

School of Public Health

Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics



Student Handbook

PhD in Epidemiology Program

Student Handbook
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Key Contacts

PhD Program Director

Craig J. Newschaffer, PhD
 cnewscha@drexel.edu
 215-762-7152

Department Business Manager

Georgeanne Talarico
 glt23@drexel.edu
 215-762-2501

Administrative Assistant

Nancy Colon-Anderson
 nanderson@drexel.edu
 215-762-7189

Fulltime Department Faculty			
Auchincloss, Amy, PhD	Room 622	215-762-2056	aha27@drexel.edu
Berhane, Zekarias, PhD	Room 617	215-762-6121	zb26@drexel.edu
Evans, Alison, ScD	Room 610	215-762-4868	alison.evans@drexel.edu
Gracely, Ed, PhD	Room 611	215-762-1170	egracely@drexelmed.edu
Hovinga, Mary, PhD, MPH	Room 1308	215-762-2552	meh56@drexel.edu
Lee, Brian, PhD	Room 620	215-762-1638	bkleee@drexel.edu
Lee, Nora, PhD	Room 609	215-762-4946	nll25@drexel.edu
Liu, Longjian, MD, PhD, MSc	Room 621	215-762-1370	ll85@drexel.edu
Michael, Yvonne, ScD, SM	Room 615	215-762-3934	ylm23@drexel.edu
Mossey, Jana, PhD, ScD, MSW	Room 614	215-762-8245	jm55@drexel.edu
Newschaffer, Craig, PhD	Room 606	215-762-7189	cnewscha@drexel.edu
Philip, Loni, PhD	Room 623	215-762-____	lpp22@drexel.edu
Polansky, Marcia, MS, ScD, MSW	Room 618	215-762-4863	mp39@drexel.edu
Welles, Seth, PhD, ScD	Room 613	215-762-4953	slw58@drexel.edu
Zakeri, Issa, PhD	Room 612	215-762-1171	ifz23@drexel.edu

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

Mary Hovinga, PhD
 hovinga@drexel.edu
 215-762-2552

Assistant Dean for Student Affairs

Warren Hilton
 warren.m.hilton@drexel.edu
 215-762-1819

*“This school of public health is founded on a commitment – a commitment to public health as social justice. We see health not as a privilege, but as a right.”
Jonathan Mann, MD, MPH - April 20, 1998*

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Mission and Core Values of the School of Public Health

The mission of the Drexel University School of Public Health (SPH) is to promote the health of communities through an integrated program of education, research, service and practice. The SPH is committed to identifying societal conditions required for people to be healthy, and to advancing practices that improve the health of vulnerable populations. The SPH enhances the health of communities by creating partnerships based on community values, strengths, and resources. Our mission and our curriculum stress the importance of understanding and addressing the connection between human rights and health status.

B. Overview of the PhD in Epidemiology Program

The goal of the PhD Program in Epidemiology is to prepare graduates to use the science of epidemiology to ask and answer highly meaningful public health questions. Graduates will develop the skill and expertise necessary to initiate and direct the scientifically rigorous research necessary to generate the knowledge upon which to base public health and medical care policies and procedures designed to foster the maintenance and improvement of the health and well being of populations. The PhD program prepares students to approach problems with the critical analytic skills necessary for the generation of substantial and significant epidemiologic questions, and to utilize the most rigorous and parsimonious research strategies to answer such questions. Additionally, integral values of the Department and School will infuse students with the commitment to pursue important and innovative topics of inquiry even when faced with methodological challenges, and to undertake studies that generate knowledge applicable to diverse social, ethnic, and geographically defined populations.

Upon graduation PhD students will attain competencies in multiple areas. These competencies were based on guidelines developed by a joint working group of the American College of Epidemiology and the Association of Schools of Public Health in 2002 but have been influenced by the unique characteristics of Department and School faculty as well as University and area resources.

Competencies fall into four areas: general skills and knowledge; research; applied skills; and public health practice. The first two areas were designated by the ACE/ASPH workgroup as “core competencies” for Epidemiology PhD programs. Each of these is discussed further below.

General skills and knowledge

- Descriptive epidemiology – Ability to provide the descriptive epidemiology of major conditions and conditions of special interest to the student; know strengths and weaknesses of descriptive studies; and identify data from existing national and international sources
- Biology – Have a basic understanding of human physiology and pathophysiology, with special competence in areas needed for dissertation research
- Basic public health knowledge – understand the general history of epidemiology and public health, know principles of screening and disease surveillance, understand the global, cultural, and social context of health problems and how these influence research

Research

- Problem conceptualization – Search and critically evaluate literature; synthesize information; identify gaps, formulate statement of research problem and hypotheses
- Study design – Design studies based on principal study designs, know strengths and limitations, evaluate sample size issues, identify, assess, and minimize bias and confounding, and use basic sampling strategies
- Data collection/monitoring – Use methods of measurement, determine validity of measure, identify presence and magnitude of measurement error and adjust when possible, and monitor data collection and develop and implement quality and control measures
- Data management – Create files appropriate for data analyses, create new and recoded variables, clean data
- Data analysis – Use appropriate statistical approaches for descriptive statistics, analyses of categorical data, multivariable regression, survival and longitudinal analyses
- Interpretation – Interpret research results and make appropriate inferences recognizing limitations
- Communication – Communicate results orally and in writing to scientists and non—scientists, present data summaries appropriately in tables and figures; place findings in appropriate public health and health policy context
- Ethics – understand concepts of human subjects protection and apply to design and conduct of thesis research
- Substantive area - demonstrate mastery of a substantive area, including application of that knowledge in conducting original research

Applied Skills

- Learn principals of research management (including research budget development/management) and interdisciplinary team work.
- Have opportunities to participate in teaching and learn effective strategies for teaching introductory epidemiology
- Gain some experience in both primary data collection and secondary data analyses

Public Health Practice

- Utilize epidemiologic skills in the context of community health assessment and be able to conceptualize and synthesize data on public health problems
- Be familiar with principles of prevention, intervention and evaluation
- Have a working understanding of public health ethics and acquire cultural competence

C. Other School Of Public Health Departments

The School is organized into four departments, reflecting the five core disciplines of public health. In addition to the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics the other three Departments are:

Department of Community Health and Prevention. The mission of the Department of Community Health and Prevention (CHP) is to promote the health of communities through education, research, service and advocacy focused on the societal conditions required for people to be healthy. This necessitates long-term partnerships with communities and organizations in the context of respect for community values, strengths, and assets. Central to this goal is the understanding of the relationship between human rights, dignity, and health status.

Department of Environmental and Occupational Health. The mission of the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health (EOH) is to prevent adverse health effects related to environmental and occupational exposures through research, education, and service. These activities are carried out in the context of the School's focus on communities, social justice, and human rights. The central theme of the department's activities is prevention, focusing on initiatives that will ultimately decrease, in a measurable way, the burden of environmental and occupational health effects, with a particular focus on disadvantaged populations in the Delaware Valley.

Department of Health Management and Policy. The mission of the Department of Health Management and Policy (HMP) is to develop and support highly qualified and appropriately trained public health leaders to assume management and policy making roles to support population and community health improvement. The focus of the department is on skills and leadership for the planning, implementation and operation of systemic, effective and community responsive programs and organizations, as well as organizational and policy interventions requiring some combination of management, organization, finance, advocacy, political action, and public policy analysis skills.

PhD students have opportunities to take coursework offered by these other Departments in order to broaden their public health background, gain a better understanding how epidemiology is applied in other public health disciplines, and/or to acquire complementary research skills.

II. DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Completion of the PhD in Epidemiology will require: (1) a minimum of 69 quarter credit hours of course work beyond the master's degree as prescribed by the program's curriculum; (2) a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.3; (3) passing the doctoral comprehensive examination; (4) passing the candidacy oral examination; (5) completing a dissertation of publishable quality; and (6) passing the final defense. A student in the PhD degree program shall have five calendar years from the date of initial registration to complete and successfully defend a dissertation.

A. Course Work

Students in the Epidemiology PhD Program will be required to complete at least 69 quarter credits to satisfy degree requirements. All entering students are expected to have already completed introductory level epidemiology and biostatistics courses (equivalents of PBHL 520, 530) as part of their Master's program or must enroll in these courses, or their equivalents, as *additional* requirements. All students must complete the School's doctoral core requirements, six Departmental Required PhD Courses, two Epidemiology area electives, two Biostatistics area electives, two additional electives that can be taken in other Departments at the School or University, one course in research ethics and scientific integrity, one course in teaching methods, and a minimum of 18 credits of thesis research. Students who have previously completed other

required courses (or their approved equivalents) as part of their Master's program can, with advisor and program director approval, substitute other courses for equivalent credits - though the decision may be to retain these courses in the student's course plan. In addition, students without adequate biology or clinical training will be required to complete relevant coursework biology, pathobiology, or clinical sciences as additional requirements. In keeping with University requirements, candidates must have at least one academic year (three consecutive full-time terms) of full time residency.

B. Plan of Study

Students are expected to be actively involved in planning, implementing and evaluating their program of study. It is strongly recommended that students meet regularly with their advisor to determine their goals and objectives so that their course work, research and dissertation proceed at a reasonable pace. An initial plan of study worksheet is developed by the student with their advisor during the first term of study. This is submitted to the Department. This worksheet can be used by the student to complete the University Plan of Study form (form D1) which needs to be approved by the PhD Program Director and filed with the School's Office of Academic Affairs and Drexel University Office of Research and Graduate Studies by the 4th week of the 2nd term. Plan of Study Worksheets and University Plan of Study forms should be revised when plans change substantively. The Department will monitor courses students register for against the Plan of Study Worksheet.

The Table below lists important forms and due dates throughout the PhD program.

Important Dates/Forms for PhD Program		
Appendix B includes copies of all key forms. University Forms can also be found by linking to forms page: www.drexel.edu/provost/graduatestudies/forms.html		
Form	Title	Due Date
	Plan of Study Worksheet	End of 1st term
D-1	PhD Plan of Study	Due by week 4 of the 2 nd term
	Doctoral Comprehensive Exam	End of the 1 st year of study.
D-2	Supervising Professor Appointment	Due by the end of the 2 nd year of study.
D-3	PhD Candidacy Committee Appointment & Exam Schedule	Due at least 4 weeks prior to scheduled date of examination
D-4	Doctoral Candidacy Examination Report	Due within 48 hours of candidacy determination.
D-4a	Doctoral Candidacy Examination Member Report	Due within 24 hours of candidacy determination.
D-5	Thesis Advisory Committee Appointment	Due at least 3 month prior to final defense..
D-6	PhD Final Oral Defense Committee Appointment & Schedule	Due at least 4 weeks prior to final defense.
D-7	Report of the PhD Final Oral Defense Committee	Due within 48 hours of defense.

C. Comprehensive Examination

The Comprehensive Examination will be taken, typically, following completion of the first year of course work. Students must complete Advanced Epidemiology, Intermediate Biostatistics II, Infectious Disease Epidemiology, one Epidemiology content area elective, and any additional course requirements specified upon admission before sitting for the comprehensive exam. The Exam will have three portions given on three successive mornings. The first is a short answer/essay portion focusing on core descriptive epidemiology and epidemiologic research concepts. This portion is closed-book, closed-note. The second portion is critical appraisal of article(s) from the epidemiologic literature. The article(s) is distributed the day prior. This portion is open-book, open-note. The third component involves analysis of a data set and interpretation of findings. The data set and data dictionary is distributed the day prior. This portion is open-book, open, note. Responsibility for developing and grading the exam lies with a Departmental Comprehensive Examination Committee, comprised of Departmental faculty, which will be assembled under the supervision of the Program Director. Students who fail the comprehensive examination will be permitted to retake that portion of the examination that was deficient after a minimum of one term. A second failure will result in termination from the program.

D. Dissertation Proposal

After passing the comprehensive examination, the student works to develop a dissertation proposal. The dissertation proposal will detail an epidemiologic research project of high scientific merit with substantive downstream public health impact. It is developed with the supervising professor but may also involve consultation with other interested faculty.

E. Candidacy Committee

After developing the proposal concept, the student selects a candidacy committee of five members in accordance with University guidelines. One member must be from a SPH Department other than Epidemiology and Biostatistics and one member must be from outside the School. The Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies approves the composition of the committee. The Candidacy Committee reviews the student's proposal, provides feedback, and determines whether the proposal is sufficiently developed for the student to move on to the Candidacy Examination.

F. Candidacy Exam

The Candidacy Exam is an oral examination conducted by the Candidacy Committee, chaired by the student's supervising professor, assessing the student's general knowledge and research capacity. The exam is therefore not limited to the proposal, but the proposal provides the context for this exam. The exam will begin with a presentation by the student about his/her planned research. Following the student's presentation, the committee members will ask questions. Immediately following the examination, the committee will meet privately to evaluate the success or failure of the student by a closed ballot. The closed ballot will be administered prior to the discussion of the candidate's performance. The options for evaluating a student include: (1) Unconditional Pass - all members vote "unconditional pass" on the first ballot; (2) Conditional Pass - further evidence of qualifications is necessary, the nature of the required condition(s) decided by consensus; and (3) Failure - a majority of the committee decides that the student has failed the examination. If the student fails the exam, the committee may recommend a reexamination. If the student is permitted a reexamination, he or she must be reexamined within 6 months. The student will be informed of the committee's decision immediately following the vote, although the form

signifying successful completion of the proposal defense will not be submitted until the specified conditions have been met. The results of the examination are reported to the PhD program. After passing the exam, the student becomes a doctoral candidate – Forms D-4 and D-4a must be filed with the Office of Research and Graduate Studies.

G. Thesis Committee.

University guidelines require that the committee must consist of at least five members, at least three of whom must be currently tenured, tenure-track, or non-tenure track Research faculty at Drexel. At least two of the committee members must be from outside the student's primary specialization area. In the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics we interpret this as allowing Epidemiology faculty whose principal research interest and expertise does not overlap with the student's to be counted as committee members outside the student's primary specialization area. Also, according to University guidelines, at least one of the committee members must be from outside the student's department, preferably from outside the University. Tenured, tenure-track and non-tenure track Research faculty can all serve as Committee Chairs.

H. Conducting Research and Writing Dissertation.

Students should meet with their supervising professors and thesis committee regularly while conducting their research. Upon completing analyses, the student should use the Drexel University dissertation format. That information can be found in the Theses manual which can be found at www.library.drexel.edu/services/thesis/thesismanual.pdf. The doctoral student and supervising professor are responsible for conforming to the university format requirements. to prepare a draft of the dissertation.

I. Reviewing Dissertation.

After the supervising professor has reviewed the dissertation draft, the student will give the draft to the other thesis committee members, discuss the dissertation with them, and incorporate suggestions made. After the final draft of the dissertation is approved by the chair, the dissertation will be submitted to committee members. Within 3 weeks, committee members will decide whether the dissertation is ready for a final defense. All committee members must agree that the dissertation meets the scholarly expectation as a noteworthy contribution to knowledge before the final defense can be held. At the point that this agreement is reached, permission for a final defense date is requested from the Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies at least four weeks prior to the defense date (form D-6).

J. Final Defense.

Oral defense of the dissertation is the final step for the doctoral degree. The student's thesis committee chair will be the chair of the final defense examination. The final defense will begin with a brief presentation by the student about the research. Following the student's presentation, the committee members will ask questions to assess the student's judgment and scholarship. Immediately following the examination, the committee will meet privately to evaluate the success or failure of the student by a closed ballot. The closed ballot will be administered prior to the discussion of the candidate's performance. The range of decisions following the defense is the same as those for the preliminary oral examination: (1) Unconditional Pass - all members vote "unconditional pass" on the first ballot; (2) Conditional Pass - the required condition(s) decided by consensus; and (3) Failure - a majority of the committee decides that the student has failed the examination. If the student fails the final defense, the committee may recommend a reexamination. If the student is permitted a reexamination, he or she must be reexamined within 6

months. The student will be informed of the committee's decision immediately following the vote. Results of the Committees decision should be forwarded to the Office of Research and Graduate Studies (form D-7).

K. Final Draft of Dissertation.

The final draft of the dissertation should not be prepared until the student has passed the final defense. It is not unusual for some modifications to the dissertation to be required by the committee as a result of the defense. The chair will be responsible for ensuring that any changes recommended by the committee are carried out. Other committee members may make final approval of the dissertation contingent upon their review and approval of the revisions. The Dissertation Approval Form finalizes the approval of the final dissertation. It requires signatures from the committee, graduate advisor, and department chair.

III. CURRICULUM

Courses included in the Epidemiology PhD curriculum systematically build competencies outlined above on pages 3-4. The table below shows a typical sequence of courses over a three-year period.

Epidemiology PhD Program – Three-year / 69 credit sequence

YEAR	FALL	WINTER	SPRING
1	Health and Human Rights(3) PBHL 802	Advanced Epidemiology (4) PBHL 830	Infectious Disease Epidemiology (3) PBHL 636
	Intermediate Epidemiology (3) PBHL 630	Research Methods for Community Health and Prevention (3) PBHL 804	Epidemiology Content Elective (3)
	Intermediate Biostatistics I (3) PBHL 620	Intermediate Biostatistics II (3) PBHL 621	Public Health Ethics (3)
	Epidemiology Ph.D. Seminar I(1) PBHL 831		
	Grand Rounds Department Seminar and Journal Club Society for Epidemiologic Research Student Section - Drexel Workgroup		

Continued On Next Page

YEAR	FALL	WINTER	SPRING
2	College Teaching and Communication Skills(1) EDU 531	Applied Survey Research in Epidemiology (3) PBHL 632	Thesis Research (3)
	Causal Inference in Epidemiology (3) PBHL XXX	Epidemiology Content or Biostatistics Elective (3-4)	Epidemiology Ph.D. Seminar II (2) PBHL 832
	Epidemiology Ph.D. Seminar II (2) PBHL 832	Epidemiology Ph.D. Seminar II (2) PBHL 832	
	Elective or Biostatistics Elective (3)		
	Grand Rounds Department Seminar and Journal Club Society for Epidemiologic Research Student Section - Drexel Workgroup Teaching Assistantship		
YEAR	FALL	WINTER	SPRING
3	Elective or Biostatistics Elective (3)	Thesis Research (6)	Thesis Research (6)
	Thesis Research (3)		
	Grand Rounds Department Seminar and Journal Club Society for Epidemiologic Research Student Section - Drexel Workgroup Peer Mentor New Student		

School doctoral core courses and Departmental required courses are described briefly below. A summary table of courses of potential interest as electives is also provided (More detailed description of these potential electives are provided in Appendix A).

Entering students are assumed to have completed introductory and intermediate graduate epidemiology and biostatistics courses and to have an adequate background in physiology and pathophysiology. Students who have not completed this coursework may still be admitted into the program, but will need to complete this coursework in addition to other requirements.

Curriculum – once candidate status is obtained

After the Candidacy Exam is passed, students are considered to have attained doctoral candidate status. Once students attain candidate status, they are entitled to a tuition discount where they can register for up to nine (9) credits per term and only be charged for one (1) credit hour. The minimum number of credits per term a student who has reached candidate status and who has already completed their required one year in residency (i.e., has previously registered for three

consecutive terms at least 9 credits/term) must register for is (1) credit for at least 3 terms each academic year until they complete their degrees (at this point, students usually register for research or dissertation credits); however, candidates need to remain mindful of the total credits needed to complete the program.

A. School doctoral core courses

PBHL 630: INTERMEDIATE EPIDEMIOLOGY (3 credits)

This course expands basic methods used in epidemiologic thinking and research.

PBHL 620: INTERMEDIATE BIOSTATISTICS (3 credits)

This course covers topics in epidemiological statistics, nonparametric statistics, consulting techniques, and data cleaning.

PBHL 632: APPLIED SURVEY RESEARCH IN EPIDEMIOLOGY (3 credits)

This course addresses theoretical and practical aspects to the conduct of survey research in human populations. Practical requirements for research proposal development are covered.

PBHL 802: HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS (3 credits)

Health and wellbeing are intricately associated with fundamental human rights. This course will cover direct and indirect links between public health policies, political circumstances, and social and economic conditions and their affects on health of individuals and populations using the human rights framework.

PBHL 804 –RESEARCH METHODS FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PREVENTION (3 credits)

Public health leaders must understand and use diverse research methods to make significant contributions to community health and prevention. This course integrates foundations of research methodology with use of appropriate statistical procedures to prepare students to apply rigorous scientific methods to understand and solve major public health problems.

B. Departmental required courses

PBHL 831: EPIDEMIOLOGY PH.D. SEMINAR I (1 credit)

Briefly reviews key intermediate epidemiology concepts – focusing on differential terminology and alternate approaches by which key concepts may be illustrated. The goal is to assure that members of an entering doctoral class, whose training and background may differ slightly, can effectively communicate key foundational concepts.

PBHL 621: INTERMEDIATE BIOSTATISTICS II (3 credits)

This course reinforces the basic biostatistics and data management skills acquired in the Intermediate Biostatistics I course. The main focus will be on model assumption checking and fit assessment; however specialized topics like modeling variable with more than two levels and repeated measures will be covered.

PBHL 830: ADVANCED EPIDEMIOLOGY (4 credits)

Takes a more in-depth and theoretical examination of difficult methodologic issues introduced in Intermediate Epidemiology (i.e., causal inference, confounding). Covers more advanced methodologic issues in analytic epidemiology including: time-dependent exposures and confounders, propensity scores, and sensitivity analyses.

PBHL 636: INFECTIOUS DISEASE EPIDEMIOLOGY (3 credits)

This course introduce epidemiologic methods specific to infectious disease epidemiology within

the context of the study of several major classes of infectious diseases with global impact on public health. Students will learn about techniques in outbreak investigations as well as surveillance and disease reporting. They will learn how biological characteristics of infectious diseases such as transmission and immunity alter the more familiar approaches to descriptive and analytic epidemiology developed in the chronic disease setting.

PBHL XXX CAUSAL INFERENCE IN EPIDEMIOLOGY (3 credits)

This third level methods course has been designed to provide an in-depth theoretical foundation on epistemology and models of disease causation in epidemiology. To this end, we will read and vigorously discuss several scientific papers weekly on a variety of topics, all which support our understanding of the scientific basis for identifying the causes of diseases and adverse conditions.

PBHL 832: EPIDEMIOLOGY SEMINAR II (2 credit in each of three terms)

Cover issues related to epidemiology teaching and curriculum development, grant writing and grantsmanship, epidemiology and the courts, and the management of epidemiologic research projects, also will include discussions of major emerging issues of significance to the discipline of epidemiology.

C. Departmental and other potential electives

DEPARTMENTAL ELECTIVES

Epidemiology Area Electives (2 required)

PBHL 633: CANCER EPIDEMIOLOGY (3 credits)

This course will provide students with training in the methods specific to the epidemiology of cancer. Students will learn about population-level data sources and surveillance methods. Biological characteristics of cancer in general will be covered, and the effect of its long latency period and other characteristics on approaches to epidemiologic study design will be one of the course's focuses. Current epidemiologic issues in studies of major cancers will be introduced through reading of the current medical literature.

PBHL 634: EPIDEMIOLOGY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE (3 credits)

Epidemiology for the Public Health Practice is a required course for the Master of Public Health (MPH) program of study, concentration in Epidemiology. This course covers applications of epidemiologic procedures used to understand the occurrence and control of conditions such as infections and chronic diseases in human populations. Emphasis on the understanding of core epidemiologic concepts and the review of public health epidemiology studies.

PBHL 635: SOCIAL AND PSYCHIATRIC EPIDEMIOLOGY (3 credits)

The course addresses the content and methods of social epidemiology and the clinical, methodological, and epidemiologic aspects of psychiatric illness. Students are required to explore theoretical and empirical aspects of disease etiology and disease course that extends beyond a biomedical model.

PBHL 638: PERINATAL EPIDEMIOLOGY (3 credits)

Introduces topical issues and methodological approaches to studying maternal and child health outcomes during the perinatal period. The focus is on study designs and data sources most relevant to perinatal epidemiology and examples of epidemiologic research on common perinatal health issues. Current research areas in perinatal epidemiology and future directions for research are also presented.

PBHL 639: CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE EPIDEMIOLOGY (3 credits)

This course is designed to provide a forum for in-depth discussion of one of the main public health issues. Participants will review the population burden of the main categories of cardiovascular diseases, and the well-established and emerging risk factors in cardiovascular disease prevention and control.

Biostatistics Area Electives (2 required)

PBHL 622: INTRODUCTION TO BIOSTATISTICS THEORY (3 credits)

This is an introductory course in probability and the theory of biostatistics that include the introduction of the probability distributions, as well as focusing on underlying theoretical foundations.

PBHL 684: BIOSATISTICS THEORY II

This course follows Introduction to Biostatistics Theory (PBHL 622). Course objective is to introduce students to the fundamental concepts and methods of statistical inference.

PBHL 623: BIOSTATISTICS COMPUTING (3 credits)

Trains students in data management and graphical presentation skills so that they can independently manage small to intermediate sized research data bases. Statistical packages SAS and R will be covered.

PBHL 625: LONGITUDINAL DATA ANALYSIS (3 credits)

Covers statistical methods and software commonly used to analyze longitudinal or repeated measurements data that are often encountered in public health and biomedical studies.

PBHL 628: SURVIVAL ANALYSIS (3 credits)

This course will provide the students with different approaches of analysis of survival data. These techniques are particularly useful in cohort designs studies where the main outcome of interest is the onset of an event and the information time to event is available.

PBHL 629: DESIGN AND ANALYSIS OF CLINICAL TRIALS (3 credits)

The purpose of this course is to cover the design and conduct of clinical trials. The course will also cover how to evaluate the scientific rigor of studies of clinical trials published in the scientific literature. Topics which will include power and sample size, study design, randomization methods, recruitment, missing data, ethical issues and statistical analysis methods.

PBHL 683: ADVANCED CLINICAL TRIALS & EXPER. DESIGN

Course prepares students to design & conduct clinical trials and other health related experiments. It will cover the development of a study protocol for a clinical trial, selection of the study population, sample size, and treatment assignment methods. Advanced experimental designs will also be covered.

PBHL 631: APPLIED MULTIVARIATE ANALYSIS

Introduce students to statistical methods for describing and analyzing multivariate data. Topics to be covered include review of matrix algebra concepts, multivariate analysis of variance, multivariate analysis, profile analysis, dimension reduction techniques, discriminate analysis, classification and regression trees.

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH ELECTIVES

PBHL 540 BEHAVIORAL ASSESSMENT (4 credit hours)

Introduces principles of health behavior in context of human life-cycle and covers their application to prevention and health promotion programs in a community context.

PBHL 550 COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT (4 credit hours)

Examines concepts and theories regarding planned change, including models of community organization for health promotion. Presents critical appraisal of community-wide health communication campaigns. Offers a four-week practicum enabling students to develop community-health assessment skills in a community setting.

PBHL 611 RACE, ETHNICITY AND HEALTH (3 credit hours)

This course explores racial and ethnic disparities in health status and access to healthcare, and examines intervention approaches to eliminate them.

PBHL 640 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH (4 credit hours)

Introduces concepts, theories, and programmatic application within the field of environmental health.

PBHL 641 ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARD ASSESSMENT (3 credit hours)

This course provides students with a general understanding of the recognition and evaluation of chemical, physical and biological hazards. Particular emphasis is placed on airborne hazard evaluation theory and methods. Students become familiar with commonly used industrial hygiene equipment through participation in laboratory and field exercise.

PBHL 643 OCCUPATIONAL TOXICOLOGY (3 credit hours)

This course provides students with a basic understanding of the recognition and evaluation of chemical, physical and biological hazards in the environment and workplace. The course addresses fundamentals of toxicology, legal implications of exposure and prevention strategies.

PBHL 645 ENVIRONMENTAL TOXICOLOGY (3 credit hours)

This course provides students with a basic and applied understanding of the recognition and evaluation of chemical, physical and biological hazards in the environment and workplace. The course addresses toxicology as it applies to environmental exposures, legal implications and prevention.

PBHL 649 OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CANCERS (3 credit hours)

This course covers topics in courses of cancer, the prevention of cancer, and public policy regarding cancer.

PBHL 650 POLICY AND ADVOCACY (4 credit hours)

Introduces the fundamentals of public-health law and the concepts and theories of health-policy development, adoption, and evaluation. Introduces the advocacy process and its importance to development of sound public health policy. Emphasizes systemic integration and the integration of the assessment, assurance, and policy development roles of public health.

PBHL 660 OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH (4 credit hours)

Introduces concepts, theories, and programmatic applications within the field of occupational health.

PBHL 661 OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL DISEASES (3 credit hours)

It covers topics related to lung diseases caused by occupational and or environmental exposures.

PBHL 805 QUALITATIVE RESEARCH IN COMMUNITY HEALTH (3 credit hours)

Students will study and use a variety of qualitative methods suited for public health practice and research. Methods include case study analysis, individual interviews, focus groups, ethnography, and observation.

PBHL 808 COMMUNITY PROGRAM EVALUATION (3 credit hours)

Much of public health is about developing programs for individual and behavioral change. Therefore, public health practitioners must be able to understand the importance of developing, implementing, and evaluating public health programs. This course highlights the natural interweaving of three program elements.

PBHL 825 MEASURING HEALTH (3 credit hours)

Course for students using health measurement scales, and constructing measures of health for evaluation, research, population monitoring, or policy purposes. Methods will be explored for measuring health in individuals and populations. Reviews fundamental theories of measurement including classical test theory, item response theory, and qualitative and quantitative approaches.

UNIVERSITY ELECTIVES

BIO 526 IMMUNOLOGY (3 credit hours)

Covers the fundamental concepts of innate and adaptive immunity, including the molecular and cellular mechanisms that generate responses to a broad spectrum of infectious threats, self/non-self recognition, immune regulation.

BIO 631 BIOINFORMATICS I (3 credit hours)

Covers concepts, theories and applications of bioinformatics. Designed to familiarize students with the computational tools used to analyze the large datasets generated by high throughput/content biotechnology. Includes algorithms to analyze nucleic acid and protein sequences, molecular structures, phylogenetic trees, and systems biology data.

BIO 633 BIOINFORMATICS I LAB (3 credit hours)

A laboratory course to accompany BIO 631. Designed to familiarize students with the computational tools used to analyze large datasets generated by high throughput biotechnology. Includes algorithms to analyze nucleic acid and protein sequences, 3D molecular structures, phylogenetic trees, and microarray data.

BIO 644 HUMAN GENETICS (3 credit hours)

Covers the fundamentals and principles of genetics with an emphasis on their relevance to human genetics and disease. Topics include human genetic disorders, pedigree analysis and genetic testing, cytogenetics, epigenetics of cancer, gene therapy, stem cell research and human genomics and biotechnology.

BIO 650 VIROLOGY (3 credit hours)

Discusses major viral groups, including biochemistry and molecular genetics of viral replication, structure, gene expression, latency, and role in disease.

BIO 675 ADVANCED IMMUNOLOGY (3 credit hours)

Covers current concepts of humoral and cell-mediated immunity, with emphasis on interrelationships of components of the immune system and molecular mechanisms.

BMES 604 PHARMACOLOGY (3 credit hours)

Covers the interaction between chemical agents and biological systems at all levels of integration. Discusses general classes of drugs, with particular emphasis on general concepts and problems of medical importance.

ENVS 501 CHEMISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT (3 credit hours)

Covers principles of physical and organic chemistry applicable to the study and evaluation of environmental conditions, especially the pollution of air, water, and soil (including chemical changes and reactions in the environment).

ENVS 516 SANITARY MICROBIOLOGY (3 credit hours)

Covers microscopic life forms of sanitary significance, with emphasis on bacteria, viruses, algae, fungi, and protozoa. Includes a thorough coverage of water and wastewater microbiology, especially transmission of waterborne diseases, bacterial indicators of pollution, and the microbiology of wastewater treatment.

ENVS 636 TOXICOLOGY I (3 credit hours)

This course reviews general human physiology and the acute and chronic effects of toxicants on physiological mechanisms. Basic principles of dose-response relationships, target organ toxicity, and exposure characterization are incorporated. Students are expected to have had an introductory course in human physiology.

ENVS 637 PRINCIPLES OF TOXICOLOGY II (3 credit hours)

This course expands upon knowledge gained in Principles of Toxicology I by focusing on the absorption, distribution, biotransformation and excretion of toxic substances. Current advances in the study of carcinogenesis and mutagenesis are also discussed, as well as toxicological research methods, animal and plant toxins, food toxicology, and pesticides.

FDSC 550 FOOD MICROBIOLOGY (3 credit hours)

Discusses factors affecting microbial growth in foods. Also covers methods of enumeration of food-borne organisms, microbial spoilage of foods, foods and ingredients from fermentation, food-borne pathogens and their control, and sanitation and HACCP in food processing.

MATH 510 - APPLIED PROB. & STATISTICS I (3 credit hours)

Covers basic concepts in applied probability; random variables, distribution functions, expectations, and moment generating functions; specific continuous and discrete distributions and their properties; joint and conditional distributions; discrete time Markov chains; distributions of functions of random variables; probability integral transform; and central limit theorem.

MATH 511 APPLIED PROBABILITY AND STATISTICS II (3 credit hours)

Covers probability plots and graphical techniques for determining distribution of data, including sampling and sampling distributions, law of large numbers, parametric point estimation, maximum likelihood estimation, Bayes estimation, properties of estimators, sufficient statistics, minimum variance unbiased estimators, and parametric interval estimation. Introduces hypothesis testing.

MATH 512 APPLIED PROBABILITY AND STATISTICS III (3 credit hours)

Covers hypothesis testing, analysis of variance, multiple regression, and special topics. Introduces linear models.

MIIM 508S IMMUNOLOGY I (4.5 credit hours)

This is a graduate level introductory course that will cover basic principles of immunology. The format is a lecture series with student participation.

MIIM 512S MOLECULAR PATHOGENESIS I (4.5 credit hours)

This course is designed to convey to graduate students basic concepts concerning the molecular mechanisms of disease caused by pathogenic microorganisms. The course will utilize information derived from in vitro tissue culture and in vivo animal model systems as well as studies performed in humans to enhance students understanding of diseases caused by bacteria, fungi, parasites and viruses. The immune response and other host defense mechanisms will also be examined as an integral part of this course. The course is designed to compliment the first year graduate core curriculum and will strive to develop analytical thought processes. The student will learn to identify gaps in knowledge, formulate important and experimentally approachable questions, and develop sound hypotheses to direct the generation of new scientific discoveries. The development of sound specific aims and experimental design will also be emphasized.

MIIM 513 Molecular Pathogenesis II (4.5 credit hours)

MIIM 607 Immunology II (4.5 credit hours)

This is an advanced course in immunology covering various aspects of contemporary cellular and molecular biology. It consists of some didactic sessions followed by reading and discussion of current literature. The prerequisites for this course are a graduate level course in immunology and permission of the instructor.

NEUR 534 NEUROSCIENCE (3 credit hours)

This course describes: structure and functions of the human central nervous system; neurons; basic topography of the spinal cord and brain; major sensory and motor pathways; higher cortical functions. Neurological deficits resulting from stroke, brain trauma and other neuropathological processes; as well as implications for rehabilitation and psychotherapy are presented.

NFS 530 MACRONUTRIENT METABOLISM (3 credit hours)

Covers absorption, utilization, digestion, storage, and excretion of carbohydrates, lipids, and proteins.

NFS 531 MICRONUTRIENT METABOLISM (3 credit hours)

Covers absorption, utilization, digestion, storage, and excretion of vitamins, macrominerals, and microminerals.

STAT 602 DECISION SCIENCE I (3 credit hours)

Concentrates on the application of quantitative decision-making models to significant problem situations in business and government. Emphasizes statistical inference techniques, including hypothesis testing, simple and multiple linear regression and correlation, analysis of variance models, non-parametric methods, and computer applications.

STAT 628 Regression & Correlation Analysis (3 credit hours)

Covers techniques of simple and multiple linear regression models, including residual analysis, assumption violations, variable selection techniques, correlated independent variables, qualitative input and output variables, ridge regression, polynomial and non-linear regression, regression with time-series data, forecasting, and normal correlation models.

IV. ACADEMIC POLICIES

A. Academic Advising

In order to ensure timely and correct completion of the curriculum, students should consult regularly with their academic advisor. Academic advisors serve to provide career advice, are well-connected with public health resources locally, nationally, and internationally, and are excellent sounding boards for advice on educational and professional matters. In most instances, entering students will be assigned an academic advisor by the Department Chair and will be notified of their advisor prior to the start of classes. The academic advisor will usually remain with the student and serve as the students supervising professor for their dissertation work. However, students are permitted to change advisors. Request for an advisor change should be made to the PhD Program Director. If a change approved by the PhD Program Director is made after a supervising professor form has been filed with the University, a new form must be submitted.

B. Course Registration

In their first term, students in the PhD in Epidemiology program will be registered by the Department following the grid above. All students will be encouraged to communicate with their advisors prior to the start of classes. If an alternate course plan for the first term is devised and approved by the advisor, Georgeanne Talarico (glt23@drexel.edu) should be notified at least two weeks prior to the start of classes. Once a Plan of Study Worksheet is filed with the Department students can register for courses themselves through the DrexelOne portal <https://one.drexel.edu/cp/home/displaylogin>. If you have any questions on how to self-register contact Georgeanne Talarico for assistance.

C. Letter Grade Definitions, Point Equivalency, and Credit

A: The student has exceeded the required standards and expectations of academic performance. A letter grade of “A” carries four (4.0) grade points. Performance at the “A” letter grade level is indicative of exemplary achievement of course objectives. A designation of **A+** can be given at the instructor’s discretion to acknowledge students of highest distinction – however the A+ grade still carries four (4.0) grade points.

A-: The student has met the required standards and expectations of academic performance slightly below the exceptional level. A letter grade of “A-” carries 3.7 grade points. Feedback to students – both written and verbal – should define the specific areas where improvement is needed.

B+: The student has met the required standards and expectations of academic performance slightly above the satisfactory level. A letter grade of “B+” carries 3.3 grade points. Feedback to students – both written and verbal – should define the specific areas where improvement is needed.

B: The student has met the required standards and expectations of academic performance at a satisfactory level. Performance at this level is indicative of good academic work with command of factual knowledge. The student’s critical analysis and synthesis skills are appropriate but not exceptional. A letter grade of B carries three (3.0) grade points.

B-: The student has met the required standards and expectations of academic performance slightly below the satisfactory level. A letter grade of “B-” carries 2.7 grade points. Feedback to students – both written and verbal – should define the specific areas where improvement is

needed.

C+: The student has met the required standards and expectations of academic performance slightly above the marginally acceptable level. A letter grade of “C+” carries 2.3 grade points. Feedback to students – both written and verbal – should define the specific areas where improvement is needed.

D. Adding/Dropping/Withdrawing

Adding a course:

During the pre-enrollment period through the end of the second week of classes for the term, all students, with the exception of 1st term freshmen, may add courses that are free from restrictions/permissions, by using BANNER Web for Students. Instructor or academic unit approval is conditional on class size limitations. Regardless of when a student adds a course, the student is responsible for meeting all course requirements as mandated by the specific course syllabus.

Dropping a course:

For both graduate and undergraduate students, courses may only be dropped during the “drop period” lasting from the beginning of the enrollment period through the end of the second week of the quarter. Dropping a course results in the course being removed from the student’s academic record without a “W” appearing on the transcript—specifically, neither the course nor the grade of “W” appears on the student’s transcript.

Withdrawing from a course:

Graduate students may withdraw from a course during the “withdrawal period” lasting from the beginning of the third week through the end of the sixth week of the quarter.

Withdrawing from a course causes both the name of the course and the grade of “W” to appear on the student’s transcript.

Before withdrawing from a course, students should consult with the instructor. All students must obtain their advisor’s written authorization before withdrawing from courses. Written authorization is obtained once the instructor has signed the “ENROLL/WITHDRAW” form available from Student Administrative Services’ web page: <<http://www.drexel.edu/SRC/forms.asp>>.

More detailed information on the above policies is available at <http://www.drexel.edu/provost/graduatestudies/policies.asp#addwithdraw>.

E. Incompletes

If the student does not complete assigned work during the prescribed period, the notation, “I” (incomplete), may be given by the instructor. It is expected that the student will initiate a meeting with the instructor prior to the end of the quarter to discuss the work expectations and establish a mutually agreed upon timeline for completion. If the work is not completed within the time allowed by the instructor, which is a maximum of one calendar year, a final grade of “F” will be recorded and the student may be required to repeat the course for credit.

A student with two or more incomplete grades will not be allowed to register for additional courses without permission from the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

F. Academic Calendar

Students can find current and upcoming University academic calendars at:
www.drexel.edu/provost/calendars/quarter

G. Academic Integrity

As detailed in the Drexel University Student Handbook, plagiarism, cheating, forgery or other forms of academic misconduct are not tolerated at this institution and if allegations of misconduct related to academic integrity are upheld, a student may be expelled from the school. It is the responsibility of each student to ensure that his/her study and participation in the academic process is so conducted that there can be no question concerning his/her integrity. All assignments, unless clearly designated group projects, are expected to be the work of the individual student. Any use of ideas, data or wording of another person must include explicit acknowledgement of the source. Failure to give such credit is plagiarism. Any alteration/fabrication of data or inaccurate reporting of actual participation in an assignment are examples of academic misconduct. Any violations of the above will be dealt with utilizing the procedures outlined in the University Student Handbook which is available online at <http://www.drexel.edu/studentlife/SLhandbook.htm>.

Turnitin: Some courses may use Turnitin to submit written assignments. Faculty can also use Turnitin at their discretion to evaluate any student writing submitted, including dissertation proposals and dissertations.

H. Leave of Absence

Doctoral students who find it necessary to take a leave of absence from the University should seek advice from their departmental graduate advisors or supervising professor. On recommendation of the student's advisor, the PhD program director, and the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, a student may take a leave of absence for up to a maximum of two years consecutively or separately for reasons of military service, family care, serious illness or another reason deemed adequate for interrupting graduate studies. The doctoral student must submit a request in writing with the approval of their departmental Graduate Advisor and Supervising Professor to the Office of Graduate Studies. The Associate Vice Provost for Graduate Studies will give the final approval. Leaves of absence do not stop the time-to-degree requirement unless they are taken for service in the military, maternity, enrollment in an approved professional degree or other special circumstances.

I. Maintenance of Matriculation

All matriculated School of Public Health students are required to be registered each quarter in order to continue to be degree candidates, unless they have requested and have received permission for a formal leave of absence. Informal leave of absence arrangements are not acceptable and will not be honored retroactively.

Matriculated students who fail to obtain a leave of absence or register for a semester will be subject to termination of their matriculated status and may be administratively withdrawn and dropped from the rolls of the School of Public Health. Reinstatement to matriculated status for students who are administratively withdrawn will require petition to, and action by, the Admissions Committee. Such students will be treated as new applicants requesting admission with advanced standing. They will be required to file a new application and pay the application fee again.

J. Grievance Policies and Procedures

The School of Public Health encourages open student-faculty communication and discussion to affect a satisfactory solution to problems relating to academic matters. Academic issues should be discussed with the faculty member, program director and department Chair. If the issue is not solved at these levels, the student may seek help or advice informally by contacting the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs of the School of Public Health. The student may speak to the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs confidentially and informally, without filing a complaint. If no complaint is filed, no record will be kept. Further consideration may be pursued through the Drexel University Academic Appeals Process as outlined in the Drexel University Handbook.

To submit a formal complaint, the student must address a letter to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and the Dean, stating the specific complaint. The Dean will review the complaint, gather supporting material and render a decision within 10 days from receipt of the letter.

K. Voluntary withdrawal from the program

Students who wish to withdraw from the program should do so in consultation with their advisor, the Program Director and the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs. Students must then submit a letter of intent to withdraw to the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and complete an exit interview with the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs.

L. Probation/Dismissal

A student may be placed on probation or dismissed from the PhD program due to academic misconduct, a GPA falling below a 3.0 (note that a 3.3 or above GPA is required for graduation), or unsatisfactory completion of the comprehensive exam, candidacy exam, or dissertation. Remediation is at the discretion of the PhD Director and faculty advisor. For additional information on probation or dismissal, see the Drexel University SPH Handbook.

M. Time Limits

A student has a total of seven years from initial enrollment to completion of dissertation to satisfy requirements for the PhD degree. Exceptions may be made in the case of an approved, extended leave of absence (see above).

V. GRADUATION

Graduation Requirements

The following conditions must be met in order for a student to receive a degree:

- An Application for Degree must be filed no later than deadlines specified.
- A Completion Form (which can be found at the back of this handbook on page 45 and at: www.drexel.edu/provost/graduatestudies/forms/Completion_Form.pdf) must be filed with the Office of Graduate Studies before the first day of final exam week for the term a student plans to graduate.
- Specific course requirements must be completed for the program or major in which the student is enrolled.

- A grade point average of 3.3 or higher must be achieved for all coursework undertaken at Drexel University.
- A student must be matriculated in his or her school or college (*registered for at least 1 credit*) during the term in which he or she completes the requirements.
- All grades for required courses must be submitted. No student will be approved for a degree while an unreported grade for a required course remains on his or her record.
- A master's student must receive final approval for graduation from his or her department representative.
- A doctoral student must receive final approval for graduation from the Office of Graduate Studies.
- Students must satisfy all financial obligations to the University.
- If for any reason a student does not meet all requirements for graduation two days before commencement, he or she cannot graduate until the term in which all requirements are met.
- If a student completes all requirements for graduation in any term other than the spring term, the degree will be awarded in the term in which the requirements are met. All financial obligations to the University must be met before the student receives his or her diploma.

Form	Due
Application for Degree Form http://www.drexel.edu/SRC/application_for_degree.asp	no later than deadline specified in academic calendar (02/16/09 for the spring of 2009)
Completion Form-Page 57 www.drexel.edu/src/forms.asp	Form must be filed (via Drexel One) with the Office of Graduate Studies before the first day of final exam week for the term a student plans to graduate.

VI. FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

A. Department Scholarships

At the discretion of the Department, full or partial tuition scholarships and stipends can be made available to highly qualified applicants.

B. Research Assistantships Scholarships

The Department may also have Research Assistantship Scholarships available that are associated with extramurally funded research projects. These cover all tuition and fees as well as provide a stipend. Students offered these opportunities commit to working on a specific research project and typically will work to develop their dissertation on a topic closely related to the funded research project. The number of Research Assistantship Scholarships available each year depends on department research funding.

C. University Teaching Assistantships

University TA positions may also be available for 2nd year (or higher) students and, occasionally, highly-qualified first-year students. These positions provide a stipend and cover full tuition and fees. As a University TA, students will be asked to assist faculty members with grading homework assignments and exams, holding office hours for students, or teaching/facilitating courses. University TAs will work as TAs in at least one course per term.

D. Other TA Opportunities

Students who are not University TAs may also be given opportunities to work as TAs on a course-by-course basis (for hourly compensation).

E. Other Financial Assistance

The Financial Aid office can also assist students in finding the resources necessary to attend Drexel University. The Financial Aid office assists students in seeking and applying for grants, scholarships and loans to help meet their educational costs.

Drexel University awards financial aid funds to students through numerous loan, scholarship, and grant programs, including Federal Work-Study. Funds are awarded to students based on financial need with the neediest students funded first. Some scholarship funds are available for students based on financial need and academic merit.

All students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in order to be considered for financial aid. The electronic version of this form, as well as additional Drexel University financial aid information can be found here: <http://www.drexel.edu/provost/financialaid/> Students wishing to be considered for financial assistance may also be required to complete an institutional financial aid application, and provide copies of the students', and in some cases, parents' prior year's federal income tax return.

VII. STUDENT RESOURCES

A. Student Housing

Drexel provides the opportunity for housing in one hall adjacent to the Center City campus. Vacancies in Stiles Hall can be filled by public health students. More information on Stiles Hall can be found here: <http://www.drexel.cchc/studentlife/default.asp?id=136>

B. Center City Student Service Offices

Many student services are available to Center City students in satellite offices. These offices are in place so that Center City students will not have to travel to the main campus in order to receive assistance. The following services are available:

Student Services Office, New College Building (NCB), Room 1106
Consultation with the Drexel Dean of Students, multicultural programs, judicial affairs

Center for Student Academic Resources, NCB, Room 1602
Tutoring, study skill development, academic counseling

Counseling Center, Bellet 3rd floor
Personal counseling and group counseling

Students seeking other services and who are unable to identify who they need to contact for help, should consult with the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs. Additional student services information is available here: www.drexel.edu/studentlife/default.htm

C. DragonCard

The DragonCard is the Drexel University Identification card for students, staff, and faculty. The card should be carried at all times as it allows access to campus buildings.

D. Drexel University Email Account

All active students, faculty, and staff are eligible for email accounts on the Drexel Mail server (mail.drexel.edu).

To pick up your account, go the Computer Accounts Management Service on the web at www.drexel.edu/IRT/services/accounts/ and follow the prompts. If you are picking up your first account, you will be asked some personal questions for authentication of your identity and will be required to read and affirm your compliance with the **Acceptable Use Policy**. You will then be able to "activate" your account.

E. Computer Access

Doctoral students are encouraged to obtain a laptop computer. Many assignments, especially in methods courses, require individual or small group computer work. The SPH has a wireless network (the Dragonfly Network) on which students can access the internet and connect to the Blackboard website for each of their classes as well Drexel University webmail and other University websites. Go to www.drexel.edu/IRT/support/wireless for help configuring your laptop for Dragonfly.

The Center City campus has some computer centers where students can access computer workstations and printers. One lab is located in the New College Building on the first floor of the Hahnemann Library. For more information and a schedule of availability of the labs please access: www.library.drexel.edu/calendars/?cmd=calmonth&ncmd=startup&cal=cal6

In Bellet, Room 304 (the SMART classroom) has 11 computers that are available for student use during certain hours of the week. These are posted outside the room.

F. Library

Public health students have access to several libraries located throughout Philadelphia. The Hahnemann Library, located on the first and second floors of the New College Building, is the best resource for public health students. The library has a number of paper and electronic resources available, as well as support staff to assist students in locating materials and information. The library maintains subscriptions to a number of leading journals which can be accessed online. The W.W. Hagerty library is located on the Drexel main campus and the Learning resources Center on the Queen Lane campus are alternate library sites available to public health students. Learn more about the Drexel library system here: www.library.drexel.edu/healthsciences/defaultHS.html

G. Student Government

Consistent with the School's mission and values statement, the School of Public Health is committed to a philosophy that embraces and endorses both the rights and responsibilities of its student body. Moreover, student representation is included within appropriate standing committees of the School. The School of Public Health Student Organization is the vehicle for formal representation. The overall purpose of the organization is to promote communication, collaboration between the School and the student body, and intellectual stimulation among students, Drexel University and the community-at-large.

All School of Public Health students are voting members within this organization and are encouraged to contribute their time and services to the activities of the organization. The organization elects student representatives as voting members for several standing and ad hoc committees of the School of Public Health and the University. These activities provide an avenue for students to participate actively in all levels of Drexel University's governmental system and ensure that the student body is kept informed of School of Public Health and University policy matters. School of Public Health Student Government Organization officers and graduate students who are representatives to councils and committees must be in good academic standing.

H. Transportation

Drexel University provides shuttle service between the three major campus locations: Main campus, Center City, and Queen Lane. Shuttles run on a regular schedule, which can be found here: www.drexel.edu/admin/publicsafety/shuttle_service.htm. A valid Dragon Card is required to use the shuttle services.

In addition, the city of Philadelphia has an excellent public transportation system/ SEPTA (Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority) bus, trolley, subway, and regional rail schedules can be found here: www.septa.org

The School of Public Health and the University may, at any time, change any provisions, curricular requirements, bylaws, rules, regulations and policies and procedures as may be necessary in the interest of the University, the School of Public Health and its students.

Appendix A

Table of Potential Elective Courses

The table below lists potential electives by term offered and provides scheduling and instructor contact information. Courses not listed on this table may also be taken as electives with advisor approval. As mentioned, more detailed descriptions of these courses are included in Appendix A.

DEPARTMENT ELECTIVES					
Course Number	Title	Quarter Credits	Day/Time	Instructor	Contact (email)
FALL 2009					
PBHL 520	Biostatistics	4	Tuesday/Thursday 9:00 – 10:50	E. Gracely	egracely@drexelmed.edu
PBHL 620	Intermediate Biostatistics I	3	Tuesday 9:00 – 11:50	Z. Berhane	Zb26@drexel.edu
PBHL 623	Biostatistics Computing	3	Thursday 3:00 – 5:50	J. Ventre	
PBHL 628	Survival Data Analysis	3	Wednesday 9:00 – 11:50	Z. Berhane	Zb26@drexel.edu
PBHL 630	Intermediate Epidemiology	3	Monday 9:00 – 11:50 Tuesday 2:00 – 3:00	C. Newschaffer	cnewscha@drexel.edu
PBHL 633	Epidemiology of Cancer	3	Monday 12:00 – 2:50	A. Evans	Alison.evans@drexel.edu
PBHL 683	Advanced Clinical Trials & Exper. Design	3	Thursday 9:00 – 11:50	M. Polansky	Mp39@drexel.edu
PBHL 831	Epidemiology PhD Seminar I	1	Wednesday 3:00 – 4:00	C. Newschaffer	cnewscha@drexel.edu
PBHL 832	Epidemiology PhD Seminar II	2	Thursday 2:00 – 3:50	A. Auchincloss	Aha27@drexel.edu
PBHL XXX	Causal Inferences	3			
WINTER 2009					
PBHL 530	Epidemiology	4	Tuesday/Thursday 9:00 – 10:50	M. Hovinga	Meh56@drexel.edu
PBHL 621	Intermediate Biostatistics II	3	Wednesday 9:00 – 11:50	Z. Berhane	Zb26@drexel.edu
PBHL 622	Intro Biostatistics Theory	3	Monday 1:00 – 2:50 Thursday 1:00 – 1:50	I. Zakeri	lfz23@drexel.edu
PBHL XXX	Biostatistics Theory Lab	1-3	Thursday 2:00 – 2:50	I. Zakeri	lfz23@drexel.edu
PBHL 625	Longitudinal Data Analysis	3	Tuesday 9:00 – 11:50		
PBHL 629	Design & Analysis of Clinical Trials	3	Thursday 9:00 – 11:50	M. Polansky	Mp39@drexel.edu
PBHL 631	Applied Multivariate Analysis	3	Wednesday 1:00 – 3:50	I. Zakeri	lfz23@drexel.edu
PBHL 632	Applied Survey Research in Epi	3	Tuesday 9:00 – 11:50	J. Mossey Y. Michael	Jm55@drexel.edu
PBHL 638	Perinatal Epidemiology	3	Tuesday 1:00 – 3:50	N. Lee	Nll25@drexel.edu
PBHL 639	Cardiovascular Disease Epidemiology	3	Monday 9:00 – 11:50	L. Liu	Ll85@drexel.edu
PBHL 830	Advanced	4	Monday/Wedn	S. Welles	Slw58@drexel.edu

	Epidemiology		esday 1:00 – 2:50	A. Evans	Alison.evans@drexel.edu
PBHL 832	Epidemiology PhD Seminar II	2	Thursday 2:00 – 3:50	A. Auchincloss	Aha27@drexel.edu
SPRING 2009					
PBHL 623	Biostatistics Computing	3	Wednesday 3:30 – 6:20	C. Mathews	
PBHL XXX	Advanced Statistical Computing	3		L. Philip	Lpp22@drexel.edu
PBHL 634	Epidemiology for Public Health Practice	3	Tuesday 9:00 – 11:50	L. Liu	LI85@drexel.edu
PBHL 635	Social/Psychiatric Epidemiology	3	Tuesday 1:00 – 3:50	J. Mossey	Jm55@drexel.edu
PBHL 636	Infectious Disease Epidemiology	3	Wednesday 9:00 – 11:50	A. Evans	Alison.evans@drexel.edu
PBHL 684	Biostatistics Theory II	3	Monday 1:00 – 3:50	I. Zakeri	lfz23@drexel.edu
PBHL 685	Data Analysis Project	3			
PBHL 832	Epidemiology PhD Seminar II	2	Thursday 1:00 – 2:50	A. Auchincloss	Aha27@drexel.edu

NON DEPARTMENT ELECTIVES					
Course Number	Title	Quarter Credits	Day/Time	Other Scheduling/Registration Notes	Instructor/Contact (email)
FALL 2009					
PBHL 540	Behavioral Assessment	4	Mon/Thurs. 11-12:50		Augusta Villanueva av28@drexel.edu
PBHL 641	Environmental Hazard Assessment	3	Mon/Wed. 9-10:20	Pre-req 640 Environmental Health & 660 Occupational Health	
PBHL 643	Occupational Toxicology	3	Monday 1-3:50	Pre-req 640 Environmental Health & 660 Occupational Health	
PBHL 825	Measuring Health	3	Wednesday 1-3:50	Pre-req: PBHL 520 & 530	
BIO 644	Human Genetics	3	Thursday 6 – 8:50	Pre-req.: BIO 500 Biochemistry I	Felice Elefant fe22@drexel.edu
ENVS 501	Chemistry of the Environment	3	Wednesday 6-8:50		Daniel King daniel.king@drexel.edu
ENVS 636	Principals of Toxicology I	3	Online Del	Need to have taken a Biochemistry & Human Physiology course.	Dona Huggins dona.jane.huggins@drexel.edu
MATH 510	Applied Probability & Statistics I	3	Wednesday 6- 8:50		Eric Schmutz eschmutz@math.drexel.edu
MIIM 512S	Molecular Pathogenesis I	4.5	TBA	Semester course: Needs reciprocal enrollment application	
MIIM 508S	Immunology I	4.5	TBA	Semester course: Needs reciprocal enrollment application	

WINTER 2009					
PBHL 640	Environmental Health	4	Mon/Wed 9 -10:50		
PBHL 645	Environmental Toxicology	3	Monday 1-3:50		
PBHL 650	Public Policy	3	Mon/Thurs 1-2:20		Dennis Gallager dmg44@drexel.edu
PBHL 611	Race, Ethnicity, & Health	3	Wednesday 1 – 3:50	Pre-req: PBHL 600 & PBHL 650	
PBHL 808	Community Program Evaluation	3	Tuesday 1-3:50	Pre-req: PBHL 801	
BIO 631	Bioinformatics I	3	Tues/Thurs 11 – 12:20		Jacob Russell Jacob.A.Russell@drexel.edu
BIO 633	Bioinformatics I Lab	2	Friday 8 – 9:50	Need to take with BIO 631	Jacob Russell Jacob.A.Russell@drexel.edu
ENVS 637	Principles of Toxicology II	3	Online Del	Pre-req.: ENVS 636 Toxicology I	Dona Huggins dona.jane.huggins@drexel.edu
MATH 511	Applied Probability & Statistics II	3	Wednesday 6-8:50	Pre-req: MATH 510	Eric Schmutz eschmutz@math.drexel.edu
NFS 530	Macronutrient Metabolism	3	Tuesday 6 – 8:50		Jennifer Nasser jennifer.a.nasser@drexel.edu
SPRING 2009					
PBHL 550	Community Assessment	4	TBA		
PBHL 649	Occupational & Environmental Cancers	3	TBA		
PBHL 805	Qualitative Research in Community Health	3	TBA		
BIO 650	Virology	3	Wednesday 6-8:50	Pre-req.: BIO 500 Biochemistry I Offered every other year	Veronica Holmes
BMES 604	Pharmacogenomics	3	Tues/Thurs 11 – 12:20		
MATH 512	Applied Probability & Statistics III	3	TBA	Pre-req: MATH 511	
NEUR 534	Neuroscience	3	TBA	Requires permission from the College of Nursing	
NFS 531	Micronutrient Metabolism	3	Monday 6-8:50	Need to have taken a Biochemistry & Basic Nutrition Course	Jennifer Nasser jennifer.a.nasser@drexel.edu

Additional Elective Options:

Please note: these courses are currently not scheduled and may not be offered this academic year, 2009-2010.

Course #	Name	Credits	Course Description
ENVS 516	Sanitary Microbiology	3	Covers microscopic life forms of sanitary significance, with emphasis on bacteria, viruses, algae, fungi, and protozoa. Includes a thorough coverage of water and wastewater microbiology, especially transmission of waterborne diseases, bacterial indicators of pollution, and the microbiology of wastewater treatment.
FDSC 550	Food Microbiology	3	Discusses factors affecting microbial growth in foods. Also covers methods of enumeration of food-borne organisms, microbial spoilage of foods, foods and ingredients from fermentation, food-borne pathogens and their control, and sanitation and HACCP in food processing.
PBHL 660	Occupational Health	4	Introduces concepts, theories, and programmatic applications within the field of occupational health.
PBHL 661	Occupational & Environmental Diseases	3	It covers topics related to lung diseases caused by occupational and or environmental exposures.
BIO 526	Immunology	3	Covers the fundamental concepts of innate and adaptive immunity, including the molecular and cellular mechanisms that generate responses to a broad spectrum of infectious threats, self/non-self recognition, immune regulation.
BIO 675	Advanced Immunology	3	Covers failure in host defense, immunotherapies, clinical concepts in immunology, and emerging concepts in immunology research. Material is presented in a combination of a Lecture and Journal club format with a focus on class participation, presentation and discussion.
MIIM 513	Molecular Pathogenesis II	4.5	
MIIM 607	Immunology II	4.5	This is an advanced course in immunology covering various aspects of contemporary cellular and molecular biology. It consists of some didactic sessions followed by reading and discussion of current literature. The prerequisites for this course are a graduate level course in immunology and permission of the instructor.
STAT 602	Decision Sciences I	3	Concentrates on the application of quantitative decision-making models to significant problem situations in business and government. Emphasizes statistical inference techniques, including hypothesis testing, simple and multiple linear regression and correlation, analysis of variance models, non-parametric methods, and computer applications.
STAT 628	Regression & Correlation Analysis	3	Covers techniques of simple and multiple linear regression models, including residual analysis, assumption violations, variable selection techniques, correlated independent variables, qualitative input and output variables, ridge regression, polynomial and non-linear regression, regression with time-series data, forecasting, and normal correlation models.

Appendix B

Doctoral Program Forms

I. PhD Epidemiology Three Year Study Plan Worksheet

STUDY PLAN-YEAR 1			
Course	Department Required Course	Department Elective Course	Other Elective
Fall			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Winter			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spring			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

STUDY PLAN-YEAR 2			
Course	Department Required Course	Department Elective Course	Other Elective
Fall			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Winter			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spring			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

STUDY PLAN-YEAR 3			
Course	Department Required Course	Department Elective Course	Other Elective
Fall			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Winter			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spring			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Advisor Name: _____

Advisor Signature: _____

Please return to Georgeanne Talarico once completed.
 Bellet Building, Room 608
 Philadelphia, PA 19102
 215-762-2501
 gtl23@drexel.edu

Substantial changes in the study plan should be approved by advisor with an updated plan submitted before registering for classes.

Drexel University
Office of Research and Graduate Studies
PhD Plan of Study

Form D-1

This form is to be completed by the student after consultation with his/her Supervising Professor. This plan should be filed with the Office of Research and Graduate Studies prior to the fourth term of study.

Student Name (Last, First, Middle) _____

Student ID # _____

E-mail Address _____

Doctoral Degree: _____
School _____
Department _____

Required Examinations:	Anticipated Date:
Candidacy Examination	_____
Dissertation Defense	_____

Note: Some programs may establish additional requirements.

Signatures:	Date:
Student	
_____	_____

Approvals:		
Supervising Professor	_____	_____
PhD Program Director	_____	_____
Research and Graduate Studies	_____	_____

Master's degree received
(name institution and date) _____

Note: Provide a copy of your master's level transcript with this form *****# post-masters credits are required for a PhD degree.

Drexel University
Office of Research and Graduate Studies
Supervising Professor Appointment

Form D-2

This form is to be completed by the student and filed with the Office of Research and Graduate Studies no later than the second term of study at Drexel University. The Supervising Professor must be a tenured or tenure-track faculty member of the Department, School of Public Health, Drexel University. If you wish to name a Research or non-tenure track staff member as your Supervising Professor, you must also select a Co-Supervising Professor who is a tenured or tenure-track Drexel faculty member from the Department.

Student Name (Last, First, Middle): _____

Student ID #: _____

E-mail address: _____

Professor _____ has agreed to serve as my Supervising
Professor for work toward the PhD Degree in (dept.) _____

Professor _____ has agreed to serve as my Co-Supervising Professor.

Signatures:		Date:
Student		
Supervising Professor	_____	_____
Co-Supervising Professor	_____	_____
(if named above)	_____	_____
PhD Program Director	_____	_____

Approval:
Research and Graduate Studies _____

Drexel University
Office of Research and Graduate Studies
PhD Candidacy Committee Appointment & Exam Schedule

Form D-3

This form must be filed with the Office of Research and Graduate Studies at least four (4) weeks prior to the scheduled date of the examination. The committee consists of at least five members, at least three of whom must be tenured or tenure-track Drexel University faculty members. The chair is the supervising professor. At least one member must be from another department with graduate faculty status, or a faculty member from another university holding a position commensurate to graduate faculty status at Drexel University. At least one member must be from public health practice.

Student Name (Last, First, Middle): _____

Student ID#: _____

Appointment of the following persons to serve on the PhD Thesis Advisory Committee is hereby requested:

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------|-------|--|
| 1. | (Committee Chair) | Dept. | |
| 2. | | Dept. | |
| 3. | | Dept. | |
| 4. | | Dept. | |
| 5. | | Dept. | |
| 6. | | Dept. | |

Date, hour and location of examination: _____

Signatures:	Date:
Student	
Supervising Professor	
Co-Dissertation Chair (if named)	
PhD Program Director	

Approval:

Research and Graduate Studies _____

Drexel University
Office of Research and Graduate Studies
Report of PhD Candidacy Requirements

Form D-4

This form and all accompanying Forms D-4a must be filed with the Office of Research and Graduate Studies by the Supervising Professor - *not the student* - within 48 hours of candidacy determination. In the case of disagreement, the Supervising Professor should consult with the Office of Research and Graduate Studies

We have examined _____

Student ID #: _____ who is pursuing the PhD degree.

The results of the qualifying examination on _____ WERE / WERE NOT satisfactory.
(date)

The results of the candidacy requirements WERE / WERE NOT satisfactory.

Each committee member must sign this form to show either agreement with or dissent from the overall result.

Chair _____

We dissent from the report: _____

Signatures: _____ Date: _____
Supervising Professor _____
PhD Program Director _____

Approval:
Research and Graduate Studies _____

Drexel University
Office of Research and Graduate Studies
Candidacy Examination Committee Member Report

Form D-4a

This form should be duplicated and provided to each Committee member. One copy of this report is to be completed by each member of the PhD Thesis Advisory Committee and returned to the Chair of the Committee. The Chair shall forward all reports to the Office of Research and Graduate Studies. Please retain a copy of this report for your file.

Form D-4 and all accompanying forms D-4a must be filed with the Office of Research and Graduate Studies by the Committee Chair or the - *not the student* - within 48 hours of candidacy determination.

Student Name (Last, First, Middle) _____
Student ID # _____
Date of the examination _____

Please provide a brief but substantive report on the performance of the student.

Print name of Committee member

Signature of Committee member

Date

Drexel University
Office of Research and Graduate Studies
Thesis Advisory Committee Appointment

Form D-5

To be filed at least three months prior to the final defense.

The committee consists of at least five members, at least three of whom must be tenured or tenure-track Drexel University faculty members. The chair is the supervising professor. At least one member must be from another department with graduate faculty status, or a faculty member from another university holding a position commensurate to graduate faculty status at Drexel University. At least one member must be from public health practice.

Student Name (Last, First, Middle): _____
Student ID#: _____
E-Mail Address: _____

Appointment of the following persons to serve on the PhD Thesis Advisory Committee is hereby requested:

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------|-------|-------|
| 1. | _____ | Dept. | _____ |
| | (Dissertation Chair) | | |
| 2. | _____ | Dept. | _____ |
| 3. | _____ | Dept. | _____ |
| 4. | _____ | Dept. | _____ |
| 5. | _____ | Dept. | _____ |
| 6. | _____ | Dept. | _____ |

Signatures:		Date:
Student	_____	_____
Dissertation Chair	_____	_____
Co-Dissertation Chair (if named)	_____	_____
PhD Program Director	_____	_____

Approval:
Research and Graduate
Studies _____

Drexel University
Office of Research and Graduate Studies
PhD Final Oral Defense Committee Appointment and Schedule
Form D-6

This form is to be filed with the Graduate Studies Office
at least four (4) weeks prior to the final defense.

The committee consists of at least five members, at least three of whom must be tenured or tenure-track Drexel University faculty members. The chair is the supervising professor. At least one member must be from another department with graduate faculty status, or a faculty member from another university holding a position commensurate to graduate faculty status at Drexel University. At least one member must be from public health practice.

Student Name (Last, First, Middle): _____

Student ID#: _____

Appointment of the following persons to serve on the PhD Final Defense Committee is hereby requested:

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------|-------|-------|
| 1. | _____ | Dept. | _____ |
| | (Committee Chair) | | |
| 2. | _____ | Dept. | _____ |
| 3. | _____ | Dept. | _____ |
| 4. | _____ | Dept. | _____ |
| 5. | _____ | Dept. | _____ |
| 6. | _____ | Dept. | _____ |

Date, hour and location of examination: _____

Research Topic or Thesis Title: _____

Signatures: _____ Date: _____

Student _____

Supervising Professor _____

Co-Dissertation Chair (if named) _____

PhD Program Director _____

Approval: _____

Research and Graduate Studies _____

Drexel University
Office of Research and Graduate Studies
Report of PhD Final Oral Defense Committee

Form D-7

This form must be filed with the Office of Research and Graduate Studies by the Dissertation Chair
- *not the student* - within 48 hours of the exam.

We have examined _____

Student ID #: _____ who is pursuing the PhD degree.

The results of the final dissertation defense on _____ WERE / WERE NOT satisfactory.
(date)

Each committee member must sign this form to show either agreement with or dissent from the overall result.

Chair _____

We dissent from the report: _____

Signatures: _____ Date: _____
Supervising Professor _____
Co-Supervising _____
Professor (if named) _____
PhD Program Director _____

Approval:
Research and Graduate Studies _____

Drexel University
Office of Research and Graduate Studies
Thesis Approval Form
(For Masters and Doctoral Students)

Hagerty Library will bond a copy of this form with each copy of your thesis/dissertation.

This thesis, entitled:

and authored by _____, is hereby accepted and approved.

Signatures:

Chairman, Examining Committee:

Supervising Professor:

Committee Members:

PhD Program Director:

Department Head:
