

Approved by the Board of Trustees  
May 20, 2021

Board Meeting  
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RENAME, REORGANIZE, AND REVISE THE DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN  
PUBLIC HEALTH, CONCENTRATION IN EPIDEMIOLOGY, SCHOOL OF PUBLIC  
HEALTH AND THE GRADUATE COLLEGE, CHICAGO

**Action:** Rename, Reorganize, and Revise the Doctor of Philosophy in Public Health, Concentration in Epidemiology, School of Public Health and the Graduate College

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

The Chancellor, University of Illinois Chicago, and Vice President, University of Illinois System with the advice of the Chicago Senate, School of Public Health, and the Graduate College recommends the renaming, reorganization, and revision of the Doctor of Philosophy in Public Health, Concentration in Epidemiology. The program will become the Doctor of Philosophy in Epidemiology.

The School of Public Health offers work leading to the Ph.D. in Public Health with concentrations that reflect the areas of focus of the school's academic divisions: Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Community Health Sciences, Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, and Health Policy and Administration. The Ph.D. in Public Health requires a minimum of 96 credit hours and includes a school-wide core comprised of four courses that may be waived based on students' previous academic preparation. The remainder of the degree is completed primarily within a specific discipline (i.e., the concentration). However, the degree that is awarded to students is the

Ph.D. in Public Health regardless of the concentration pursued, the specific concentration requirements, or the focus of the dissertation research.

Reorganizing and renaming the Ph.D. in Public Health, Concentration in Epidemiology as the Ph.D. in Epidemiology will better reflect the program's content. It also makes graduates more competitive candidates for employment in their field of study. In addition, the Ph.D. in Epidemiology will be eligible for designation as a STEM program, increasing opportunities for accessing external funding from organizations that focus on STEM-related work and attracting prospective students who prioritize the STEM designation in their choice of graduate school.

The Ph.D. in Epidemiology will continue to educate students in the application of advanced epidemiologic research methods, and prepare them to play important roles in study design, data collection and processing, and statistical analysis and interpretation in the public and private sector. The Ph.D. in Epidemiology will require a minimum of 96 credit hours from the baccalaureate including the school-wide core, required coursework in epidemiology, a preliminary examination, at least 32 credit hours of dissertation research, and experience in classroom teaching. Epidemiology students are currently able to pursue optional secondary concentrations in cancer epidemiology, occupational and environmental epidemiology, and maternal and child health epidemiology. These concentrations will remain options within the Ph.D. in Epidemiology. Students wishing to complete one of the three concentrations must meet additional requirements.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes*, *The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The Executive Vice President and Vice President for Academic Affairs concurs with this recommendation. The University Senates Conference has indicated that no further Senate jurisdiction is involved.

The President of the University recommends approval. The action is subject to further review by the Illinois Board of Higher Education but IBHE approval is not required.