

Department of Epidemiology
Written Exams

1. Eligibility

A comprehensive written exam for students in the following categories:

- i. completing the M.P.H. program - Required writings
- ii. completing the M.S.P.H. - Required writings
- iii. entering the Ph.D. - Qualifying Examination

2. Content

A. Three topics will be announced early in the spring semester, one topic will be selected for the exam.

B. The examination will tap skills and competencies in the following areas:

- i. Research Design and Analysis (Epid 160, Bios 105, Bios 145, and Epid 268)
- ii. Behavioral (Psychosocial and Socio-cultural issues raised by topic; emphasis on general concepts and general measurement operations rather than specific theories and principles)
- iii. Biomedical (Biological and clinical issues raised by topic, emphasis on general concepts and processes rather than specific detailed information)
- iv. Synthesis (statement on the "state of the art", conceptual scheme, suggestions for new hypotheses or future research)

3. Purpose and Expectations

To assess minimum qualifications necessary for obtaining a degree in epidemiology!

- i. Students should be able to critically appraise the logic, design, and analysis of contemporary epidemiologic research
- ii & iii. Students should be able to understand and discuss important biomedical and behavioral science issues pertinent to the topic area
- iv. Students should be able to combine skills in critiquing research designs and understanding of the biomedical and behavioral science issues in order to develop a scientifically responsible position on the topic area.

4. Format

A one-day "sit-down" examination.

5. Grading

- i. Without knowledge of the student's identity, every question will be graded by two professors independently. Significant discrepancies between grades assigned will be resolved through negotiation by the two professors.

- ii. Grading options:
 - H Pass with honors
 - P Pass
 - L Provisional pass. Remedial work will be recommended--
Student need not take the exam again.
 - F Fail
- iii. Sections i and iv (Item 2B) will be graded on a pass-fail basis only.
Sections ii and iii will be graded and these scores will be added to the scores earned on Sections i and iv, for determination of which students will be awarded honors for overall performance on the examination. Provided the student does satisfactorily on Sections i and iv a poor performance on Sections ii and iii will not hurt him/her, but a superior performance on these latter two sections will count toward an honors grade.
- iv. Students in the *M.P.H.* and M.S.P.H. program will be expected to pass the exam at the masters level or above. Students in the doctoral program must pass the exam at the doctoral level. The cut-off points for passing at the masters and doctoral levels will be determined by the faculty.

6. Time and Frequency

- i. The examination will be given once a year (between mid-May and June 1).
- ii. Students are allowed to take the examination only twice
- iii. Students entering the doctoral program must take the examination no later than the spring semester of their second year.

NOTE: Continuation in the doctoral program is contingent upon passing the qualifying examination. In addition, other factors (recommendation by faculty advisor, performance in formal courses, performance in research projects, etc.) will be taken into account. The decision to permit a student to continue in the doctoral program will depend upon recommendations to the department chairman by the entire faculty, after considering all of the above factors.

February 2, 1978