



UNC
SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC HEALTH



Online

CERTIFICATE in
FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY



THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

As the practice of public health changes, so do the educational needs of public health practitioners, particularly in the area of field epidemiology. The threats of bioterrorism, West Nile virus and Avian Flu, among others, have created a crucial need for a prepared public health workforce capable of responding rapidly and effectively to emerging and reemerging health threats. To address this need, the UNC Chapel Hill School of Public Health has developed an Online Certificate in Field Epidemiology.

CERTIFICATE IN FIELD EPIDEMIOLOGY

The Certificate in Field Epidemiology is a 12-credit hour program of study that addresses the core functions of:

- outbreak investigation
- surveillance systems and methods
- infectious disease epidemiology
- field epidemiology methods

All courses have been specially designed and developed for delivery via the Internet. Students will be able to register, receive materials, interact with faculty, order books, and successfully complete this program without traveling to campus. A connection to the Internet is all that is required!

A survey conducted by the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) showed that as of November 2001, 42% of epidemiologists working in state and territorial health departments had no formal training in epidemiology.



www.sph.unc.edu/nciph/fieldepi

WHO SHOULD APPLY

This program should be considered essential for staff in state and local public health departments who would like more training in field epidemiology.

Those who would benefit most include:

- Public health preparedness staff
- Public health nurses
- Communicable disease investigators
- Epidemiologists
- Environmental health specialists
- Health educators
- Health officers
- Physicians
- Public health veterinarians

Others who would benefit from the program include those:

- who perform epidemiological tasks but who have limited epidemiology training.
- who are pursuing a degree in a related field and wish to supplement their current program.
- who wish to pursue an MPH and would like to use these credits toward the degree.

(All credits earned in this program are transferable into the UNC MPH program.)

Prerequisites

- Priority given to those with at least three years in a health or social science related field
- Demonstrated math competency
- Excellent English language skills

Most students will have a Bachelors degree or above; however, we will consider applicants without a Bachelors degree who can demonstrate equivalent related experience.

CURRICULUM

All courses are taught by faculty in the Department of Epidemiology at the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Public Health.

Principles of Epidemiology for Public Health (3 credits)

This course is an introductory epidemiology course that considers the meaning, scope, and applications of epidemiology to public health practice and the uses of vital statistics data in the scientific appraisal of community health.

Fundamentals of Public Health Surveillance (3 credits)

This course provides the conceptual foundations and practical skills for designing and implementing surveillance systems and for using surveillance data for the conduct and evaluation of public health programs and research.

Principles and Methods of Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology (3 credits)

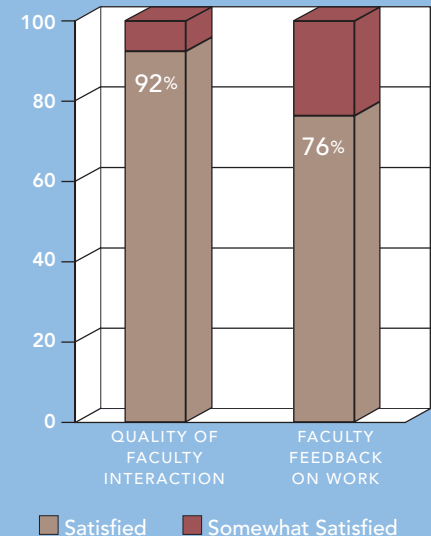
This course encompasses the interaction between an infectious agent, host, and environment, modes and dynamics of transmission, the role of immunity in infectious disease epidemiology, and disease elimination strategies.

Methods in Field Epidemiology (3 credits)

This course focuses on the epidemiological methods required to investigate urgent public health problems. The skills and tools needed to conduct outbreak investigations and communicate findings to the public are covered as well.



INTERACTION WITH FACULTY



based on a 2007 survey of graduates of the Field Epidemiology Certificate program

SCHEDULE

This four course curriculum is taken one course per semester over a 16-month schedule.

COST

Tuition is governed by the North Carolina legislature and is subject to change without notice. Please visit www.sph.unc.edu/nciph/fieldepi/ to confirm current tuition rates. All applicants who claim to be North Carolina legal residents for tuition purposes must file a Residency Status Form with their application.

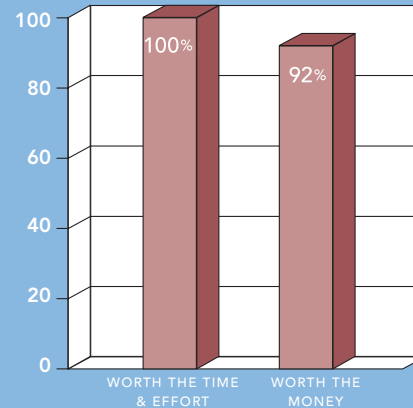
TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ONLINE COURSES

For specific technical requirements, please visit www.sph.unc.edu/nciph/fieldepi. You will also find a skills test that will help you determine if you have the basic system requirements, plug-ins & skills to take an online course at the UNC Chapel Hill School of Public Health.

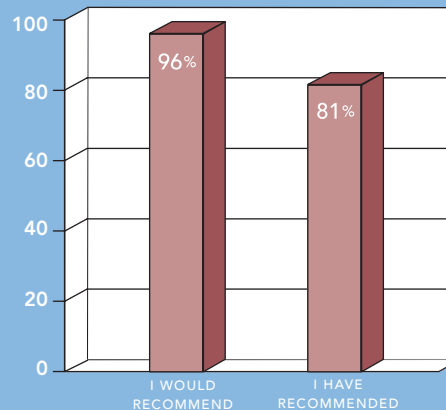
“ I have been really pleased with the department and the program and have recommended it to my colleagues and coworkers. ”

– E. Tompkins

IS THE PROGRAM WORTH IT?



PROGRAM RECOMMENDATION



based on a 2007 survey of graduates of the Field Epidemiology Certificate program

“ While enrolled in the Field [Epi] Methods course, I used the course information and strategies while investigating two norovirus outbreaks in our community. I was able to develop linelists, epicurves, and write up a scientific report for the outbreaks. I would recommend the course to any professionals working in local health departments. ”

– S. Johnson

CONTACT

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The online Certificate in Field Epidemiology was developed by the North Carolina Center for Public Health Preparedness (NCCPHP), located in the North Carolina Institute for Public Health. NCCPHP is part of a national network of Centers for Public Health Preparedness funded by the CDC to improve the capacity of the public health workforce to prepare for and respond to terrorism and other emerging public health threats. For more information about NCCPHP, visit www.sph.unc.edu/nccphp.