

**Ph.D. Public Health (with Biostatistics concentration) (57 credits)**

**Academic Advising and Tracking Form**

Department of Public Health- Biostatistics & Epidemiology Program  
 Requirements Apply to Students Admitted Fall 2017 or Later,  
 Students enrolled in the program in the Fall of 2017 may choose to use  
 these requirements instead of earlier versions

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ SPIRE ID \_\_\_\_\_ Date of matriculation: \_\_\_\_\_

**I. COMPLETION OF MASTER'S DEGREE (if applicable)**

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Degree (Major Subject): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Year: \_\_\_\_\_

**II. CONCENTRATION IN BIOSTATISTICS. ACADEMIC ADVISOR: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Required: 39 credits.**

- 1) Every student will be assigned an academic advisor upon enrollment in the program. The role of the academic advisor is to guide each student through the first few years of coursework. There is no expectation that a student's academic advisor will become the thesis advisor. Each student is encouraged to approach several faculty to discuss possible thesis research topics.
- 2) Every student is encouraged to select, in consultation with their academic advisor, the biostatistics elective courses to take, based on their training, background, and interests.
- 3) The courses in the Biostatistics concentration have to be 600-level or above, with minimum of nine credits at 700-level.
- 4) The maximum number of independent study credits allowed is six, with exceptions to be approved by the program head.
- 5) The maximum number of seminar course credits allowed to count towards the major is three, however students are strongly encouraged to attend a PhD seminar every semester they are enrolled. If a special first-year PhD seminar is offered, first year students are required to take this seminar.
- 6) If students have taken equivalent courses to any of the required courses listed below, they may, with permission from their academic advisor, replace the required course with an elective.
- 7) Core PH courses can be selected from the following: EHS 565 (Env Health Practices), HPP 620 (US Health Care System), or HPP 601 (Soc and Behavioral Theory). These courses may be replaced by electives for students with equivalent coursework.

<u>(Course Number) Course Title</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>PLANNED Sem/Yr</u>	<u>COMPLETED Sem/Yr</u>	<u>Instructor</u>
1. BIOSTATS 743: GLMs	3	_____	_____	_____
2. BIOSTATS 730: Bayes	3	_____	_____	_____
3. BIOSTATS 740: Mixed Models	3	_____	_____	_____
4. BIOSTATS 748: Survival	3	_____	_____	_____
5. BIOSTATS 892 (seminar x 3)	3	_____	_____	_____
6. BIOSTATS/STAT/EPI/CS elective	3	_____	_____	_____
7. BIOSTATS/STAT/EPI/CS elective	3	_____	_____	_____
8. EPI 630 Principles of Epidemiology	3	_____	_____	_____
9. Core PH course	3	_____	_____	_____
10. Core PH course	3	_____	_____	_____
11. STAT 607: Math Stat I	3	_____	_____	_____
12. STAT 608: Math Stat II	3	_____	_____	_____
13. STAT 705: Linear Model Theory	3	_____	_____	_____

If any of the above required courses are replaced, please enter the justification for the replacements in the space below:

**IV. COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION**

*Pre-requisite: Completion of at least 20 credits of course work.*

*A Ph.D. student usually takes the comprehensive exam in the early summer after the second year of coursework. Students who have entered the PhD program with a MS degree may complete take the exam after the first year if they feel prepared to do so. If a student fails in the first attempt of the comprehensive exam, he or she is allowed to take the second attempt in the following year. The comprehensive exam typically covers material from STAT 607, 608, 705 as well as 2-3 biostatistics courses. The exact content may vary from year to year and students will be informed before the end of the fall semester of the exact courses covered by the following summer's exam.*

<u>(Course Number) Course Title</u>	<u>1<sup>st</sup> ATTEMPT Sem/Yr</u>	<u>2<sup>nd</sup> ATTEMPT Sem/Yr</u>	<u>Final Grade (Pass/Fail)</u>
1. Biostatistics Exam	_____	_____	_____

**V. ADVANCEMENT TO DOCTORAL CANDIDACY**

*Advancing to doctoral candidacy requires passing the Comprehensive Examination and completing the required coursework. Once these requirements are met, the student should apply for doctoral candidacy by submitting the Candidacy form. Then the Graduate Program Director sends a memo to the graduate school, nominating the student to become a candidate. This gives the student permission to form a committee and work on the dissertation proposal.*

Candidacy Form, Graduate School Approval Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**VI. Appointment of Dissertation Committee**

*Pre-requisite: The comprehensive examination must have been completed and passed prior to the appointment of the dissertation committee.*

*The committee must consist of at least three members (including the chair). All three members must be on the graduate faculty. The chair and at least one member must be UMass Biostatistics faculty. One member must be external to the department. Committee members who are external to UMass-Amherst are allowed and may count as the member external to the department. If an external-to-UMass committee member is desired, the GPD requires the CV and a request from the committee chair to request a one-time appointment to the Grad Faculty for the person.*

Dissertation Committee Members:

Name	
Chair _____	Department _____
Member _____	Department _____
Member _____	Department _____
Member _____	Department _____
Member _____	Department _____

Dissertation Committee Appointment Graduate School Approval Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**VII. DISSERTATION PROSPECTUS**

Every PhD candidate must prepare a written prospectus and give an oral presentation to the Dissertation Committee. While the timing and content of the prospectus may vary considerably between candidates, typically, candidates present their prospectus once they have completed about one third of their thesis and have a draft or outline of the rest of the thesis. The decision to present the prospectus should be a joint decision between the candidate and the thesis advisor.

Date of Oral Presentation: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Approval by Dissertation Committee Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Approval by Graduate Program Director: \_\_\_\_\_

**VIII. DISSERTATION RESEARCH**

**Required: 18 credits**

Students cannot enroll in dissertation credits until after they have passed the comprehensive examination. Students can enroll in independent studies prior to passing the comprehensive examination. The 18 dissertation research credits must be over a minimum of 2 semesters. There is no maximum credits limit for dissertation research. However, student has to complete the dissertation research within five years of advancement to doctoral candidacy. In general, there should be at least 4 months between the proposal defense and the dissertation defense.

<u>(Course Number) Course Title</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>PLANNED Sem/Yr</u>	<u>COMPLETED Sem/Yr</u>	<u>Instructor</u>
1. BIOSTATS 899	3	_____	_____	_____
2. BIOSTATS 899	3	_____	_____	_____
3. BIOSTATS 899	3	_____	_____	_____
4. BIOSTATS 899	3	_____	_____	_____
5. BIOSTATS 899	3	_____	_____	_____
6. BIOSTATS 899	3	_____	_____	_____

**IX. DISSERTATION DEFENSE**

*Expectations: Biostatistics faculty expect a PhD dissertation to include three published or publishable chapters. The content can include a mix of sophisticated applications of statistical methods, methodological development, and theoretical innovation.*

*Logistics: The graduate program director has to be notified at least five weeks in advance of the defense date. The graduate school needs to be notified at least four weeks in advance. The announcement must go to the graduate program director and include: names of committee members, title of dissertation, time, date and room of dissertation defense.*

Date of Oral Defense: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Approval by Dissertation Committee Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Approval by Graduate Program Director: \_\_\_\_\_

**X. GRADUATE SCHOOL RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT**

**Required: 2 Semesters**

*The 2 semesters must be consecutive*

<u>Semester</u>
1. _____
2. _____

**XI. ANNUAL PROGRESS REVIEW**

*Graduate school requires a yearly progress review. The doctoral student will meet with the academic advisor/dissertation advisor annually to review the progress.*

<u>Year</u>	<u>Date of Progress Review</u>	<u>Advisor Signature</u>
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____

**Certification of Total of Credits Towards Degree/All Degree Requirements Satisfied**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Faculty Advisor Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Copies of all administrative memos related to degree requirements must be stapled to this sheet.** This form, attachments, and a copy of the final transcript are filed in the departmental archives.