

2026–2028

MPH-EPIDEMIOLOGY Curriculum Guide

45-credit • Hybrid, Two-year, Part-time

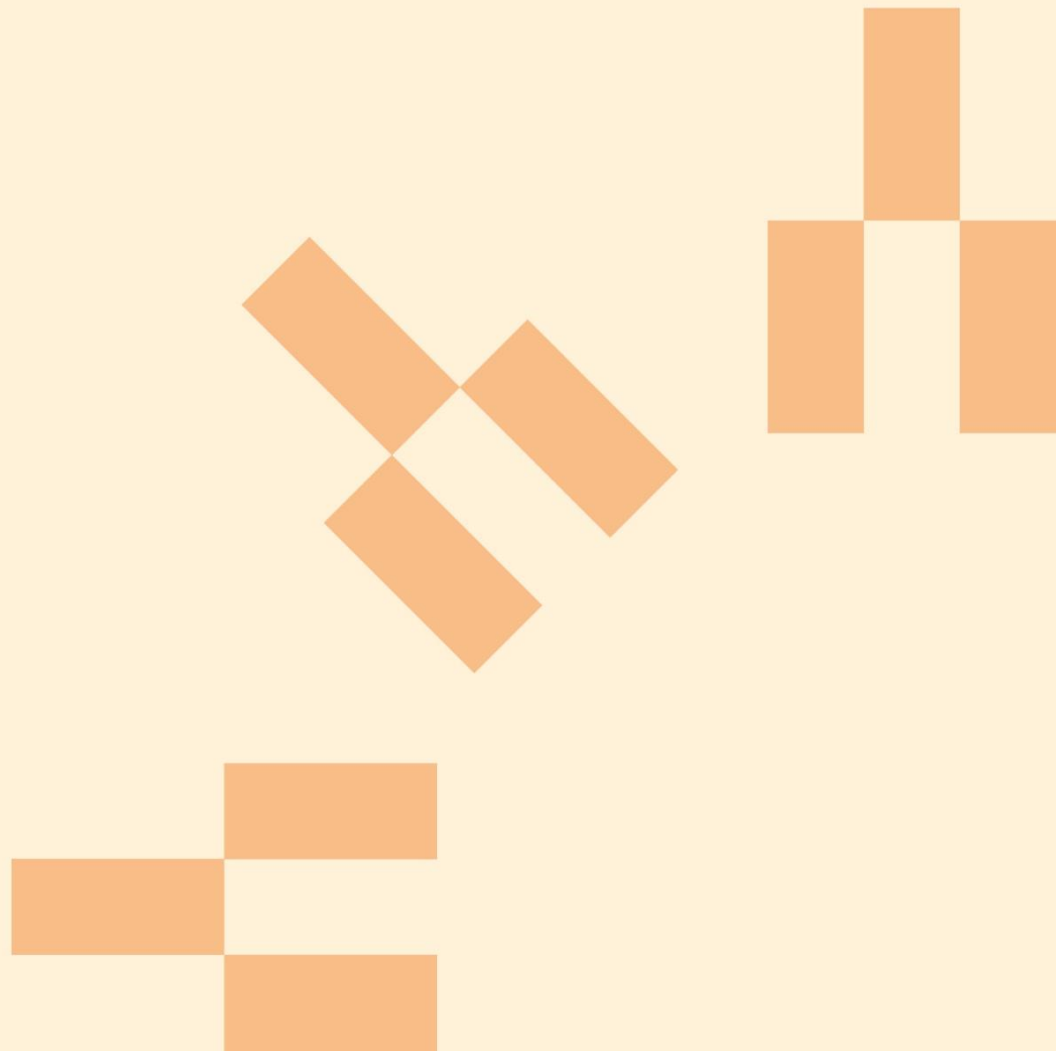


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Every effort is made to ensure the information contained in this guide is accurate at the time of posting. However, the curriculum, including degree requirements, courses, faculty, and program policies are subject to modification as deemed necessary by Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health to provide students with the most meaningful educational experience and to remain current with professional standards and guidelines.

This version of the MPH-EPI Curriculum Guide pertains only to students matriculating in June 2026.

MPH Leadership, Administration, and Resources

The Master of Public Health program is a school-wide degree program governed by the [MPH Steering Committee](#) and supported by the [Office of Educational Programs](#) and the academic department(s) related to each of the fields of study.

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Registrar's Office

hsph.me/registrar • registrar@hsph.harvard.edu • 617-432-1032

677 Huntington Avenue, Kresge G4 Suite, Boston, MA 02115

[Academic Calendar](#) [Harvard Course Catalog](#) [Student Handbook](#)

[Student Knowledge Center](#) — information about course enrollment, cross-registration, etc.

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Program Description and Overview

The Master of Public Health in Epidemiology (MPH-EPI) is a cohort-based, hybrid, part-time degree program that is completed throughout two years. The MPH-EPI program prepares you for new levels of leadership and investigation, while fitting around your busy schedule. Through a combination of online, in-person, and in-the-field learning, the MPH-EPI program will provide you with the advanced research and epidemiological skills needed to pursue senior positions in academia, hospitals, public health agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector. The MPH in Epidemiology is designed for individuals seeking specialization in advanced quantitative methods of epidemiology and its applications to clinical and population health research, policy, and programs.

The Format: Maximum Flexibility, Indelible Experience

The MPH-EPI program begins in June 2026 with a **required** and intensive three-week session on campus. During this session, you will take an integrative course in Biostatistics and Epidemiology. Following the on-campus June session, you will return home to complete a prescribed curriculum of online coursework on advanced methods in epidemiology. During the second year of the program, you will return to the Harvard campus the following June in 2027 (**also required**), complete online elective coursework during next academic year, and return to campus for a Practicum Symposium in May 2028 prior to the Harvard Convocation/Commencement.

- **ON-CAMPUS:** The program includes two required, three-week intensive on-campus sessions in June 2026 and June 2027.
- **ONLINE:** The online period of the program is July through May in both the first and second year. You will participate in mostly asynchronous courses that include interactive exercises, modular video sessions, and case-based studies.
- **IN THE FIELD:** Mentored by Harvard faculty, you will complete a self-designed, year-long practicum project culminating in a final presentation and paper before graduation.

Program Competencies

1. Critically evaluate and apply principles of epidemiologic methods, including exposure and outcome measures, measures of association, bias and confounding, and study design options.
2. Demonstrate the ability to critically evaluate and apply appropriate biostatistical techniques for data arising from evaluation of public health problems (e.g., including basic probability theory and common distributions, effect measure estimation, continuous and categorical data analysis, parametric and non-parametric hypothesis tests, confidence intervals and p-values, correlation and basic regression techniques, and power/sample size calculations.
3. Conduct and interpret results from analyses using regression-based methods to adjust for confounding and to develop and evaluate prediction rules.
4. Conduct and interpret results from analyses using advanced methods to examine causal effects, including propensity scores, inverse probability weighting, and instrumental variable methods.
5. Apply study design evaluation skills to current topics in public health.

Degree Requirements and Program Policies

Degree Requirements

In addition to meeting course load requirements and distributions, MPH-EPI students must remain in good academic standing, complete program requirements within the designated time to degree, and meet the following academic conditions:

- 45 credits minimum
- Cumulative grade point average of at least 2.7
- Successful completion of all required courses
- Applied Practice Experience
- Integrative Learning Experience

Pass/Fail Grading Policies

Students enrolled in an MPH program at the School **may not count more than 12.5 pass/fail credits** during the degree program.

1	Minimum of 45 credits	2	May take up to 14.75 credits per semester
3	No more than 12.5 pass/fail credits	4	Cumulative GPA of at least 2.7

Courses during the first year of the MPH-EPI program (ID 207/208, EPI 522, EPI 524 and EPI 525) are required to be taken for an ordinal grade. Some Year 2 electives in the program may only offer one option for grading. In planning the use of your pass/fail credits, please keep in mind that the required core courses ID 100 and MPH 101 as well as some electives only be taken for a pass/fail grade. Furthermore, some electives like EPI 526 will only be offered for an ordinal grade.

Credits Per Semester

The MPH in Epidemiology program is a part-time degree program. In order to remain part-time, students cannot take more than 14.75 credits per semester. There is no option to complete this program as a full-time student.

It may be difficult for MPH-EPI students to reach 14.75 in a given semester since the program does not recommend students to take online MPH-EPI electives in the first year of the program and MPH-EPI students are ineligible to enroll in on-campus courses during the academic year.

Academic Deadlines

MPH in Epidemiology students should follow the same last date to enroll/last date to drop deadlines as other Harvard Chan School students. The deadlines for each term can be found in the [Academic Calendar Summary](#) on the [Registrar's Office website](#).

It is strongly recommended that students not join courses after they begin, to avoid missing any required assignments or group project work during the first two weeks of the course.

Harvard Email

MPH in Epidemiology students must check their Harvard email regularly for all communications from the School. The School will not communicate with students via their personal or work email accounts.

Leave of Absence

Students in the MPH in Epidemiology have the option of taking a leave of absence from the program; however, the MPH-EPI required curriculum in the first year of the program **must be** taken in sequence. This does not include the MPH public health core (MPH 101-105). The program recommends students who plan to take a leave of absence do so for at least an entire semester (Summer, Fall, Spring). Students who wish to take a leave of absence for part of a semester will be charged a continuation fee.

Elective Courses

It is not recommended that MPH in Epidemiology students take online elective courses during the first year in the program; however, students may take the MPH public health core courses during the first year.

During their second year of the program, students can choose from a variety of online MPH-EPI electives in the Fall and Spring semesters. Elective course credits vary from 1.25 to 2.5 credits. The current list of elective courses can be found beginning on page 15.

Cross Registration and On Campus Courses

Students enrolled in the MPH in Epidemiology are not permitted to take on campus courses during the academic year (except during WinterSession). MPH-EPI students are also not allowed to cross-register for other on-campus courses within Harvard University due to their non-resident student status.

Cross-Registration into Online Electives at Other Harvard Schools

MPH-EPI students may cross-register into online courses offered at Harvard Medical School. Details on the cross-registration process can be found in the [Registrar's Office Student Knowledge Center](#). Please be aware that the online courses at Harvard Medical School may only be offered synchronously. To find HMS online courses, visit the [course search](#) website and sort by Harvard Medical School – Online (Instruction Mode) – Available for Harvard Cross Registration (Cross Registration). Below is a sample list of courses that may be available for MPH-EPI students.

Course Number	Title	Semester	Credits	Time (EST)
All courses below are offered at Harvard Medical School				
BETH 743	Pharmaceutical Ethics	Fall 1 2026	2	TBD
HO 705	Climate Change, Justice, and Beneficence	Spring 2027	4	3:00 pm-5:00 pm
HQS 707	Bioinformatics and Clinical Quality	Fall 2026	3	TBD
NCE 512	Big Data and Machine Learning in Healthcare Applicants	Spring 1 2027	2	5:00 pm-6:30 pm
NCE 520	Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine: Innovation in Research, Policy, and Clinical Care	Spring 2027	2	6:30 pm-8:00 pm
NCE 526	Healthcare for Patients with Disabilities: Current Landscape, Innovations, and Opportunities	Fall 2026	1	6:30 pm-8:00 pm
RA 702	Basic and Clinical Radiation Biology	Spring 2027	1	8:00 am-9:00 am

Course Descriptions and Syllabi

Students can view course descriptions by visiting the [Course Catalog](#). Course syllabi can be found on [Syllabus Explorer](#).

International Students

International students will be required to attend the two, three-week on-campus sessions in June 2026 and June 2027 on a student visa. This policy includes students from Canada. The Harvard Chan School is unable to extend the student visa past the June session since the remainder of the program is completed online. MPH in Epidemiology students are also ineligible for OPT status.

Winter Session: January Term (2027/2028) – Optional Electives

MPH in Epidemiology students are eligible to attend on-campus courses during the School's WinterSession (January term). To view the WinterSession course offerings, please visit the School's [course catalog](#).

WinterSession courses are in the Spring semester, under the January tab on the left toolbar. The majority of WinterSession courses are 1.25 credits.

International students must request a student visa to take on-campus WinterSession courses. In order to obtain a student visa, international students will be **required to take 5 credits of on-campus courses**. WinterSession courses may be offered at conflicting times. It is important to plan your schedule accordingly if you need to obtain a visa to take courses.

The Harvard Chan School Department of Global Health also offers a [variety of travel courses](#) during the WinterSession term. These travel courses usually require an application, and information will be sent to students via email during the Fall semester. Both domestic and international MPH in Epidemiology students are eligible to apply for the WinterSession Travel Courses.

Field of Study and Program Changes

Students in the MPH-EPI program are not eligible to change into another field of study or MPH degree program once admitted to the MPH in Epidemiology. Students who want to change fields of study would need to reapply to a different MPH program and/or field of study.

Transfer Credits and Course Waivers

Students in the MPH-EPI program are unable to waive, substitute, or transfer any HSPH or outside credits into the MPH-EPI program.

Billing And Enrollment

Students are billed a flat rate at the beginning of each semester (fall and spring) until the full program cost has been met. Course enrollment and pre-paying your tuition bill are closely connected at the Harvard Chan School. For questions about tuition or student billing, visit the [Student Billing website](#) or contact the [Registrar's Office](#). Students are also responsible for course material fees, which are separate from tuition, and are typically posted after course enrollment.

A continuation fee may be charged for any student who has paid their financial requirements but still has academic requirements to finish.

Online Programs at Harvard University

Harvard is authorized to offer distance education under the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA), an agreement that allows institutions of higher education in Massachusetts to offer distance education to students residing in other states that participate in SARA. For information about SARA-related student complaint processes for distance education students, please see <https://vpal.harvard.edu/nc-sara>.

Policy for Using Generative AI in Courses

Unless otherwise specified by an instructor, it is a violation of the Harvard Chan School's academic integrity policies for students to use GAI to create all or part of an assignment for a course and submit that work as their own. This rule parallels other rules. Students may not ask another person to complete their assignments for their courses. Students may not copy something someone else has created, or re-write something someone else has written, without proper attribution.

In general, the School sees permissible uses of GAI in coursework to include seeking clarification on concepts, brainstorming ideas, or generating scenarios that help to contextualize what a student is learning. This may

include, for example, using AI-powered web searches, having “conversations” with tools like ChatGPT to help explore ideas, refine thinking, identify examples, and better understand course material. It is also considered acceptable to use GAI to draft emails to instructors, students, and others in the community that are not being submitted as coursework.

Additional Resources Available for MPH-EPI Students: MPH in Epidemiology iLibrary

Students who enroll in the program will have access to the MPH in Epidemiology iLibrary in Canvas. The iLibrary is a repository that has a variety of useful information including podcasts, videos, data analysis tutorials, lecture notes, external epidemiology resources, and career resources.

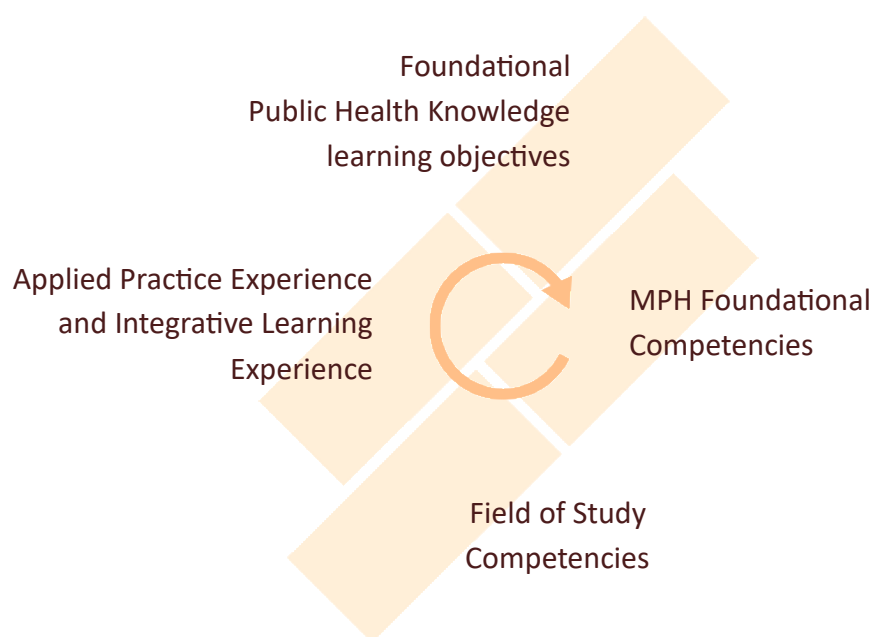
Master of Public Health: Program Overview

The MPH degree is the most widely recognized professional credential for leadership in public health. The MPH curriculum emphasizes active, student-directed learning, problem solving, and the acquisition of skills essential to the practice of public health. The program is organized around the Foundational Public Health Knowledge learning objectives, the MPH Foundational Competencies, the Applied Practice Experience, and the Integrative Learning Experience laid out by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH). Students pursue a career-oriented field of study. Each field of study has defined five distinct competencies that enhance the 12 Foundational Public Health Knowledge learning objectives and the 22 MPH Foundational Competencies.

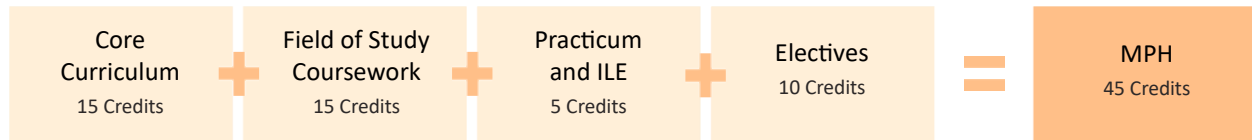
Harvard Chan's Competency and Application-Based MPH Curriculum

The MPH public health core curriculum is developed in accordance with the Council on Education for Public Health's 12 Foundational Public Health Knowledge learning objectives and 22 MPH Foundational Competencies required of all students receiving an MPH degree at accredited institutions.

The Foundational Public Health Knowledge learning objectives and the MPH Foundational Competencies are primarily met through the Harvard Chan MPH public health core curriculum, the Applied Practice Experience, and the Integrative Learning Experience.



MPH Public Health Core Curriculum



All MPH students at Harvard Chan are required to complete a common curriculum consisting of a school-wide online course, ID 100: Foundations for Public Health; the biostatistics and epidemiology core (ID 207 & ID 208); and four courses in the MPH public health core areas (MPH 101, MPH 103, MPH 104, and MPH 105).

Common Curriculum of MPH Public Health

Biostatistics and Epidemiology Core

Course Number	Title	Semester	Credits
ID 207/ ID 208	Introduction to Epidemiology and Biostatistics	Summer 2026	10

School-Wide Foundational Course

Course Number	Title	Semester	Credits
ID 100 Course Format/Notes: All MPH students are required to complete a school-wide online course, ID 100: Foundations for Public Health. Students will be automatically given access in Summer (sometime in July or August) to the course materials via Canvas , and should complete the course prior to the Fall semester; even though MPH-EPI students will not enroll in ID 100 until the Fall semester.			
ID 100	Foundations for Public Health	Fall 1 2026	1 (Pass/Fail Only)

MPH Public Health Core

Course Number	Title	Semester	Credits
MPH 101–105 Course Format/Notes: MPH-EPI students have the option to take the MPH public health core at various times throughout the two-year program. The MPH public health core courses do not have to be taken in sequence, and each course is conducted asynchronously. It is the student's responsibility to fulfill the MPH public health core throughout the two-year MPH-EPI program. Students should be sure to plan their schedules accordingly.			
MPH 101	MPH Qualitative Methods for Public Health	Summer or Fall 2 (2026 or 2027)	.25 (Pass/Fail Only)
MPH 103	Leadership and Communication	Fall 2 or January (2026/2027/2028)	1.25
MPH 104	Social, Behavioral, and Structural Determinants of Health	Summer, Fall 1 or January (2026/2027/2028)	1.25
MPH 105	Public Health Policy and Politics	June 2027	1.25

Planning Your Program

Students in the MPH-EPI program must complete a minimum of 45 credits. The first year of the program prioritizes required coursework in epidemiologic methods. During the second year of the program, students will complete a small amount of required coursework, including a practicum and the Integrative Learning Experience, along with electives.

The courses below are all online, unless indicated “on-campus”. Online courses in the MPH-EPI program are mostly asynchronous, with optional synchronous sessions. Students who would like guidance on their schedule are encouraged to meet with the MPH-EPI Assistant Director or Senior Educational Programs Coordinator.

Required Curriculum Courses of Years 1 & 2

Year 1 Required Curriculum Courses

Course Number	Title	Semester	Credits
ID 207	Introduction of Epidemiology and Biostatistics (On-Campus)	June 2026	7.5
ID 208	Introduction of Epidemiology and Biostatistics	Summer 2026	2.5
ID 100	Foundations for Public Health	Summer/Fall 2026	1
EPI 522	Analytic Methods for Epidemiology	Fall 2026	5
EPI 524	Confounding Control: A Component of Causal Inference	Spring 1 2027	2.5
EPI 525	Study Designs for Epidemiologists	Spring 2 2027	2.5

Year 2 Required Curriculum Courses

Course Number	Title	Semester	Credits
HPM 549	Ethical and Regulatory Issues in Human Research (On-campus)	June 2027	2.5
MPH 105	Public Health Policy and Politics (On-campus)	June 2027	1.25
HPM 260	Health Economics and Applications to Global Health Policy	Summer 2027	2.5
EPI 945F EPI 945S	Applied Practice and Integrative Learning Experience for Epidemiology	Fall 2027 Spring 2028	2.5

MPH Epidemiology 2nd Year Electives

The courses listed below are ones that the program has currently approved as electives. During the second on-campus session, students will select 1-3, on-campus, electives while also taking the two required on-campus courses listed on page 14.

MPH Epidemiology 2nd Year Electives

Course Number	Title	Priority	Semester	Credits
EPI 271	Propensity Score Analysis (On-campus)	EPI Only	June 2027	1.25
ID 543	Introduction to R (On-campus)	EPI Only	June 2027	1.25**
ID 544	Writing Public Health Research (On-campus)	EPI Only	June 2027	1.25*
ID 545	Cultivating Authentic Leadership (On-campus)	EPI Only	June 2027	1.25
EPI 526	Analysis of Publicly Available Databases for Epidemiologic and Health Services Research	EPI	Fall 2027	2.5**
EPI 527	Design and Conduct of Trials in Preventive Medicine	EPI	Fall 2027	2.5
EPI 528	Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis	EPI	Fall 2027	2.5**
EPI 529	Applications of Epidemiology	EPI	Fall 2027	1.25*
HPM 559	Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods for Public Health	EPI/GEN	Fall 2027	2.5
ID 224	Survey Research Methods for Public Health	EPI/GEN	Fall 2027	2.5
ID 226	Interventions for Global Health: Concepts and Methods	GEN	Fall 2027	2.5
ID 262	Emerging Issues in Humanitarian Response	GEN	Fall 2027	2.5
ID 514	Organizational Behavior	GEN	Fall 1 2027	2.5
ID 290	Emergency Response, Disasters and Public Health	EPI	Fall 2 2027	2.5
BST 215	Linear and Longitudinal Regression	EPI	Spring 2028	2.5
EPI 288	Introduction to Machine Learning and Risk Prediction	EPI	Spring 2028	2.5
EPI 529	Applications of Epidemiology	EPI	Spring 2028	1.25*

Course Number	Title	Priority	Semester	Credits
HPM 506	Practical Scientific Methods for Improving Health and Health Care	EPI/GEN	Spring 2028	2.5
ID 232	Communication Strategies and Tactics for Public Health Advocacy	GEN	Spring 2028	2.5
ID 276	Introduction to Nutrition Science	EPI/GEN	Spring 2028	2.5
RDS 202	Decision Science for Public Health	EPI/GEN	Spring 2028	2.5
ID 273	Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Healthcare	GEN	Spring 1 2028	2.5
ID 218	Financial Transactions and Analysis	GEN	Spring 1 2028	2.5
EPI 530	Infectious Disease Epidemiology	EPI	Spring 2 2028	1.25
ID 237	Resilient Health Systems in Low- and Middle-Income Countries	EPI/GEN	Spring 2 2028	2.5
ID 241	Dynamic Leadership: Navigating Through Crisis and Complexity	EPI/GEN	Spring 2 2028	2.5
ID 255	Public Health Leadership: Personal Mastery	GEN	Spring 2 2028	1.25*
ID 257	An Introduction to Implementation Science	EPI/GEN	Spring 2 2028	2.5
ID 523	Investigating Outbreaks	EPI/GEN	Spring 2 2028	1.25*
ID XXX	Humanitarian Methods		Spring 2028	2.5

*May only be taken for a Pass/Fail grade

**May only be taken for an Ordinal grade

Priority Enrollment Waves

The above electives are open to students in both the MPH in Epidemiology and MPH Generalist programs. The “Priority” column indicates which student population has priority to enroll in the elective course. For courses where MPH-EPI students have priority, MPH-EPI students will be able to enroll first, followed by MPH-GEN students. For courses with joint EPI/GEN priority, both MPH-EPI and MPH-GEN students will be able to enroll at the same time. [Priority enrollment waves](#) are used in my.harvard to manage elective enrollment. Students in on-campus degree programs will be allowed to enroll in the above electives if space remains after MPH-EPI and MPH-GEN students have had a chance to enroll.

Petitioning to Enroll in Elective Courses Before the Second Year

Because of the need to complete required courses in the first year of the program, MPH-EPI students will typically not take elective courses until the second year of the program. *Students who wish to take an elective course during the first year are required to submit a petition to the MPH-EPI program staff, along with an explanation of why the course is essential to their study in the first year.* Petitions should focus on a specific course and not be a general request for any elective that is available. Decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis, depending on the specific situation and whether there is space available in the class. Priority in elective courses is given to students in their second year of the program.

Certificate and Concentration Programs

Overview

MPH-EPI students are eligible to complete the Healthcare Management, Applied Data Analysis, or Humanitarian Studies online certificate programs, as well as apply for the School's concentration in Public Health Leadership (PHL). The online certificate programs are managed by the MPH team and the Public Health Leadership concentration is managed by the PHL program and staff.

Eligibility and Information

Students pursuing the Healthcare Management Certificate, Applied Data Analysis Certificate, or Humanitarian Studies Certificate may begin taking certificate courses during the second year of their program, unless they receive prior approval to use an elective during their first year. Applications are not required; students who are interested in earning a certificate are encouraged to begin working toward the requirements of their chosen certificate as early as June 2027. Each certificate requires intentional planning and rigorous coursework, so we strongly recommend that students pursue only one certificate at a time. Please note that it is the student's responsibility to pay attention to certificate requirements, course offerings, and pre-requisites.

Please note: Some courses within each certificate may have priority enrollment meaning seats are limited and enrollment is not guaranteed.

Please visit the [Public Health Leadership](#) website for more information on how to apply for the concentration. There are virtual and in-person options for students. Applications will be available in late August and there are two virtual information sessions about the concentration in early September.

Healthcare Management Certificate

Objective

The Healthcare Management Certificate offers students the opportunity to gain selected practical management skills that will improve their understanding of the management of healthcare systems and healthcare organizations, complement their public health training, and enhance their career opportunities.

Curriculum

Students must complete three of the four courses listed below, for a total of 7.5 credits. Students must take these courses for an ordinal grade and receive a B- or higher in all courses to receive the certificate.

Healthcare Management Certificate Course List

Course Number	Title	Semester	Credits
ID 218	Financial Transaction and Analysis	Spring 1	2.5
ID 273	Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Healthcare	Spring 1	2.5
ID 514	Organizational Behavior	Fall 2	2.5
HPM 506	Practical Scientific Methods for Improving Health and Healthcare	Spring	2.5

Applied Data Analysis Certificate

Objective

The Applied Data Analysis Certificate offers students the opportunity to gain skills for analyzing and interpreting public health data using a variety of statistical techniques.

Curriculum

Students must complete a total of 7.5 credits from the courses below. Students must take these courses for an ordinal grade and receive a B- or higher in all courses to receive the certificate.

Applied Data Analysis Course List

Course Number	Title	Semester	Credits
BST 215	Linear and Longitudinal Regression	Spring	2.5
EPI 271	Propensity Score Analysis: Theoretical & Practical Considerations	Winter or June	1.25
EPI 288	Introduction to Machine Learning and Risk Prediction	Spring	2.5
EPI 526	Analysis of Publicly Available Databases for Epidemiologic and Health Services Research	Spring	2.5
EPI 527	Design and Conduct of Trials in Preventative Medicine	Fall	2.5
EPI 528	Systematic Review and Meta-analysis	Fall	2.5
EPI 530	Introduction to Infectious Disease	Spring 2	1.25

Humanitarian Studies Certificate

Objective

The Humanitarian Studies certificate offers students the opportunity to complete an organized program of study that focuses on the normative underpinnings and practice of humanitarian response. Humanitarian Studies is a multi-disciplinary academic field that studies the challenges and needs of affected populations during crises. The curriculum covers a broad range of areas including civilian protection, international humanitarian law, human rights, disaster response, coordinated response, and crisis dynamics leadership.

Curriculum

Students must complete a total of 7.5 credits from the courses below. Students must take these courses for an ordinal grade and receive a B- or higher in all courses to receive the certificate.

Humanitarian Studies Course List

Course Number	Title	Semester	Credits
ID 290	Emergency Response, Disasters, and Public Health	Fall 2	2.5
ID 262	Emerging Issues in Humanitarian Response and Human Rights	Fall	2.5
ID 241	Dynamic Leadership: Navigation Through Crisis and Complexity	Spring 2	2.5
ID XXX	Humanitarian Methods	Spring	2.5

For course descriptions, enrollment priority, and prerequisites, please refer to the [my.harvard Course Catalog](#).

MPH-Epidemiology Practicum Project

MPH Practicum Description

Each field of study in the MPH program requires 1) an **Applied Practice Experience (APE)** (“Practicum”), and 2) an **Integrative Learning Experience (ILE)**, which are components of a practice course or seminar course for each field of study. All MPH students at accredited Schools of Public Health in the U.S. must complete these degree requirements.

EPI 945 satisfies the Applied Practice Experience and the Integrative Learning Experience that is required for MPH-EPI students. Students are required to register for EPI 945 during the Fall and Spring semesters of their second year of the program (2.5 credits per semester, 5.0 credits total).

Applied Practice Experience (APE)

The APE or “practicum” is an opportunity to apply MPH competencies to a real-world public health problem or issue that is salient to a health care or public health organization and to produce work that is of value to the organization.

Students should develop and work on a practicum project with a host organization interested in their public health issue, or with a mentor at their home institution, but by the beginning of second year, all students will also be assigned a Harvard faculty practicum mentor. The Harvard practicum mentor may be from the Department of Epidemiology at the Chan School and/or a faculty member for one of the courses in this program, but they can also be from other departments and schools at the university. Typically, the practicum will involve an applied project in public health or health care, with a deliverable(s) for their host organization or home institution. Each student will make a presentation about their practicum at the end of their second year of the program.

The topic for the MPH-EPI practicum must be approved by the beginning of their second year in the program. In most cases, the practicum will be an applied, quantitative project in which the student will formulate a clinical or public health question and hypothesis, develop the study design and analysis plan, conduct the statistical analysis, and summarize the results and findings. Students may develop a project using data from their home institutions, from mentors/collaborators at other institutions, from publicly available databases, or from other sources. In some cases, students may collect data directly (e.g., by developing and administering a survey), although primary data collection is not a requirement.

Integrative Learning Experience (ILE)

Each student will write a final paper that will serve as the Integrative Learning Experience. The Integrative Learning Experience is a culminating experience that requires students to integrate and synthesize specific MPH foundational and field of study competencies that are gained in coursework and other parts of the MPH program. To meet the ILE requirement, MPH-EPI students will write a final paper in the form of a manuscript suitable for publication, although a grant proposal or a technical report may also be acceptable.

MPH-EPI Practicum Draft Timeline

The process by which students complete the MPH in Epidemiology practicum involves group mentoring during the first year and individual mentoring during the second year of the program. A potential timeline for the practicum is below. More detail is included in the EPI 945 syllabus and on the Canvas site.

Fall 2026

Students will complete a brief survey about their ideas for the practicum.

Early Spring 2027

Students will have at least two individual consultations (online) with a member of the MPH in Epidemiology Practicum Committee (MPH-EPI-PC). This committee consists of 8-10 faculty members at the School, most of whom are in the Department of Epidemiology. The purpose of each consultation is to discuss the student’s ideas for their practicum in more detail and to help them identify a suitable project.

Late Spring 2027

Students will submit an initial draft of their Learning Agreement, which is a brief outline of their project. Based on this, the MPH-EPI-PC will help identify a Harvard practicum mentor for the student.

June 2027

Students will meet in-person with their Harvard practicum mentor to discuss their project. Students will continue to meet online with their Harvard practicum mentor at least monthly during the Fall and Spring of their second year.

Early Fall 2027

Students will submit a final draft of their Learning Agreement.

Late Fall 2027

Students will submit a detailed analysis plan and progress report.

Early Spring 2028

Students will submit a detailed progress report with preliminary results.

Spring 2028

Students will submit their final practicum presentation slides and recording; students also will submit the final Integrative Learning Experience paper.

May 2028

Students will submit a brief critique of one other student's presentation in addition to the practice and competencies self-assessment survey via CareerConnect. Students will also attend the in-person MPH in Epidemiology Practicum Symposium (optional but strongly encouraged).

For More Details

[Prior EPI practice sites and recent project abstracts](#)

MPH in Epidemiology Sample Schedules

Sample Schedule #1

Year One

SUMMER 2026		
ID 207	Introduction to Epidemiology and Biostatistics	7.5
ID 208	Introduction to Epidemiology and Biostatistics	2.5
TOTAL	10 credits	

FALL 2026			WINTER 2026			SPRING 2027		
ID 100	Foundations of Public Health	1.0	MPH 104	Social, Behavioral, and Structural Determinants of Health	1.25	EPI 524	Confounding Control: A Component for Causal Inference	2.5
MPH 101	Qualitative Methods for Public Health	0.25				EPI 525	Study Designs for Epidemiologists	2.5
EPI 522	Analytic Methods of Epidemiology	5.0						
MPH 103	Leadership and Communication	1.25						
TOTAL	7.5 credits		6.25 credits (includes Winter Session)					

Year Two

SUMMER 2027		
ID 543	Introduction to R	1.25
EPI 271	Propensity Score Analysis	1.25
HPM 549	Ethical and Regulatory Issues in Public Health	2.5
MPH 105	Public Health Policy and Politics	1.25
HPM 260	Health Economics and Applications to Global Health Policy	2.5
TOTAL	8.75 credits	

FALL 2027			WINTER 2027		SPRING 2028			END OF PROGRAM = 45 credits
EPI 945F	Practicum & Culminating Experience for the MPH in Epidemiology	2.5			EPI 945S	Practicum & Culminating Experience for the MPH in Epidemiology	2.5	
Fall Electives (Choose one 2.5 credit elective)		2.5			Spring Electives (Choose one 2.5 credit elective)		2.5	
Fall Electives (Choose one 1.25 credit elective)		1.25			Spring Electives (Choose one 1.25 credit elective)		1.25	
TOTAL	6.25 credits		6.25 credits					

Sample Schedule #2

Year One

SUMMER 2026		
ID 207	Introduction to Epidemiology and Biostatistics	7.5
ID 208	Introduction to Epidemiology and Biostatistics	2.5
TOTAL	10 credits	

FALL 2026			WINTER 2026	SPRING 2026		
ID 100	Foundations of Public Health	1.0		EPI 524	Confounding Control: A Component for Causal Inference	2.5
EPI 522	Analytic Methods of Epidemiology	5.0		EPI 525	Study Designs for Epidemiologists	2.5
MPH 103	Leadership and Communication	1.25				
MPH 104	Social, Behavioral, and Structural Determinants of Health	1.25				
TOTAL	8.5 credits		5 credits			

Year Two

SUMMER 2027		
ID 543	Introduction to R	1.25
HPM 549	Ethical and Regulatory Issues in Public Health	2.5
MPH 105	Public Health Policy and Politics	1.25
HPM 260	Health Economics and Applications to Global Health Policy	2.5
TOTAL	7.5 credits	

FALL 2027			WINTER 2027	SPRING 2028			END OF PROGRAM = 45 credits
EPI 945F	Practicum & Culminating Experience for the MPH in Epidemiology	2.5		EPI 945S	Practicum & Culminating Experience for the MPH in Epidemiology	2.5	
Fall Electives (Choose one 2.5 credit elective)		2.5		Spring Electives (Choose two 2.5 credit elective)		5.0	
Fall Electives (Choose one 1.25 credit elective)		1.25					
TOTAL	6.25 credits		7.5 credits				

Sample Schedule #3

Year One

SUMMER 2025		
ID 207	Introduction to Epidemiology and Biostatistics	7.5
ID 208	Introduction to Epidemiology and Biostatistics	2.5
MPH 101	Qualitative Methods for Public Health	0.25
TOTAL	10.25 credits	

FALL 2025			WINTER 2025			SPRING 2026		
ID 100	Foundations of Public Health	1.0	MPH 103	Leadership and Communication	1.25	EPI 524	Confounding Control: A Component for Causal Inference	2.5
EPI 522	Analytic Methods of Epidemiology	5.0				EPI 525	Study Designs for Epidemiologists	2.5
TOTAL	6 credits		6.25 credits (including Wintersession)					

Year Two

SUMMER 2026		
ID 543	Introduction to R	1.25
ID 544	Writing Public Health Research	1.25
ID 545	Cultivating Authentic Leadership	1.25
HPM 549	Ethical and Regulatory Issues in Public Health	2.5
MPH 105	Public Health Policy and Politics	1.25
HPM 260	Health Economics and Applications to Global Health Policy	2.5
TOTAL	10 credits	

FALL 2026			WINTER 2026			SPRING 2027			END OF PROGRAM = 45 credits
EPI 945F	Practicum & Culminating Experience for the MPH in Epidemiology	2.5	MPH 104	Social, Behavioral, and Structural Determinants of Health	1.25	EPI 945S	Practicum & Culminating Experience for the MPH in Epidemiology	2.5	
Fall Electives (Choose one 2.5 credit elective)		2.5				Spring Electives (Choose one 2.5 credit elective)		2.5	
						Spring Electives (Choose one 1.25 credit elective)		1.25	
TOTAL	5 credits		7.5 credits (including Winter Session)						

Sample Schedule #4

Year One

SUMMER 2025		
ID 207	Introduction to Epidemiology and Biostatistics	7.5
ID 208	Introduction to Epidemiology and Biostatistics	2.5
TOTAL	10 credits	

FALL 2025			WINTER 2025			SPRING 2026		
ID 100	Foundations of Public Health	1.0	MPH 103	Leadership and Communication	1.25	EPI 524	Confounding Control: A Component for Causal Inference	2.5
MPH 101	Qualitative Methods for Public Health	0.25	MPH 104	Social, Behavioral, and Structural Determinants of Health	1.25	EPI 525	Study Designs for Epidemiologists	2.5
EPI 522	Analytic Methods of Epidemiology	5.0						
TOTAL	6.25 credits		7.5 credits (includes Winter Session)					

Year Two

JUNE 2026		
ID 543	Introduction to R	1.25
HPM 549	Ethical and Regulatory Issues in Public Health	2.5
MPH 105	Public Health Policy and Politics	1.25
HPM 260	Health Economics and Applications to Global Health Policy	2.5
TOTAL	7.5 credits	

FALL 2026			WINTER 2026	SPRING 2027			END OF PROGRAM = 45 credits
EPI 945F	Practicum & Culminating Experience for the MPH in Epidemiology	2.5		EPI 945S	Practicum & Culminating Experience for the MPH in Epidemiology	2.5	
Fall Electives (Choose two 2.5 credit elective)		5.0		Spring Electives (Choose one 2.5 credit elective)		2.5	
				Spring Electives (Choose one 1.25 credit elective)		1.25	
TOTAL	7.5 credits		6.25 credits				

Academic Calendar for the MPH in Epidemiology Program 2026–2028

2026–2027

On-Campus

June 2026: June 1 – June 18
New Student Orientation: June 1

Online

Summer 2026: July 6 – August 14
Fall 2026: August 31 – December 18
 Fall 1: August 31– October 23
 Fall 2: October 26 – December 18
WinterSession 2027: January 4 – January 22
Spring 2027: January 25– May 14
 Spring 1: January 25 – March 12
 Spring 2: March 22 – May 14

2027–2028

On-Campus

June 2027: June 7 – June 25

Online

Summer 2027: July 7 – August 13
Fall 2027: August 30 – December 17
 Fall 1: August 30 – October 22
 Fall 2: October 25 – December 17
WinterSession 2028: January 3 – January 21
Spring 2028: January 24 – May 12
 Spring 1: January 24 – March 12
 Spring 2: March 22 – May 12

On-Campus

MPH-EPI Symposium 2028: Tuesday, May 23, 2028
Harvard Chan School Convocation: Wednesday, May 24, 2028
Harvard University Commencement: Thursday, May 25, 2028

Please check [academic calendar online](#) for a complete listing, including School holidays, add/drop and pass/fail deadlines, WinterSession dates and School recesses.

Students are expected to observe all deadlines.