



2026-2027 PROGRAM GUIDE: Master of Public Health, Biostatistics

Information in this document is updated annually. Please refer to the document for the year you entered the program. Student resources, policies, and procedures applicable to all School of Public Health graduate students can be found on the School of Public Health website, www.ohsu-psu-sph.org.

Overview

Director: Rongwei (Rochelle) Fu, PhD (fur@ohsu.edu)
ohsu-psu-sph.org/mph-in-biostatistics

The MPH in Biostatistics program equips you with applied biostatistical skills to collect and analyze data in support of public health research, program assessment, and policy analysis in the context of public health foundational knowledge. Courses in this program emphasize intermediate to advanced applied statistical methods and statistical programming commonly used in public health research and practice, and the program prepares you to be proficient in population-based study design and methods, analytic methods, data interpretation, and communicating the results to lay and professional audiences. Graduates of the program will be equipped to pursue careers in local, state and federal health agencies, health care systems, nonprofit organizations, and research institutions.

Per OHSU policy, students have up to 6 years from the date of matriculation to complete their degree.

Program Competencies

Graduates of this program will be able to:

- Apply appropriate principles of research design and population-based concepts to assess health problems.
- Apply appropriate descriptive and inferential statistical methods to analyze risk determinants of disease and health conditions.
- Apply descriptive and inferential statistical methods that are appropriate to the different study designs used in public health research.
- Interpret and summarize results and communicate them to lay and professional audiences, in the context of proper public health principles and concepts.
- Evaluate strengths and weaknesses of alternative designs and analytic methods, and critically review and assess statistical analyses presented in public health literature.
- Apply basic ethical principles pertaining to the collection, maintenance, use, and dissemination of public health data.
- Identify cultural dimensions of conducting research, including culturally sensitive recruitment of study participants, and develop strategies for interpretation of data in the larger cultural context.



MPH Biostatistics Program of Study

Course Number	Course Title	Credits
Core Required Coursework (17 Credits) (Common to all MPH Programs)		
BSTA 511	Estimation and Hypothesis Testing for Applied Biostatistics	4
EPI 512	Epidemiology I	4
ESHH 511	Concepts of Environmental Health	3
HSMP 574	Health Systems Organization	3
PHE 512	Principles of Health Behavior	3
Program Required Coursework (28-31 Credits)		
UNI 504*	Qualitative Methods for Health Professionals	2
BSTA 512	Linear Models	4
BSTA 513	Categorical Data Analysis	4
BSTA 515	Data Management and Analysis in SAS	3
BSTA 516	Design and Analysis of Surveys	3
BSTA 519	Applied Longitudinal Data Analysis	3
EPI 513	Epidemiology II (Methods)	4
EPI 566	Current Issues in Public Health	2
HSMP 573**	Values & Ethics in Health	3
Elective courses from the following (7-10 Credits)		
BSTA 500	Reading and Research in Biostatistics	1-3
BSTA 504	Topics in Biostatistics	1-3
BSTA 514	Statistical Analysis of Time-to-Event Data	3
BSTA 517	Statistical Methods in Clinical Trial Design	3
BSTA 521	Bayesian Methods for Data Analysis	3
BSTA 522	Statistical Learning and Big Data	3
BSTA 523	Design of Experiments: Statistical Principles of Research Design & Analysis	3
BSTA 526	R Programming for Health Data Science	3
BSTA 550	Introduction to Probability	3
BSTA 551	Theory of Statistical Inference	4
EPI 514	Epidemiology III	4
PHE 519	Introduction to the Etiology of Disease	3
	Other courses with permission of Program Director	
Culminating Experience (5 Credits)		
BSTA 509PE	Practice Experience	4
BSTA 502IP	Integrative Project	1
Total Credits		60

*UNI 504 fulfills two foundational competency degree requirements in one course: the Inter-professional Experience (IPE) and qualitative methods. Alternatively, and in consultation with Faculty Advisors, students may seek permission to take (a) PHE 520 Qualitative Research Design (3 cr.) or HSMP 588 Program Eval/Mgmt in Hlth Svcs (3 cr.) to fulfill the qualitative methods req, and (b) a different 500-level IPE course for the inter-professional experience requirement, other than IPE 501 (1-2 cr.).

**Students must complete 30 credits before taking HSMP 573



MPH Biostatistics Recommended Course Schedule

Below is the recommended course schedule for a full-time student. If you plan to pursue the program part time, consult your academic advisor or program director to develop a customized course schedule. We recommend meeting with your Faculty Advisor quarterly. Additionally, the program director holds group advising sessions twice a year and holds office hours or sends emails as necessary around registration time that provide program updates and answer questions on course availability and selection.

It is important that you make every attempt to follow the term-by-term course plan laid out below and register promptly, as most courses are only offered once a year and Biostatistics program has priority registration for certain courses in certain terms. Priority registration is only open for a limited period (typically 2 weeks). Once priority registration ends, students from other programs may register for these courses.

If you receive federal financial aid, it is important to be aware of financial aid requirements when planning your schedule, in particular, with the significant changes to federal student loans taking effect on July 1, 2026. Federal loans require at least 1/2 time enrollment (5 credits). Please refer to the OHSU's "Student Financial Aid Explained" and "Standard Enrollment Plans for Reference" documents, paying particular attention to summer term, for more information. These documents can be found on OHSU's Financial Aid website here: <https://www.ohsu.edu/education/financial-aid>.



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MPH Biostatistics: Full-time (FT) Fall Start Student Schedule

Term	Year 1			Year 2		
	Course	Credits	Student Actions	Course	Credits	Student Actions
Summer				PHE 512 Principle of Health Behavior OR, HSMP 574 Health Systems Organization if not taken in Spring	3	➤ Check out BDP intern and research opportunities and Knight CDSSR research opportunities ➤ Take initiative to identify a PE project
Fall	BSTA 511 Est/Hypothesis Testing for Applied Biostats	4	➤ Attend SPH Fall Welcome ➤ Attend Group Advising ➤ Meet with Advisor re: course selection & educational and professional goals.	BSTA 515 Data management using SAS	3	➤ Attend SPH Fall Welcome ➤ Attend Group Advising ➤ Meet with Advisor ➤ Meet with Practice Experience Coordinator ➤ Develop and submit PE learning agreement
	EPI 512 Epidemiology I	4		HSMP 573 Values and Ethics in Health	3	
	Elective (BMI 510 or UNI 511)	2-3		Elective (e.g. BSTA 514, BSTA517*, UNI 511, NURS 630)	2-3	
Winter	BSTA 512 Linear Models	4	➤ Meet with Advisor	BSTA 519 Applied Longitudinal Data Analysis	3	➤ Meet with Advisor ➤ Meet with Practice Experience Coordinator ➤ Submit proposal for Integrative Project ➤ Apply for spring graduation
	EPI 513 Epidemiologic Methods	4		EPI 566 current issues of public health	2	
	ESHH 511 Concepts of Environmental Health (no restriction)	3		UNI 504 Qualitative Methods for Health Professionals, OR Elective (e.g., BSTA 526 or BMI 544)	2-3	
				BSTA 509PE Practice Experience	2	
Spring	BSTA 513 Categorical Data Analysis	3	➤ Attend Group Advising ➤ Meet with Advisor ➤ Meet with Practice Experience Coordinator	BSTA 509PE Practice Experience	2	➤ Attend Group Advising ➤ Meet with Advisor
	BSTA 516 Design and Analysis of Survey	3		BSTA 502IP Integrative project	2	
	HSMP 574 Health Systems Organization (no restriction) OR PHE 512 Principle of Health Behavior (if there is space)	3		UNI 504 Qualitative Methods for Health Professionals, if not taken in the winter term	2	

* Schedule to be finalized



Grades

Students are not permitted to progress through the BSTA 511-513 course sequence unless they achieve at least a B- in each of the courses. See [Graduate Student Policies and Procedures](#) for more information on Minimum Course Grade Requirements and Academic standing.

Biostatistics & Design Program (BDP)

The Biostatistics & Design Program (BDP) is a service core that provides research design and analytic support to investigators across OHSU and beyond who are planning or conducting non-cancer research. The BDP supports research in all phases, from formulation of research questions and study design, to data acquisition or collection, analysis, and interpretation and dissemination of results. Our team, directed by Dr. Jodi Lapidus, includes biostatistics faculty members as well as PhD- and masters-level staff members who have expertise in a wide variety of statistical methods and experience in a wide range of content areas in the health sciences.

The BDP offers one internship position to a current student in the biostatistics program each academic year. Students interested in learning more about the internship position or in BDP's work are welcome to reach out to Dr. Amy Laird, Research Project Manager for the BDP (laird@ohsu.edu).

Knight Cancer Institute Cancer Data Science Shared Resource (CDSSR)

The Knight Cancer Institute Cancer Data Science Shared Resource (CDSSR) is supported by the National Cancer Institute's Cancer Center Support Grant. The CDSSR strives to enhance the quality, rigor, and reproducibility of cancer research by providing expert consultation and collaborative support to Knight Cancer Investigators during all phases of the research life-cycle. The primary aim of the CDSSR is to deliver comprehensive and integrated quantitative expertise spanning biostatistics, bioinformatics, computational biology, and machine learning to support basic, clinical, translational, and population science researchers conducting cancer research across OHSU. The CDSSR also provides students with opportunities to work on ongoing cancer research projects. Students should contact the CDSSR Directors, Dr. Jessica Minnier and Dr. Lisa Karstens, for opportunities for research experience.

Graduate Student Resources, Policies, and Procedures

[Academic resources](#) and [student support services](#) available to SPH graduate students are listed on the SPH website, www.ohsu-psu-sph.org. Please review the resources listed there.

[Policies and procedures](#) applicable to all School of Public Health graduate students can be found on the SPH website. Please review the student policies and procedures listed there, including but not limited to the following sections:

- ☐ Advising
- ☐ Academic Standing
- ☐ Academic Dismissal
- ☐ Academic Dishonesty
- ☐ Codes of Conduct
- ☐ Educational Records Privacy
- ☐ Minimum Course Grade Requirements
- ☐ Recognition of Prior Earned Credit
- ☐ Course Waiver Policy
- ☐ Incomplete Coursework
- ☐ Course Approvals (Electives)
- ☐ Independent Study



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- ☐ International Travel and Coursework
- ☐ Continuous Enrollment
- ☐ Leave of Absence
- ☐ Withdrawal Policy
- ☐ Time Limits
- ☐ Grievance Resolution
- ☐ Degree and Certificate Conferral