EPIDEMIOLOGY PROGRAM

Director: Victor W. Henderson (Professor, Health Research and Policy, and Neurology and Neurological Sciences)

Advisory Committee: Stephen P. Fortmann (Professor, Medicine), John R. Huguenard (Associate Professor, Neurology and Neurological Sciences), Charles C. Prober (Professor, Pediatrics, and Microbiology and Immunology), Robert Tibshirani (Professor, Health Research and Policy)

Core Faculty and Academic Teaching Staff: Raymond R. Balise (Lecturer), Gary D. Friedman* (Consulting Professor), Mark Hlatky (Professor), Victor W. Henderson* (Professor), Abby C. King* (Professor), Lorene M. Nelson* (Associate Professor), Julie Parsonnet* (Professor), Rita A. Popat (Instructor), Dee W. West* (Professor), Alice S. Whittemore* (Professor)

Instructor: Kristin Cobb

* Member of the program steering committee

Program Offices: HRP Redwood Building, Room T213D,
Mail Code: 94305-5405
Phone: (650) 723-5456
Email: epiprogram@med.stanford.edu
Web Site: http://www.stanford.edu/dept/HRP/epidemiology/

GRADUATE INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAM IN EPIDEMIOLOGY

The Graduate Interdisciplinary Program in Epidemiology offers instruction and interdisciplinary research opportunities leading to the M.S. degree in Epidemiology. Core faculty and academic teaching staff are administratively housed in the Department of Health Research and Policy. Affiliated faculty come from Stanford University departments and centers and Bay Area research facilities. The program provides researchers from diverse clinical backgrounds with the knowledge and skills to become clinical investigators; it also provides an introduction to Epidemiology for students without a clinical background or research experience and students with research experience in the behavioral and social sciences. Research strengths include cancer epidemiology, cardiovascular disease epidemiology, infectious disease epidemiology, musculoskeletal disease epidemiology, neuroepidemiology, epidemiologic methods, genetic epidemiology, reproductive epidemiology and women’s health, and environmental and occupational epidemiology.

The program recognizes two academic tracks leading to the M.S. degree: the Traditional Epidemiology track for students without prior clinical training who are considering careers in epidemiology and for behavioral and social scientists who wish to bring an epidemiologic orientation to their research; and the Clinical Epidemiology track for physicians and others with specific interests in clinical research who receive training in epidemiologic methods, statistical analysis, and other areas essential to patient-oriented clinical research. Students in this track are typically clinical investigators with an M.D. or comparable clinical degree, often during the fellowship stage of their training.

To receive the degree, students in both instructional tracks are expected to obtain a grounding in epidemiologic methods and applied biostatistics and to demonstrate research skills through the completion of a master’s thesis. Required courses are HRP 225, Design and Conduct of Clinical and Epidemiologic Studies; HRP 226, Advanced Epidemiologic and Clinical Research Methods; HRP 236, Epidemiology Research Seminar; HRP 259, Introduction to Probability and Statistics for Epidemiology; HRP 261, Intermediate Biostatistics; HRP 262, Regression, Prediction, Survival Analysis; and a master’s thesis with 12 or more units of credit. Students in the Clinical Epidemiology track must also complete HRP 251, Design and Conduct of Clinical Trials; and MED 255, Responsible Conduct of Research. All students are required to select at least two other courses in Epidemiology. Students are assigned a methodology mentor, who is usually from the Department of Health Research and Policy, and a research mentor, who may be from another department. For the students in the Clinical Epidemiology track, the research mentor is often an affiliated faculty member from the department of the student’s clinical specialty. Other programmatic requirements are described in Graduate Interdisciplinary Program in Epidemiology, Information and Guidelines, available from the educational coordinator in the Department of Health Research and Policy.

COURSES

The course listings of individual departments participating in the Graduate Interdisciplinary Program in Epidemiology should be consulted for complete descriptions.