies and make appropriate public health recommendations based on current knowledge.
- design an epidemiologic study to address a question of interest.
- interpret results of an epidemiologic study, including the relation to findings from other epidemiologic studies, potential biologic and/or social mechanisms, limitations of the study, and public health implications.
- write a clear description of the rationale, methods, results, and interpretation of an epidemiologic investigation.
- Apply epidemiologic skills in a public health setting, specifically in the formulation or application of public health programs or policies.

(please turn Fast Fact sheet to the reverse side)



FAST FACTS: Public Health Epidemiology

What are the entrance requirements/prerequisites?

Applicant may qualify for "**Regular Admission**" if he/she satisfies all of these requirements:

- Completed bachelor degree, including foundation courses. It is expected that all applicants will have successfully completed college-level mathematics and biology and course work in the social sciences. (In addition, completion of college-level courses in inorganic and organic chemistry are required for the Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety Science major.)
- GPA \geq 3.0 (or equivalent)
- TOEFL \geq 550 (Not Applicable if English is Applicant's Primary Language)
- Recommended by 3 References

Applicant may qualify for "**Provisional Admission**" if he/she has one or more of the following deficiencies:

- Must complete necessary foundation course(s)
- GPA \geq 2.7 but $<$ 3.0 (or equivalent)

What is the application timeline? Applications are processed, and students are accepted, as applications are received (rolling admission), but should be received no later than June 15 for Fall term, October 15 for Spring term, and March 15 for Summer term.

How long is the program? Can I complete the program on a part-time basis? The curriculum requires completion of 45 semester credits of advised courses. The duration of the program is 16 months (i.e. four consecutive terms) for full-time students and approximately 32-36 months for part-time students.

Is the program offered on evenings or weekends? Classes are scheduled on Monday through Thursday nights, one night per week per course and on some courses on Saturdays.

I already have completed some graduate college courses; can I apply any of the credits I have completed? A maximum of 12 credits of approved transfer of graduate courses completed elsewhere.

What type of financial aid is available? Federal financial aid programs are available. Each NOCPH institution offers two to three tuition scholarships and one to two graduate assistantships per major. Additional funding may be available via funded grants and contracts.

What are the features of a successful candidate? Academically prepared; writes and speaks well; has a true desire to work with and help people; curious and excited by challenges involving problem-solving.

What are the job opportunities? What is a typical salary for a new graduate? Salaries vary greatly depending on geographic location and type of facility. New graduates can expect to start at \$40,000 – \$60,000.

Why should I attend the Northwest Ohio Consortium for Public Health (Bowling Green State University and University of Toledo)?

- Reasonable, public school tuition
- MPH students attend classes and have access to facilities on all campuses.
- Relatively small class sizes (typically 10-20 students per class in areas of concentration)
- Technologically sophisticated classroom and laboratory learning environments.
- Faculty have national reputations for practice and research
- Fieldwork/Internship and Research opportunities
- Beautiful campuses, reasonable off-campus housing costs

Where can I find more information about the profession and the program requirements?

- The Northwest Ohio Consortium for Public Health website: www.nocphmph.org
- American Public Health Association (www.apha.org); Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov)
- Phone 419-383-4112 or e-mail publichealth@utoledo.edu for questions regarding admissions.
- Sadik Khuder, PhD, Professor, Sheryl Milz, PhD, Interim Chair and Associate Professor, or Brian Fink, PhD, Assistant Professor, UT Department of Public Health & Preventive Medicine, Northwest Ohio Consortium for Public Health sadik.khuder@utoledo.edu or 419-383-4089 / Sheryl.milz@utoledo.edu or 419-383-3976 / Brian.fink@utoledo.edu or 419-383-4817