

Environmental Health Sciences
Ph.D. Program

Ph.D. students normally take courses during their first year or two in preparation for the Qualifying Examination. In the first year, depending on nature of their masters program, doctoral students will work closely with their academic advisors to ensure they have mastered the material discussed in the EHS core courses. Courses taken are chosen in consultation with the student's academic advisor, and students should have an early discussion of this issue with their advisors. Students must develop expertise in their major (Environmental Health Sciences) as well as two minor fields, such as biostatistics, epidemiology, environmental law, policy, and molecular cell biology. One of the student's minor fields must be outside of EHS. Students should consider several minor areas, and discuss them with their advisor. The minor fields should be applicable to the student's dissertation topic. Classroom efforts will be devoted to increasing the student's knowledge base in environmental health, as well as increasing their depth of understanding in their two minor fields. Elective courses taken by doctoral students will be advanced courses in their major fields and those necessary to develop two minor fields.

Doctoral students are expected to carry at least 3 units of directed research in each of the first two semesters and increased units in subsequent semesters. Part of this research effort will be devoted to the development of two minor fields as well as a dissertation prospectus in preparation for the qualifying exam. Students are encouraged to take courses outside the school of Public Health to enhance their understanding of other disciplines that may be important to their research areas.

Unless on approved withdrawal status, students should register for a full course load of 12 units every semester and pay all applicable fees and tuition. Students who have completed the necessary coursework should enroll in 12 units of independent research—PH 299. Doctoral students must complete a minimum of four semesters of academic residence at Berkeley.

There are no specific course requirements for PhD students but before the Graduate Group exam, all PhD students are expected to understand the principles of exposure and risk assessment, epidemiologic methods, and toxicology. If courses in these subjects have not been taken earlier, students may find it most efficient to take the core courses below in order to acquire the needed understanding:

PB HLTH 270A Exposure Assessment I

PB HLTH 250B* Epidemiologic Methods II PB HLTH 241B* Categorical Biostatistics

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PB HLTH 220C Health Risk Assessment, Regulation, and Policy

PB HLTH 270B Toxicology

PB HLTH 271E Science and Policy for Environment and Health

PB HLTH 293 EHS Doctoral Seminar

*For the Biostatistics and Epidemiology requirements any 200 level courses will satisfy the requirements.

EXAMINATIONS

Two examinations are required to complete the requirements for the PhD degree in EHS, namely, the EHS Graduate Group Preliminary Examination and the Qualifying Examination. The student's faculty adviser is not allowed to participate in either examination committee. In addition, a dissertation describing original research must be formally approved by the dissertation committee and filed with the university. Specific faculty committees are selected and approved by the student, the faculty adviser, and the EHS Graduate Group Adviser (in consultation with the Graduate Division of the University).

EHS Graduate Group Preliminary Examination

This preliminary examination normally takes place after 3-4 semesters of course work. It is administered by a committee consisting of three members selected by the student and his or her faculty adviser from the list of members of the EHS Graduate Group and/or Division. At least two of the faculty members must be a member of the EHS Graduate Group. The examination has both a written and an oral component. The written component takes the form of a NIH-style research proposal covering a topic selected by the student and his or her faculty adviser. The proposal must be submitted to the EHS Graduate Group Committee a minimum of two weeks prior to the oral component of the examination which covers both specific details related to the submitted proposal and general knowledge in EHS.

PhD Qualifying Examination

The PhD qualifying examination is generally taken a few months after successful completion of the EHS Graduate Group Preliminary Examination. It is administered by a committee consisting of four members. At least two committee members must be members of the EHS Graduate Group and at least one committee member must be a member of the Berkeley Academic

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Senate that is not a member of the EHS Graduate Group. The fourth committee member can, upon approval of the EHS Graduate Adviser and the Graduate Division, be an EHS Division member who is not a member of the EHS Graduate Group. One member of the Qualifying Examination Committee must have expertise in each of the student's two minor areas of study and must certify that the student has demonstrated an acceptable level of competence in the minor area. Students should consult with their faculty advisers and the EHS Group Graduate Adviser to ensure that the Qualifying Examination is properly constituted. After the Qualifying Examination has been taken, a formal report of the results, signed by all Qualifying Examination committee members, must be sent to the Graduate Division.