Exam Dates

Intent forms due:
March 9, 2018

EXAM - May 16, 2018

*Back-up Date:
May 17, 2018*

*Plan to be off work on May 15 to review articles

*Back-up Date – in case there is a closure at any campus on exam day this will be the alternate. All students MUST plan to be available both days.
Preliminary Exam Intent Form & Other Documentation

PhD and DrPH
Intent Form

• # credits in doctoral program (typically ~18-27)
• Required course checklist
  • Approved waivers (if applicable)
  • Document remediation if grade <B (if applicable)
• Unofficial transcript from myUTH
  • Update at end of semester if taking required courses (student must send ASAP after semester)
# Required Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PH 2710</td>
<td>Epidemiology III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH 2711</td>
<td>Epidemiology IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH 1830</td>
<td>Categorical Data Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Or PH 1831: Analysis of Survival Time Data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH 2712</td>
<td>Experimental Methods in Epidemiology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

One elective course in Epidemiology (2-4 credits)

- B or higher (or P in P/F course)
- Provide “Approved Waiver” for *required courses* taken outside of UTSPH
Requirements for students matriculating prior to Fall 2017:
1. PH 2710: Epidemiology III
2. PH 2711: Epidemiology IV
3. PH 1830: Categorical Data Analysis OR PH 1831: Analysis of Survival Time Data
5. One elective course in Epidemiology

Requirements for students matriculating in Fall 2017 or after:
1. PH 2710: Epidemiology III
2. PH 2711: Epidemiology IV
3. PH 1830: Categorical Data Analysis OR PH 1831: Analysis of Survival Time Data
4. PH 2712: Experimental Methods in Epidemiology
5. One elective course in Epidemiology
Waiver - for required courses
Exam Content

3 Articles / different epidemiologic study designs

- 10-15 multi-part questions per article
- General epidemiology & article specific questions & hypothetical questions
- Focus on article methods, results & interpretation (not topic)
- Short answer & calculations
- Length of answers specified
- *Epi “speak”* - Clear & concise articulation of answers
Style of Questions

Recall
- Definitions & concepts

Application
- Go beyond definitions – use & identify concepts

Calculations
- Use data in article

Interpretation
- Data results & application
- Statistics – understanding, applying, interpreting

Hypothetical
- Apply concepts to different scenarios
Questions

Study design and its assumptions
Study population
Ascertainment of sample
Conduct of study
Analysis approach
Results – data in tables in figures
Discussion - interpretations
Any concepts mentioned in article are “fair game” for questions
Format

Articles provided by email 24 hours in advance
  ◦ For individual review – not discussion!
  ◦ Clean copies of articles provided on day of exam

In-class exam - proctored at home campus

5 hour exam
  ◦ Allows for in-class breaks (lunch, snacks)

No computer – exam is hand written
  ◦ Bring pen
  ◦ No notes/books – scratch paper provided
  ◦ Basic calculator (not phone or mini computer!)
Exam Development

- Committee selects study designs & articles
- Develops questions & answers
- Revises questions & answers
  - 3 internal reviews by 7 epidemiologists
  - 3 external epidemiologists provide review
- 10 faculty involved in creating each exam
Grading

Process

- 2 committee members /article (blinded, only ID)
  - Grade independently
  - Then, confer to resolve discrepancies

- Full committee – combine results (blinded, only ID)

Pass / Fail

- Weighted average of 3 designs > 80 with no score < 70% on an individual exam section
ADA Accommodations

Committee Chair
◦ Dr. Susie Day

Office of Student Affairs
◦ Dr. Mary Ann Smith
Results

Pass
○ Letter (by email) to student with copy to Advisor

1st Fail
○ Exam Chair contacts Advisor
○ Advisor contacts student
  ○ Advisor meets with student to develop Remediation plan
  ○ Must retake exam at next offering

2nd Fail
○ Exam Chair contacts Assistant Dean for Students
○ Advisor, Assistant Dean for Students meet with student
  ○ Student does not continue in the doctoral program
Remediation Plan

Students work with advisor to develop plan
- Complete a plan of action – see forms on Web

Possible approach
- Independent study
- Courses – new or retake
- Study groups
- Tutors
- Other...

“…..ultimately the student’s responsibility to assess his/her educational needs, develop a plan of action, and ensure that the plan is completed prior to the next offering of the preliminary exam.”
Exam Dates

Intent forms due:
March 9, 2018

EXAM - May 16, 2018

Back-up Date:
May 17, 2018*

*Plan to be off work on May 15 to review articles

*Back-up Date – in case there is a closure at any campus on exam day this will be the alternate. All students MUST plan to be available both days.
Thank you!