



EMORY

L A N E Y  
GRADUATE  
S C H O O L

Epidemiology



One of six Public Health Sciences doctoral programs at the Laney Graduate School, the Epidemiology program is administered through the Department of Epidemiology at the Rollins School of Public Health.

Public Health

## Epidemiology

The Epidemiology program trains future leaders in public health. Our curriculum is grounded in the methodologies of epidemiology and biostatistics enabling graduates to contribute new thinking to the field. These methodologies are applied to a broad range of clinical and public health concerns domestically and globally, including cancer, cardiovascular disease, environmental exposures, infectious diseases, and reproduction.

Our graduates leave with strong methodological skills, poised to expand the scientific knowledge of the nature of disease in human populations by developing and testing new theories through epidemiologic studies. They are well prepared for positions in academia, government and private industry.

We are committed to a vision of epidemiology as more than a career for the disciplined mind. Epidemiology is a profession where one works collaboratively with others to solve real-world problems. It is a field for researchers who are concerned for others and seek to contribute to the betterment of humankind.

### Abundant Research Opportunities

Our program offers a broad spectrum of research opportunities, through the Department of Epidemiology as well as through numerous health related organizations affiliated with the department.

We are closely involved with three Emory based research centers:

- **CENTER FOR AIDS RESEARCH (CFAR):** The Emory CFAR exists to facilitate the conduct of scientifically rigorous basic, clinical, translational, and behavioral research in HIV/AIDS and to connect HIV/AIDS researchers within and across scientific fields. It is one of 18 CFARs across the country funded by the National Institutes of Health, and helps facilitate the domestic and international research of over 100 Emory CFAR investigators and adjunct investigators who work in one or more of five HIV/AIDS research domains.

### Professional Development

Laney offers a range of programs that encourages students to develop their professional skills, engage with broader professional communities, and prepare for their careers.

Visit [gs.emory.edu](http://gs.emory.edu) to learn more.

- **GEORGIA CENTER FOR CANCER STATISTICS (GCCS):** The GCCS conducts research, teaching and service related to cancer surveillance and epidemiology. The Center operates cancer registries in Georgia, conducts analytic studies focused on cancer prevention and control, provides support to the cancer control program of the Georgia Department of Human Resources as well as to cancer registration and epidemiology for hospitals and other health care providers in the state. Projects are supported by a number of funding agencies, including the National Cancer Institute, the National Program for Cancer Registries of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Cancer Control Program of the Georgia Department of Human Resources.
- **WOMEN’S AND CHILDREN’S CENTER (WCC):** The WCC promotes the health and well-being of women and children through instruction, research, and practice. Research seeks to better understand the particular health risks experienced by vulnerable populations of women and children, and ways to provide health promotion and disease prevention care for these populations. WCC research involves multi-disciplinary teams of epidemiologists, social scientists, health services researchers, and clinicians, including public and private health providers in several states, including Georgia, Michigan, and South Carolina. The WCC is committed to translating research findings into improved public health services by providing educational experiences for practicing health care practitioners. With funding from federal grants and health foundations, the WCC writes state-of-the-art training packages, manuals, and other training materials to disseminate both research findings and new methodologies.



We collaborate closely with several other institutions with national and international reach, such as the Carter Center of Emory University, Morehouse Medical School, the Georgia Department of Public Health, the American Cancer Society (headquartered in Atlanta), and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)—the world’s preeminent public health agency, which is located adjacent to the Emory campus. Through these collaborations, students have access to challenging research projects as well as to career opportunities.

## Faculty

The epidemiology faculty represents a broad range of interests and affiliations. Many faculty members have joint appointments with other Emory University entities, such as the School of Medicine. We also have a large number of adjunct faculty members, often affiliated with the CDC and other organizations we collaborate with.

Faculty members are actively engaged in research in methodology, infectious diseases, cardiovascular diseases, cancer, reproductive, pediatric and perinatal epidemiology, social epidemiology, health disparities, neurological diseases, and environmental health. A sampling of ongoing research includes examining:

- Multi-generational effects of exposure to endocrine disrupting chemicals
- Oxidative stress, DNA repair and colorectal cancer
- Ambient air pollution and ER visits, birth defects and other health outcomes
- Genetic and environmental contributions to reproductive outcomes
- Geographic and racial differences in stroke incidence and mortality
- Understanding and controlling anti-microbial resistance.
- Developmental disabilities and family dynamics
- Physical activity and academic achievement
- The epidemiology of HIV/AIDS

Our website has a complete list of faculty, with information about research interests, publications, and more. Please visit [www.sph.emory.edu/cms/departments\\_centers/epi/faculty/index.php](http://www.sph.emory.edu/cms/departments_centers/epi/faculty/index.php).

## Curriculum

Students with a bachelors degree complete two years of coursework, and students with a post-baccalaureate degree in epidemiology complete one or two years of coursework. The average time to complete the degree is 5 years.

### Coursework

The curriculum emphasizes foundational courses and allows students flexibility in pursuing their own academic interests.

Courses in biostatistics, epidemiologic methods, and modeling lay the foundation for elective courses in specific areas such as cancer, cardiovascular disease, chronic disease, environmental health, infectious diseases, and reproductive and women's health.

### Research Experience

Students complete two research assistant rotations under faculty supervision during their first two years in the program. Each rotation is with a different faculty member and involves 200 hours over the course of a semester.

### Training in Teaching

Scientists are often also teachers, whether in formal education or in the process of presenting to lay persons. At Emory, all doctoral students receive training in pedagogy and other elements of teaching, through the Teaching Assistant Training and Teaching Opportunity Program (TATTO) administered by the Graduate School.

### Qualifying Exams

The qualifying examination is both written and oral. The written exam is taken during the summer following coursework completion. The oral portion is a presentation of the protocol for the dissertation research and also covers substantive material.

### Dissertation

The dissertation is an original research project developed in consultation with an advisor and a thesis committee. A sample of recent dissertation titles include:

- Initiation and progression of puberty in girls, and environmental exposures in a contemporary longitudinal cohort
- Adiposity and breast cancer: The role of genetic and modifiable risk factors
- Trends in in-hospital acute stroke care processes and stroke patient outcomes observed during operation of the Georgia Coverdell Acute Stroke Registry
- Race, place and scale: Residential segregation and racial disparities in very preterm birth
- Completeness and timeliness of infectious disease morbidity reporting

## Students

Our curriculum is highly quantitative and therefore we recruit students with excellent analytical skills and a strong background in math and science. Prerequisites include college calculus and biology.

A previous graduate degree in Epidemiology or any other field is not a requirement for admission, but typically those admitted already hold an advanced degree in Epidemiology or another area.



Approximately 45 students are enrolled at any given time, with 8 – 10 students joining the program each year.

Students graduate from the Ph.D. program well-trained for positions in academia, government and private industry. A sample of recent post-graduate placements include:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, including positions as Epidemic Intelligence Service Officers
- New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- Comprehensive Health Insights
- University of Florida College of Medicine, Department of Epidemiology
- Emory University, School of Medicine
- Post-doctoral position with the International Agency for Research on Cancer, World Health Organization
- The Taskforce for Global Health

## Contact Information

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## About the Rollins School of Public Health

At Emory's Rollins School of Public Health, students learn to identify, analyze, and intervene in today's most pressing public health issues. The school is located in Atlanta, Georgia, often referred to as the "Public Health Capital of the World"—the city is also home to the U.S Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; CARE; the American Cancer Society; The Carter Center; the Arthritis Foundation; numerous state and regional health agencies; and health-related research programs of Emory University's Woodruff Health Sciences Center. This setting is ideal for hands-on research, collaborations with the world's leading public health agencies, and interdisciplinary work with national and international organizations.

The school comprises six academic departments: behavioral sciences and health education, biostatistics, environmental and occupational health, epidemiology, health policy and management, global health, and hosts over 20 interdisciplinary centers as well as a distance learning program.

In addition to six doctoral programs offered through the Laney Graduate School, the Rollins School of Public Health offers Master of Public Health, Master of Science in Public Health, Master of Science in Clinical Research (jointly with the Emory School of Medicine), and dual degree MPH programs with the schools of business, law, medicine, physician assistant, and nursing.

Visit [www.sph.emory.edu](http://www.sph.emory.edu)

## Laney Graduate School Degree Programs

- Anthropology
- Art History
- Behavioral Sciences and Health Education
- Bioethics
- Biological and Biomedical Sciences
  - Biochemistry, Cell and Developmental Biology
  - Cancer Biology
  - Genetics and Molecular Biology
  - Immunology and Molecular Pathogenesis
  - Microbiology and Molecular Genetics
  - Molecular and Systems Pharmacology
  - Neuroscience
  - Population Biology, Ecology, and Evolution
- Biomedical Engineering
- Biostatistics
- Business
- Chemistry
- Clinical Psychology
- Cognition and Development (Psychology)
- Comparative Literature
- Computer Science and Informatics
- Development Practice
- Economics
- English
- Environmental Health Sciences
- Environmental Sciences
- Epidemiology
- Film and Media Studies
- French
- History
- Health Services Research and Health Policy
- Islamic Civilizations Studies
- Mathematics
- MD/PhD
- Music
- Neuroscience and Animal Behavior (Psychology)
- Nursing
- Nutrition and Health Sciences
- Philosophy
- Physics
- Political Science
- Religion
- Sociology
- Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies



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Requests for Additional Information:

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<http://www.graduateschool.emory.edu>

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