Saint Louis University's Ph.D. in Public Health Studies provides expertise in research design, methods and dissemination in an interdisciplinary setting. Students gain a solid understanding of public health science, including the distribution and determinants of health and disease across populations.

Our Ph.D. program prepares students to become researchers both independently and within a team. We use an apprenticeship model that links a student with a mentor as they enter the program in order to leverage their training opportunities immediately.

Doctoral students work with their mentors (https://www.slu.edu/public-health-social-justice/faculty/) to forge their research pathways, while also working collaboratively with other students and faculty.

Our students learn how to work collaboratively with clinic, community, government, and industry partners by developing, implementing and disseminating research in domestic and international settings. Students become productive researchers presenting at local, national and international conferences; publishing their research findings in esteemed journals; and competing for research grants.

Curriculum Overview
SLU's public health Ph.D. program requires 72 credits. Students take 18 credits of core doctoral courses, 42 credits of coursework to train in their research concentration area, and 12 credits of dissertation research. Students may apply up to 24 credits of their master's degree coursework toward advanced standing. The faculty mentor and doctoral director review prior coursework to ensure competencies at both doctoral and concentration core areas.

Behavioral Science and Health Education
The Behavioral Science and Health Education concentration focuses on behavioral science and how it interacts at individual, organizational, community or societal levels. The type of research occurs in community and clinic-based environments as well as domestically and internationally. Current areas of research for faculty include:

- Health disparities
- Health promotion, communication and disease prevention interventions for chronic diseases
- Injury prevention
- Maternal and child health
- Nutrition and physical activity
- Sexual and reproductive health
- Global health

Biostatistics
The biostatistics concentration focuses on research for developing and testing statistical methods and responds to public health challenges using innovative computational and statistical programming. Current areas of research for faculty include:

- Methodology and application of causal inference
- Geospatial analyses to study associations between the built environment and chronic diseases
- Optimal experimental design
- Statistical modeling of genetic and environmental effects on comorbidity

Epidemiology
The epidemiology concentration focuses on research about the distribution and determinants of health and disease in human populations. Current areas of research for faculty include:

- Cancer and chronic diseases
- Exposure assessment
- Global health
- Implementation research in public health settings
- Maternal child health

Health Management and Policy
The health management and policy concentration focuses on research about policy, health economics, health care access, delivery and quality of health services and their impact population and public health. Current areas of research for faculty include:

- Health insurance policy and its impact on health outcomes
- Quality of and access to care
- Policy change implications

Fieldwork and Research Opportunities
Examples of current student fieldwork and research interests include:

- Opioid treatment centers
- Transgender health policy
- Comparative effectiveness of diabetes treatments
- Geospatial technology to respond to vast health challenges
- Reproductive health
- Cancer prevention
- Adolescent mental health
- Minority mental health

Careers
In a recent alumni survey, 96% of graduates in public health studies stated they found a job in their field before graduation, or within six months of graduation. Graduates go on to work as academics in universities and researchers at medical centers, government, non-governmental health agencies or community-based organizations.

Admission Requirements
This program is designed for individuals who already hold a master’s degree in public health or a related field. The following criteria guide admission decisions.

- Evidence of exceptional intellectual ability, analytical and writing skills necessary to complete the doctoral program requirements.
- Evidence of interest in an area of research and commitment to pursue it through the completion of a dissertation research project.
- Presence of a willing and suitable faculty mentor in one of the concentration research areas.
- A minimum 3.50 GPA in graduate work
Application Requirements
- Application form and fee
- Transcript(s)
- Three letters of recommendation
- Résumé or CV
- Professional goal statement

Requirements for International Students
All admission policies and requirements for domestic students apply to international students along with the following:
- Demonstrate English Language Proficiency
- Proof of financial support must include:
  - A letter of financial support from the person(s) or sponsoring agency funding the time at Saint Louis University
  - A letter from the sponsor’s bank verifying that the funds are available and will be so for the duration of study at the University
- Academic records, in English translation, of students who have undertaken postsecondary studies outside the United States must include the courses taken and/or lectures attended, practical laboratory work, the maximum and minimum grades attainable, the grades earned or the results of all end-of-term examinations, and any honors or degrees received. WES and ECE transcripts are accepted.

Application and Assistantship Deadlines
All students are required to submit an application, even students currently enrolled in other programs at Saint Louis University. The Ph.D. program only accepts applications for the fall semester.

The application deadline is January 15. Assistantships will be considered for top candidates.

Review Process
All admission decisions will be finalized by the end of March.

Assistantships
The doctoral program in public health has a limited number of graduate research assistantships, which are designed to allow students to work closely with a mentor on a research project. Assistantships are typically awarded for two years and provide a stipend, student health insurance and tuition waiver (up to 21 credits annually). Students will be informed about the terms and length of awards at the time of acceptance to the program. Additional funding is either provided through undergraduate teaching assistantships or faculty research funded projects.

Scholarships and Financial Aid
The College for Public Health and Social Justice offers several ways to help finance graduate education. Opportunities include a limited number of merit-based scholarships and graduate research assistantships. Awards are made to applicants with the highest combinations of GPAs and test scores who complete their applications by the priority deadlines.

For more information, visit the student financial services office online at http://finaid.slu.edu (http://finaid.slu.edu/).

Accreditation
The College for Public Health and Social Justice is fully accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH).

View the Most Recent CEPH Self-Study (July 2016) (http://www.slu.edu/public-health-social-justice/pdfs/cphsj_self_study_august_2015_report.pdf)

Learning Outcomes
Saint Louis University’s Ph.D. program in Public Health Studies continues to improve its curriculum to match the skills and competencies graduates should have. The overall Ph.D. competencies are listed below and additional competencies are described within the concentration areas.

Domain 1: Critical Thinking
Critically evaluate, integrate and challenge existing scientific knowledge. Assess gaps in research to develop research questions.

Domain 2: Analytical Skills
Plan, design and conduct research studies. Interpret the results using inferential statistical methods and methods of qualitative data analysis.

Domain 3: Communication
Communicate clearly and effectively about scientific information for diverse audiences through scientific publications, grant applications, teaching/ training, etc. Develop partnerships in community, clinic, academic and/or governmental settings to conduct research projects collaboratively.

Domain 4: Management and Leadership
Apply leadership and management principles to assemble and cultivate effective teams and successful projects or studies, including the management of team members, budgets and deliverables.

Domain 5: Ethics and Professionalism
Adopt and apply ethical principles for public health research and management of team members, budgets and deliverables.

Domain 6: Community/Cultural Orientation
Evaluate the impact of cultural, structural, legal, political, and public health and social justice on health outcomes.

Domain 7: Translation and Dissemination
Use innovative methods to communicate scientific findings and implications to diverse audiences, ensuring appropriate strategies

Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Required Core Courses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BST 5100</td>
<td>Introduction to General Linear Modeling</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHS 6010</td>
<td>Design and Analysis in Public Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHS 6050</td>
<td>Science, Theory and Public Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHS 6040</td>
<td>Applied Research Skills I: Primary Data Collection</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHS 6060</td>
<td>Applied Research Skills II: Grant Writing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHS 6900</td>
<td>Professional Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Concentration Courses 12-33
Behavioral Science and Health Education Concentration (p. 3)
Biostatistics Concentration

Epidemiology Concentration

Health Management and Policy Concentration

Electives

Dissertation Credits

PHS 6990  Dissertation Research ‡  12

A prerequisite for entry into the program is a successfully completed graduate level introductory statistics course that has been taken in the past 5 years.

Students without a prior graduate level public health introduction course or an MPH or MSPH degree may also be required to take PUBH 5010 Mission and Practice of Global Health.

Total Credits  72

† No more than 24 hours of advanced standing from previous master’s work (except from SLU) can be substituted for requirements. Students will work with their mentor, program coordinator and doctoral director to review and petition for advanced standing. Students may not petition for advanced standing until second year.

‡ May be taken after passing the written comprehensive exam.

* Electives for students in behavioral science and health education concentration should contain at least three quantitative methods courses taken in consultation with mentor.

Behavioral Science and Health Education Concentration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BSH 5400</td>
<td>Assessment, Intervention Development, and Evaluation I</td>
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<tr>
<td>BSH 5410</td>
<td>Assessment, Intervention Development, and Evaluation II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSH 5450</td>
<td>Introduction to Qualitative Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBH 5030</td>
<td>Methodological Approaches to Understanding Population Health</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits  12

Biostatistics Concentration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BST 5020</td>
<td>Theory of Biostatistics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BST 5025</td>
<td>Theory of Biostatistics II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BST 5030</td>
<td>Statistical Programming and Study Planning: SAS</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BST 5200</td>
<td>Survival Data Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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<td>BST 5210</td>
<td>Categorical Data Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>BST 5220</td>
<td>Multilevel and Longitudinal Data Analysis</td>
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</tr>
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<td>BST 5400</td>
<td>Applied Data Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>PUBH 5030</td>
<td>Methodological Approaches to Understanding Population Health</td>
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Total Credits  24

Epidemiology Concentration

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BSH 5400</td>
<td>Assessment, Intervention Development, and Evaluation I</td>
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</table>

Total Credits  9-30

All electives must be taken at a graduate level and be pre-approved by the mentor.

‡ May be taken after passing the written comprehensive exam.

Behavioral Science and Health Education Concentration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<td>BST 5410</td>
<td>Assessment, Intervention Development, and Evaluation II</td>
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<tr>
<td>BST 5030</td>
<td>Statistical Programming and Study Planning: SAS</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BST 5200</td>
<td>Survival Data Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BST 5210</td>
<td>Categorical Data Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BST 5220</td>
<td>Multilevel and Longitudinal Data Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPI 5020</td>
<td>Epidemiology Methods II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBH 5030</td>
<td>Methodological Approaches to Understanding Population Health</td>
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Select two courses from the following:  6

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<tr>
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<td>Sampling Theory and Survey Design in Public Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>EPI 5110</td>
<td>Epidemiology of Infectious Disease</td>
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<td>EPI 5220</td>
<td>Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology</td>
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<td>EPI 5250</td>
<td>Social Epidemiology</td>
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<tr>
<td>EPI 5120</td>
<td>Chronic Disease Epidemiology</td>
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<tr>
<td>EPI 5270</td>
<td>Cancer Epidemiology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPI 5500</td>
<td>Environmental and Occupational Epidemiology</td>
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</table>

Select one course from the following:  3

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EPI 5120</td>
<td>Chronic Disease Epidemiology</td>
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<tr>
<td>EPI 5220</td>
<td>Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology</td>
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<tr>
<td>EPI 5250</td>
<td>Social Epidemiology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPI 5270</td>
<td>Cancer Epidemiology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPI 5500</td>
<td>Environmental and Occupational Epidemiology</td>
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</table>

Total Credits  33

Health Management and Policy Concentration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BST 5030</td>
<td>Statistical Programming and Study Planning: SAS</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPI 5020</td>
<td>Epidemiology Methods II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HMP 5000</td>
<td>Health Care Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>HMP 5200</td>
<td>Health Economics</td>
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<td>HMP 5500</td>
<td>Health Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>ORES 5160</td>
<td>Data Management</td>
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<td>ORES 5430</td>
<td>Health Outcomes Measurement</td>
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<td>ORES 5440</td>
<td>Comparative Effectiveness Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>PUBH 5030</td>
<td>Methodological Approaches to Understanding Population Health</td>
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</table>

Total Credits  27

Continuation Standards

Students must maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.00 in all graduate/professional courses.

Roadmap

Behavioral Science and Health Education Concentration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year One</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Participation in research symposia, conferences and journal clubs. Responsible Conduct of Research, CITI and IRB trainings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PHS 6050  Science, Theory and Public Health</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Saint Louis University Academic Catalog 2021-2022  3
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BST 5100</td>
<td>Introduction to General Linear Modeling</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBH 5030</td>
<td>Methodological Approaches to Understanding Population Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Credits
9

#### Spring
- Participation in SLU Graduate Research Symposium, participation in research symposia, conferences and journal clubs

#### Credits
- PHS 6040: Applied Research Skills I: Primary Data Collection 3
- PHS 6010: Design and Analysis in Public Health 3
- BSH 5450: Introduction to Qualitative Methods 3
- Quantitative Methods Course 3

### Year Two

#### Fall
- Participation in Research Symposia (APHA) and Journal Clubs; practice for written exam

#### Credits
- BST 5020: Theory of Biostatistics 3
- BST 5100: Introduction to General Linear Modeling 3
- PHS 6050: Science, Theory and Public Health 3
- PUBH 5030: Methodological Approaches to Understanding Population Health 3

#### Credits
12

#### Spring
- Participation in SLU Graduate Research Symposium, other professional conferences; take written examination.
- If passed exam, may begin dissertation research and plan for oral exam

#### Credits
- BST 5200: Survival Data Analysis 3
- BST 5210: Categorical Data Analysis 3
- BST 5400: Applied Data Management 3
- PHS 6060: Applied Research Skills II: Grant Writing 3
- PHS 6900: Professional Development 3

#### Year Three

#### Fall
- Participation in research symposia, professional conferences. Take written examination.
- If passed exam, may begin dissertation research and plan for oral exam

#### Credits
- Concentration/Methods Courses or Electives 15

#### Spring
- Participation in research symposia, professional conferences. Plan for or take oral exam

#### Credits
- PHS 6990: Dissertation Research 3

#### Year Four

#### Fall
- Participation in research symposia, professional conferences. Oral exam

#### Credits
- PHS 6990: Dissertation Research 3

### Biostatistics Concentration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHS 6990</td>
<td>Dissertation Research</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Credits
72

* Other quantitative courses should be taken in consultation with the mentor:
  - Biostatistics, outcomes research and/or health data courses (multiple options each semester)
  - Epidemiology courses (multiple options each semester)

**Notes:**
- This program requires the completion of 72 total credits.
- Participation in SLU Graduate Research Symposium, part of the Journal of Public Health and Science, is mandatory for all students.
- Responsible Conduct of Research, CITI, and IRB trainings are also required.
- Year Two:
  - Fall: Participation in research symposia, APHA and professional conferences, journal clubs; practice for written examination.
  - Spring: Participation in research symposia, professional conferences. Plan for or take oral exam.
- Year Three:
  - Fall: Participation in research symposia, professional conferences. Take written examination.
  - Spring: Participation in research symposia, professional conferences. Plan for or take oral exam.
- Year Four:
  - Fall: Participation in professional conferences; dissertation research (if not yet complete); plan for dissertation defense.

---

**Code:** Year One

**Title:** Theory of Biostatistics

**Credits:** 3

---

**Code:** Year One

**Title:** Theory of Biostatistics II

**Credits:** 3

---

**Code:** Year One

**Title:** Statistical Programming and Study Planning: SAS

**Credits:** 3

---

**Code:** Year One

**Title:** Design and Analysis in Public Health

**Credits:** 3

---

**Code:** Year One

**Title:** Applied Research Skills I: Primary Data Collection

**Credits:** 3

---

**Code:** Year One

**Title:** Total Credits

**Credits:** 72

---

**Code:** Year Two

**Title:** Survival Data Analysis

**Credits:** 3

---

**Code:** Year Two

**Title:** Categorical Data Analysis

**Credits:** 3

---

**Code:** Year Two

**Title:** Applied Data Management

**Credits:** 3

---

**Code:** Year Two

**Title:** Applied Research Skills II: Grant Writing

**Credits:** 3

---

**Code:** Year Two

**Title:** Professional Development

**Credits:** 3

---

**Code:** Year Two

**Title:** Multilevel and Longitudinal Data Analysis

**Credits:** 3

---

**Code:** Year Two

**Title:** Concentration/Methods Courses or Electives

**Credits:** 6

---

**Code:** Year Two

**Title:** Total Credits

**Credits:** 15

---

**Code:** Year Three

**Title:** Total Credits

**Credits:** 12

---

**Code:** Year Three

**Title:** Total Credits

**Credits:** 12

---

**Code:** Year Four

**Title:** Total Credits

**Credits:** 9

---

**Code:** Year Four

**Title:** Total Credits

**Credits:** 3
Year Three

Fall
Participation in Symposia and Other Professional Conferences; Take Written Comprehensive exam. If passed exam, may begin Dissertation Research and plan for Oral Exam

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concentration/Methods Courses or Electives</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHS 6990 Dissertation Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Spring
Participation in Symposia and Other Professional Conferences; Plan Oral Exam

| PHS 6990 Dissertation Research            | 3       |

Year Four

Fall
Participation in Professional Conferences; Dissertation Research. Take Oral Exam

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concentration Courses or Electives *</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHS 6990 Dissertation Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Spring
Participation in Professional Conferences; Dissertation Research (if not yet complete), Plan for Dissertation Defense

| PHS 6990 Dissertation Research            | 3       |

Total Credits 72

Epidemiology Concentration

Course                      | Title                                           | Credits |
----------------------------|------------------------------------------------|---------|
Year One                    |                                                 |         |
Fall                        | Participation in Research Symposia and Journal Clubs, Responsible Conduct of Research, CITI and IRB trainings |         |
| BST 5100                   | Introduction to General Linear Modeling         | 3       |
| PHS 6050                   | Science, Theory and Public Health               | 3       |
| PUBH 5030                  | Methodological Approaches to Understanding Population Health | 3       |
|                             | Credits                                         | 9       |

Spring
Participation in SLU Graduate Research Symposium, and Journal Clubs, Responsible Conduct of Research, CITI and IRB trainings

| BST 5030                   | Statistical Programming and Study Planning: SAS | 3       |
| EPI 5020                   | Epidemiology Methods II († or EPI 5960 Capstone) | 3       |
| PHS 6010                   | Design and Analysis in Public Health            | 3       |
| PHS 6040                   | Applied Research Skills I: Primary Data Collection | 3       |
|                             | Credits                                         | 12      |

Year Three

Fall
Participation in Symposia and Other Professional Conferences; Take Written Comprehensive exam. If passed exam, may begin Dissertation Research and plan for Oral Exam

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concentration Courses or Electives *</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHS 6990 Dissertation Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Spring
Participation in SLU Graduate Research Symposium, Other Professional Conferences, Journal Clubs; Practice for Written Exam

| BST 5220                   | Multilevel and Longitudinal Data Analysis       | 3       |
| EPI 5960                   | Capstone in Epidemiology                        | 3       |
|                             | Concentration/Methods Courses or Electives      | 9       |
|                             | Credits                                          | 15      |

Year Four

Fall
Participation in Professional Conferences; Dissertation Research. Take Oral Exam

| PHS 6990 Dissertation Research | 3 |

| Year Four (Spring): Participation in Professional Conferences; Dissertation Research (if not yet complete); Plan for Dissertation Defense | 3 |
| PHS 6990 Dissertation Research | 3 |

Health Management & Policy Concentration

Course                      | Title                                           | Credits |
----------------------------|------------------------------------------------|---------|
Year One                    |                                                 |         |
Fall                        | Participation in Research Symposia and Journal Clubs, Responsible Conduct of Research, CITI and IRB trainings |         |
| BST 5100                   | Introduction to General Linear Modeling         | 3       |
| HMP 5000                   | Health Care Organization                        | 3       |
| ORES 5160                  | Data Management                                 | 3       |

| Year Two                   |                                                 |         |
| Fall                       | Participation in Research Symposia, APHA and Professional Conferences, Journal Clubs; Practice for Written Exam |         |
### Year One

#### Spring

- **PHS 6050** Science, Theory and Public Health 3
- **BST 5030** Statistical Programming and Study Planning: SAS 3
- **HMP 5200** Health Economics 3
- **PHS 6010** Design and Analysis in Public Health 3
- **PHS 6040** Applied Research Skills I: Primary Data Collection 3
- **PUBH 5030** Methodological Approaches to Understanding Population Health 3

**Credits**: 12

#### Year Two

#### Fall

- **HMP 5500** Health Policy 3
- **PHS 6060** Applied Research Skills II: Grant Writing 3
- **PHS 6900** Professional Development 3
- **ORES 5430** Health Outcomes Measurement 3

**Credits**: 12

#### Spring

- **EPI 5020** Epidemiology Methods II 3
- **BST 6100** Causal Inference 3
- **Concentration Courses or Electives**: 3

**Credits**: 9

### Year Three

#### Fall

- **Concentration Courses or Electives**: 12
- **PHS 6990** Dissertation Research 3

**Credits**: 15

#### Spring

- **PHS 6990** Dissertation Research 3

**Credits**: 3

### Year Four

#### Fall

- **PHS 6990** Dissertation Research 3

**Credits**: 3

#### Spring

- **PHS 6990** Dissertation Research 3

**Contact Us**

For additional admission questions please contact:

Bernie Backer
Director of Graduate Recruitment and Admissions
bernard.backer@slu.edu
314-977-8144