



Image Credit: John O'Boyle

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PHD) IN PUBLIC HEALTH

ABOUT

The Rutgers School of Public Health and Rutgers School of Graduate Studies' rigorous Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Public Health degree is designed to support public health professionals seeking a research-based graduate program, offering advanced study across five concentration areas.

PROGRAM FORMAT

The PhD in Public Health is a full-time program for candidates dedicated to doctoral-level research.

A specific course of study is followed by all PhD in Public Health concentration and specialization students. During a student's first and second years of study, they are required to complete Doctoral Colloquium I and II, respectively.

PhD students complete seminar coursework each semester that is dedicated to current topics in public health and professional development, fulfill a teaching experience, and are immersed in research. Students are expected to present and publish at least one first authored paper prior to their dissertation proposal defense.

Following the fulfillment of their course requirements, students will complete a comprehensive qualifying exam (written and oral), as well as a dissertation.

CURRICULUM

- Core Public Health Courses (9 credits)
- Advanced Areas of Public Health Theory and Analytical Courses (24 credits)*
- Specialization Courses (15 credits)*
- Doctoral Research (24 credits)

Total: Minimum of 72 credits

*Credit totals vary by concentration.

FAST FACTS



Funding: Tuition and stipend support available

Cohort Size: 5 - 8 Students

Total Credits: 72

Format: Full-Time, in-person

Concentrations: 5

Application Deadline:
December 1 (fall semester admission only)

Apply Today:



go.rutgers.edu/sph-apply

The rigorous PhD in Public Health program has been foundational in supporting my development as a public health researcher. As I continue my training, I am able to advance my research skills by leading my own doctoral research and by finding mentorship among prominent public health experts.

- Nimit, PhD Student and
F31 Grant Recipient

ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS & CONCENTRATIONS

Biostatistics and Epidemiology

- Biostatistics
- Epidemiology (specialized pharmacoepidemiology courses available)

Health Behavior, Society, and Policy

- Social and Behavioral Health Sciences
- Health Systems and Policy

Environmental and Occupational Health and Justice

- Environmental and Occupational Health

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Requirements for admission to the PhD in Public Health program is generally more stringent than those for the Master of Public Health or Master of Science programs. Considerable attention is given to the match between the expertise of the faculty and the specific interests of the candidate.

A complete application includes:

- Online application: visit go.rutgers.edu/sph-apply
- Official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended. Course-by-Course transcript evaluation required for all coursework completed outside of the U.S. or Canada
- Statement of goals, two-to-three pages in length, which addresses your:
 - Intended area of research
 - Career goals and aspirations, highlighting how the PhD in Public Health degree will help you reach them
 - Preparedness for the program, including breadth of experience and how it has contributed to your personal and professional growth
- Three letters of recommendation from academic or professional sources with at least one letter from an academic reference (preferred) if you are currently enrolled in a degree program or have graduated within the last four years
- Resume or CV
- GRE General Exam (optional)
- TOEFL or IELTS score for applicants educated in a non-native English-speaking country

DID YOU KNOW?

The school has several research centers and works closely with Rutgers University institutes:

- Center for Public Health Workforce Development
- Center for Health, Identity, Behavior & Prevention Studies
- Center on Gun Violence Research
- Cancer Health Equity Center of Excellence
- Center for South Asian Quantitative Health & Education
- Institute for Nicotine & Tobacco Studies
- Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute
- Institute for Health, Healthcare, Policy and Aging Research
- Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey
- ...and more

Ranked Among the Best in the Country

The school is ranked among the top 25 Best Graduate Schools in Public Health by U.S. News & World Report.

\$88 million

School primary faculty and students were directly awarded a historic \$88 million in federal grant/contract funding in 2023. These were prime awards made to Rutgers University.

Historic Endowment for LGBTQ+ Health

A \$3 million gift from James F. Dougherty, will fund the Perry N. Halkitis Endowed Chair in LGBTQ+ Public Health at the school.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Caleb is a PhD in Public Health candidate whose research focuses on human papillomavirus in transgender communities in New Jersey. Using qualitative and quantitative methods, the goal of his research is to better understand what transgender people experience when accessing HPV-related healthcare.