



San Diego State University Campus, San Diego, California



**SAN DIEGO STATE
UNIVERSITY**

**SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC HEALTH**

The San Diego State University (SDSU) School of Public Health (SPH) was founded in 1980 as part of the university's new focus on health and human services. One of four nationally accredited schools of public health in California, and located in the most vibrant and culturally diverse areas of the country, the SPH provides many opportunities for education, research and community involvement.

The vision of the SPH is to be the leader in creating and advancing innovation and excellence in Public Health and its mission is to develop public health leaders, advance knowledge, and transform population health locally and globally through education, research, collaboration, and service to promote health equity for all.

SDSU SPH prides itself on the values of: discovery and advancement of knowledge, lifelong learning, inclusion and diversity, social justice, community engagement, transdisciplinary collaboration, and professionalism and integrity.

Epidemiology Graduate Degree Programs

Master of Public Health – Epidemiology: provides training in the identification of biological, environmental, social, and behavioral risk factors for human disease, and the determination of the distribution and etiology of health and disease in human populations.

- Full-time (part-time available), 51 unit program typically completed in two years
- Research based, Thesis or Manuscript completion required

Doctorate (PhD) – Epidemiology: Joint Doctoral Program (JDP) with the University of California – San Diego, a collaborative effort that provides a research-intensive program where students work closely with faculty members at both universities.

- Full-time program that generally takes a minimum of four years to complete
- Year one at SDSU, year two at UCSD, years three and four working towards completion of dissertation research and defense

Epidemiology Division Opportunities and Strengths

Geographically positioned close to the US-Mexico border, the SPH is a leader in Latino and Border Health research including research at our Imperial Valley Campus near the AZ/CA/Mexico border, and close partnerships with universities in Mexico. In the School, we train the next generation of Public Health Professionals: 36% of undergraduate and 30% of graduate students in the SPH self-identify as underrepresented minority students.

Set within an urban environment, our School takes pride in bridging academic research and public health practice by fostering strong partnerships between academics, our County Health and Human Services Agency, the Naval Health Research Center, and numerous community organizations to build capacity and improve outcomes.

Within the MPH – Epidemiology track, a course requirement is to complete a Supervised Field Placement that allows the student to find a position in their scope of interest that provides hands-on learning experience. While the requirement can be done over the summer, anywhere in the country, San Diego's unique location offers a wide variety of epidemiological opportunities and partnerships between SDSU and those mentioned above provide first-class learning experiences.



SDSU MPH student conducting TB research in Uganda during her Supervised Field Placement.

Faculty at SDSU are involved in countless research projects focusing on both chronic and infectious epidemiology, topics including cancer prevention, tuberculosis, HIV, and more. This faculty research is

being conducted both locally, nationally and globally including multiple countries in North and South America and Africa. You can read more about these projects [here](#).

Graduate Successes

The requirement for epidemiologists continues to grow and is projected to increase by nearly 10% by 2026, with a US News and World Report recently listing Epidemiologists as the #1 best science job. Commiserate with this, our MPH graduates continue to get positions locally and nationally in a diversity of roles and organizations. Locally, graduates are recruited to clinical centers such as the Moore's Cancer Center at UCSD and the Scripps Hospital network. SDSU graduates are also in Public Health positions across Divisions, with the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency. Community centers such as the Family Health Centers of San Diego are also serve as an employment opportunity. One of the major DoD research centers, Naval Health Research Center, also serves as an ongoing opportunity for epidemiology research positions, including in Deployment Health, and the DoD HIV/AIDS Prevention Program. The San Diego opportunities are a microcosm representation of the types of positions our graduates of the MPH have nationally.

Admissions Requirements

To be considered for admission to the MPH program at SDSU, students must meet the following general requirements:

- Must hold a bachelor's or advanced degree, no specific major requirement
- A minimum undergraduate GPA of 2.85, the average for admitted students is 3.3
- Completed prerequisite coursework as outlined in the student handbook
- Recent acceptable score (verbal and quantitative) on the GRE General Test and TOEFL, if applicable

To be considered for admission to the SDSU-UCSD Joint Doctoral Program in Public Health, students must meet the following general requirements:

- An acceptable baccalaureate degree from an institution accredited by a regional accrediting association or equivalent academic preparation, as determined by the deans of the two graduate divisions
- A GPA of at least 3.0 in the last 60 semester (90 quarter) units completed
- Good standing at the last institution attended and a recent acceptable score (verbal and quantitative) on the GRE General Test and TOEFL, if applicable

Contact Information

For admissions and financial support questions for the MPH:

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