

Academic Assessment Plan

University of Florida

Academic Affairs

Academic Colleges

College of Public Health & Health Professions

Epidemiology

Epidemiology (MS)

M.S. in Epidemiology Program Mission

The Department of Epidemiology is uniquely housed in both the Colleges of Public Health and Health Professions and Medicine at the University of Florida. Faculty members are appointed in both Colleges. This forward governance structure was designed to create synergies resulting in a strong, competitive research profile and in highly trained students.

The mission of the new Department of Epidemiology is to improve health globally through education, training, research and service.

As a leader in the field, the Department aims to:

Advance the field's theoretical and empirical base through rigorous multidisciplinary epidemiological research that monitors health globally.

Prepare the next generation of scientific leaders to design and conduct ethical, relevant and innovative epidemiological studies.

Train a public health workforce committed to working with diverse communities to bring about outcomes that matter.

Develop and refine epidemiological measures and methods that address the dynamic and complex factors impacting public health globally.

Provide leadership and service in epidemiology and public health through international, national, state, and local collaboration and community engagement.

The Master of Science in Epidemiology degree is a 36 credit program that prepares students for careers in the public health arena that are focused on the surveillance and prevention of illnesses among diverse populations around the world. Students will be trained in the foundational aspects of epidemiology including person, place and time, risk and protective factors, and the social determinants of health. Areas of focus will include: chronic disease, infectious disease, geriatric, environmental, psychiatric, social, cancer and maternal and child health epidemiology. The thesis is required to demonstrate skill in independent inquiry and investigation, under the tutelage of a mentor.

Graduates of the MS in Epidemiology program will be able to:

- Apply surveillance, assessment, evaluation, and other foundational epidemiological research designs to all areas of interest,
- Choose appropriate measurement and analytic methods to study health and disease in a population,
- Utilize biological, behavioral and social theory to understand how to prevent and

intervene to promote the public health.

Responsible Roles:

Program: Epidemiology (MS)

Progress:

PG1: Student Academic Performance

Program Impact (1) – Educate and train students in the foundational aspects of epidemiology including person, place and time, risk and protective factors, and the social determinants of health

Target: 100% of students perform to the B+ level on all courses

Evaluation Method

Measurement: % of students maintaining 3.33 or above (B+) in their course work

Responsible Role: Chair, EPI (Cottler, Linda)

Progress:

PG4: Enrollment Diversity of Students

Enrollment Diversity of students– Recruit male and female students of diverse racial and ethnic and from disadvantaged backgrounds

Target: Students in the program will include at least 20% enrollment of underrepresented students as defined by NIH Policy to Enhance Diversity with balanced representation by gender

Evaluation Method

Measurement: Percent of all students in the student database who are from racial/ethnic minorities (American Indians or Alaska Natives, Blacks or African Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, Native Hawaiians or Other Pacific Islanders), have disabilities, or are from disadvantaged backgrounds and % male and female based on self-report

Responsible Role: Chair, EPI (Cottler, Linda)

Progress:

PG5: Retention of Students

Retention of students – Retain MSE students through the successful completion of the MSE program

Target: Retain 90% of students through the completion of the MSE program, not including attrition due to serious medical illness

Evaluation Method

Measurement: # of students who leave the program/total number of students in the program

Responsible Role: Chair, EPI (Cottler, Linda)

Progress:

PG2: Success in Research and Practice

Program Impact (2) – Prepare students for future success in research and practice

Target: 100% successful completion of research experiences with faculty mentors

Evaluation Method

Measurement: 100% of students rated as completing their research experience successfully by faculty mentor

Responsible Role: Chair, EPI (Cottler, Linda)

Progress:

PG3: Student Publications

Program Impact (3) – Propel the program onto the national stage through student publications

Target: 100% publication of student theses

Evaluation Method

Measurement: # of published theses/# of theses

Responsible Role: Chair, EPI (Cottler, Linda)

Progress:

SLO 1: MSE Knowledge SLO

Apply surveillance, assessment, evaluation, and other foundational epidemiological research designs to all areas of interest.

SLO Area (select one): Knowledge (Grad)

Responsible Role: Chair, EPI (Cottler, Linda)

Progress:

Assessment Method

1) Evaluation of the student's performance in their program of study as judged by the Supervisory Committee (Research Mentor, Academic Advisor, director of the program, and in case of any disagreement, the chair of the department); 2) Evaluation of the student's thesis defense by the Supervisory Committee

SLO 3: MSE Skills SLO 2

Utilize biological, behavioral and social theory to understand how to prevent and intervene to promote the public health.

SLO Area (select one): Skills (Grad)

Responsible Role: Chair, EPI (Cottler, Linda)

Progress:

Assessment Method

1) Successful defense of a thesis as judged by a Supervisory Committee 2) Submission of thesis manuscript for publication in a peer-reviewed journal

SLO 2: MSE Skills SLO

Choose appropriate measurement and analytic methods to study health and disease in a population.

SLO Area (select one): Skills (Grad)

Responsible Role: Chair, EPI (Cottler, Linda)

Progress:

Assessment Method

1) Successful defense of a thesis as judged by a Supervisory Committee; 2) Submission of thesis manuscript for publication in a peer-reviewed journal

SLO 4: MSE Professional Behavior SLO1

Display ethical behavior, cultural sensitivity, integrity in research conduct, honesty, and teamwork.

SLO Area (select one): Professional Behavior (Grad)

Responsible Role:

Progress:

Assessment Method

1) Consistent adherence during the degree program to the UF Honor Code as judged by the Supervisory Committee; 2) Observation by faculty of professional behavior during class activities, seminars, research and thesis activities

M.S. in Epidemiology Program Detail

Start: 7/1/2017

End: 6/30/2018

Progress:

Providing Department: Epidemiology (MS)

Responsible Roles: Associate Dean (Blue, Amy), Chair, EPI (Cottler, Linda)

Research (Graduate and Professional AAPs only)

Students are required to produce a publishable thesis. The thesis requires the student to formulate a research question, conduct relevant background research, generate hypotheses, gather and analyze appropriate data, interpret and discuss findings, determine conclusions and implications. Students must submit a written thesis consistent with UF requirements, and pass an oral defense of their research.

Assessment Timeline (Graduate and Professional AAPs only)

Curriculum Map (UG AAPs only)

Assessment Cycle (All AAPs)

Assessment Cycle for:

M.S. in Epidemiology College of Public Health and Health Professions and College of Medicine

Analysis and Interpretation:	May-June annually
Program Modifications:	September 1 of each year
Dissemination:	October 1 of each year

Year	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16
SLOs				
Content Knowledge				
Apply surveillance, assessment, evaluation, and other foundational epidemiological research designs to all areas of interest	X	X	X	X
Skills				
Choose appropriate measurement and analytic methods to study health and disease in a population	X	X	X	X
Utilize biological, behavioral and social theory to understand how to prevent and intervene to promote the public health	X	X	X	X
Professional Behavior				
Demonstrate ethical behavior, cultural sensitivity, integrity in research conduct, honesty, and teamwork	X	X	X	X

Methods and Procedures (UG and Certificate AAPs)

SLO Assessment Rubric (All AAPs)

Measurement Tools (Graduate and Professional AAPs Only)

Indirect Measures

Student's rate of admission, retention, and graduation, as well as time to completion of degree will be tracked.

Direct Measures

Program Study of Progress

Students accepted into the Master of Science in Epidemiology program will have two active supervisors who help measure their scholastic progress and competencies: 1) a Research Mentor and 2) an Academic Advisor. Both will help monitor program of study progress, annual evaluation and program completion. Every semester, the Mentor and Advisor will also sign off on the Course Registration Form.

Each student will complete an Annual Mentoring Review Form prior to meeting with the Research Mentor to outline specific goals for the upcoming year. The Research Mentor adds comments in the presence of the student; the completed copy is then delivered to the Program Assistant by the student. The Program Director will review all Mentoring Review Plans. Plans will be updated annually and reviewed prior to the thesis defense for final graduation requirements.

Students are assigned an Academic Advisor by the Chair of the Department of Epidemiology or Program Director. Advisors will ensure that the student is completing the specific requirements needed to obtain the MS in Epidemiology. The Academic Advisor will be a core faculty member within the Department of Epidemiology and will meet with the student in advance of the course registration period each semester to discuss academic progress.

Thesis Defense Guidelines

Upon successful completion of 32 hours of required and elective courses, the student will be admitted to Candidacy Status (i.e., “MSE degree candidate”). For Partial Fulfillment of the requirements for a Master of Science in Epidemiology degree all degree-seeking Candidates must successfully defend their manuscript to their Supervisory faculty committee, which serves as a thesis reflective of knowledge gained and skills acquired in the MSE program. The rubric for the thesis defense is attached below.

Written Thesis and Manuscript for Publication

The manuscript must be submitted for the thesis with the MSE Candidate as sole author. It must be submitted to a journal when the thesis defense process is complete. Competencies are only judged complete upon submission of the manuscript for publication.

Assessment Oversight (All AAPs)

Linda B. Cottler	Dean’s Professor and Founding Chair, Chair of the Executive Leadership Committee and member of the Curriculum Committee	lbcottler@ufl.edu	273-5468
Catherine W. Striley	Assistant Professor, Chair of the Department	cstriley@ufl.edu	273-5359

	Curriculum Committee, Member of the Executive Leadership Committee Director, MSE Program		
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Academic Assessment Plan Entry Complete: