ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES, PHD

The program in Environmental Health Sciences offers graduate studies leading to the doctoral degree. Faculty for this program have a diverse expertise in the environmental health sciences spanning a broad range of research domains including developmental toxicology, environmental toxicology and chemistry, and environmental epidemiology. The EHS program through its faculty, offers students an unparalleled opportunity for cross-disciplinary training in pursuit of original and cutting-edge dissertation research projects. In addition, laboratories and equipment are available across campus to help facilitate innovative research endeavors relevant to environmental health science.

When applying for admission, students should describe their interest in the field and any research preferences. Applicants are encouraged to review the research interests of the faculty and contact those faculty who are of interest.

Admission Requirements

Application Deadlines
If at any time you are unsure about a published date or deadline (http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/program-deadlines), call the Registrar's Office at (414) 229-3800 or submit a contact form (http://uwm.edu/registrar/contact-us) online.

Admission
Applicants must meet Graduate School requirements (http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/admission) plus the following program requirements to be considered for admission:

- A baccalaureate degree in a science discipline, including at least four laboratory courses and one statistics course.
- Submission of scores on the General Test portion of the Graduate Record Examination (http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/admission/#gre); test taken within last five years.
- Submission of at least three letters of recommendation from persons familiar with the applicant's scholarship, research achievements and potential.

For students entering with an advanced degree, credit may be given for relevant coursework at the discretion of the Admissions Committee.

Reapplication
A student who receives the Master of Public Health degree must formally reapply to the Zilber School of Public Health to gain admission to the PhD program in Public Health before continuing studies toward the PhD.

Credits and Courses
The PhD in Environmental Health Sciences requires 65 credits beyond the bachelor's degree. In addition to the PhD Common Core Course work, credits include required concentration coursework (17 credits), electives (at least 12 credits), and the remaining credits taken as research.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PH 801</td>
<td>Seminar in Public Health Research</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH 819</td>
<td>Social and Environmental Justice in Public Health</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The student has demonstrated a knowledge base in Public Health that his/her coursework. The academic advisory committee will evaluate if the student qualifies for dissertator status are described on the Graduate School Doctoral Requirements page.

Program Requirements

Major Professor as Advisor
As specified in Graduate School regulations, each student in the EHS PhD program must have a major professor to advise and supervise his or her studies. Upon admission, the student is assigned a temporary advisor; however, a permanent advisor must be selected during the spring of the first year of study. The major professor serves as the student's research mentor and will guide the student in course selection and research design. During the spring of the first year in the program, the student should form an academic advisory committee which is to consist of the student's advisor and two faculty members from within the Joseph J. Zilber School of Public Health.

Residence
The student must complete 8 to 12 graduate credits in each of two consecutive semesters, or 6 or more graduate credits in each of three consecutive semesters, exclusive of summer sessions. Residence requirements cannot be met at the master's level.

PhD Advisory Committee
The student, in consultation with the Major Professor, will select four additional members to form a PhD Advisory Committee. A minimum of three committee members must be EHS program faculty. See the Graduate School Doctoral Requirements (http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/doctoral-requirements) page for more information on the doctoral committee.

Doctoral Qualifying Exam
During the end of the second semester of enrollment, the student is required to pass a brief qualifying exam. The duration of this exam is to be no longer than 90 minutes. The student will give an oral synopsis/self-evaluation of his/her first year in the program describing highlights from his/her coursework. The academic advisory committee will evaluate if the student has demonstrated a knowledge base in Public Health that was to be firmly established in the first year of coursework. The academic advisory committee in conjunction with the student will also map out the remaining coursework that needs to be completed by the end of the third year in the program. Students failing this important first exam will not be allowed to continue in the program and will forfeit their TAship, RAship, or RAship if applicable.

Doctoral Preliminary Examination
This examination must be taken no later than the end of the third year of study. In order to take the preliminary exam, all formal coursework must be completed with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher. The preliminary examination consists of both written and oral components. The oral portion of the examination is broken into two subparts. The (proposal phase) will consist of the student presenting his/her dissertation proposal to the examining committee. In the “General Public Health Knowledge Phase” of the preliminary examination, the student will be evaluated (via oral questioning) by the academic advisory /doctoral advisory committee to determine if the student has truly acquired Public Health competencies which should have been acquired by completion of the formal coursework in the EHS PhD program. A student who fails the doctoral preliminary examination will be dismissed from the program.

Dissertator Status
Specific requirements which must be completed before a doctoral student qualifies for dissertator status are described on the Graduate School Doctoral Requirements page.

Dissertation
Doctoral students should be aware that the research component is extremely important and requires significant time allocation. A full-time commitment is required to complete this critical component of the degree. Successful doctoral students in our EHS program should anticipate working long hours, including on weekends, winter intersession and summer months. Students are also expected to enroll in, and successfully complete research credit. Six or more of these research credits must be obtained at the level of dissertator.

All successful doctoral students must prepare and successfully defend a dissertation reporting the results of their research. A full-time student who does not pass the dissertation defense within six years of admission may be required to take another preliminary examination and be readmitted to the program.

Time Limit
The student must complete all requirements for the degree within 10 years of the date of initial enrollment in the program.