

Graduate Certificate in Infectious Disease Epidemiology - Handbook

Last updated: 2023-04-25

Overview

This certificate will provide degree-seeking or non-degree seeking graduate students at UGA training and recognition of such training in the area of infectious disease epidemiology. To earn the certificate, students have to take 15 credits of graduate coursework in courses that focus on different aspects of infectious diseases and epidemiology. Detailed requirements are described below.

Prerequisites for acceptance into the certificate

- Enrolled at UGA as a graduate student (can be non-degree seeking status or a student enrolling specifically for this certificate).
- EPID 7010 and BIOS 7010 or equivalent knowledge (as determined by the certificate coordinator).
- Good academic standing with the UGA graduate school and in the student's main program of study (if applicable).

Course Requirements

A minimum of 15 credit hours by following the course sequence outline below.

1 Required Course (3 credits)

EPID 8500 Infectious Disease Epidemiology

At least 4 graduate level courses (12 credits) related to infectious disease epidemiology.

The following is a non-exhaustive list of currently identified acceptable courses from the college of public health: EPID 7500, EPID 8510E, EPID 8515, EPID/BIOS 8560 or 8060, EPID 8200, EPID/BIOS 8150, EHSC/EPID 8250, EHSC 8310, GLOB 8550, EHSC 7310.

You are also allowed to take courses outside our college, as long as the topic is broadly related to infectious disease epidemiology. **Your best approach is to search UGA's course offerings to find suitable courses.** Departments/programs that often have suitable courses are ecology (ECOL) and infectious diseases (IDIS). You might also find some suitable ones in statistics (STAT), Wildlife Management (WILD), Microbiology (MIBO), Bioinformatics (BINF) and likely others.

A maximum of 3 credits can be counted toward the certificate from non-standard courses such as a research project or a directed study related to infectious disease epidemiology. This is subject to approval by the certificate coordinator.

If you identify courses that you think are suitable to count toward the certificate, submit your application form and ask if the courses you propose will work. The certificate coordinator will determine suitability.

Additional Information and Requirements

- Courses taken outside of UGA can count to fulfill the pre-requisite requirements but cannot be used toward earning the certificate.
- Courses can be taken in any order, subject to requirements and prerequisites placed on individual courses by their instructors/departments.
- Any acceptable course can be taken either in-class or, if offered, as an online (E) course.
- To receive the certificate, students must receive a grade of B- or better in each course, and the average grade for all courses must be a B or better.
- On the application form, students should list proposed or already taken courses.
- Students can apply to enter the certificate program at any time prior to their last semester before graduation by submitting the ID certificate application form.
- **It is recommended that students submit the application form for the certificate early to ensure all requirements are met and proposed courses are acceptable.**
- If a student's plan of study for the certificate changes, they should resubmit an updated form.
- Once all ID certificate requirements have been met, **and at the latest at the beginning of the semester in which graduation is planned**, students should submit an updated, final application form. Students should mark that they completed the program of study and request to be awarded the certificate. The final form is reviewed by the certificate coordinator and once approved, students will be entered into the system as having completed the certificate and will formally receive it upon graduation.

Contact

Please submit the form to the Student Coordinator, Nichole Thomas at nthomas@uga.edu. She will forward the form to the ID Certificate Coordinator, Prof. Andreas Handel, for review.

Further Information

- The ID certificate is administered by the department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics in the College of Public Health.
- The certificate program does not provide financial support (tuition waivers, assistantships, etc.). Students are welcome and encouraged to find funding at UGA or outside independent of the certificate program.
- The chair of the department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics appoints the certificate coordinator. The current certificate coordinator and student coordinators are listed above.
- A three-person steering committee is helping to oversee the certificate, approve new courses, and mediate if there are any disagreements between the certificate coordinator and students. The members of this committee serve for as long as they are willing. Should a member want to step down, the remaining members vote on a replacement. The Epidemiology and Biostatistics department chair is always part of the committee, at least one member needs to be from outside the college of public health. Current members are:
 - Dr. Cordero, Professor, Epidemiology & Biostatistics. Department chair.
 - Dr. Andrew Park, Professor, Ecology.
 - Dr. Chris Whalen, Professor, Epidemiology & Biostatistics. Director, Global Health Institute.