

# DOCTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENCES

The Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) is an advanced professional degree for those whose career goals are in areas of professional practice in public health, including high-level administration, teaching, or research.

The program develops leaders for public health organizations, academia, research institutes, government, or industry, where advanced analytical and conceptual capabilities are requisite. Students are prepared as research-grounded practitioners; the course of study emphasizes competencies to conduct and supervise research of an applied nature. Graduates may work at the local, state, national, or international level and are skilled in multidisciplinary approaches to community and public health practice.

Students will enroll in one of three concentration areas:

- Health Behavior (<https://public-health.tamu.edu/degrees/drph.html#tab-panel-2>),
- Epidemiology (<https://public-health.tamu.edu/degrees/drph.html#tab-panel-3>), or
- Environmental Health (<https://public-health.tamu.edu/degrees/drph.html#tab-panel-4>).

The DrPH program has several major academic components:

1. Coursework provides exposure to foundational public health knowledge and core doctoral competencies while allowing for depth in the chosen concentration
2. Qualifying and Preliminary examinations
3. A practicum that provides an *applied practical experience* with a field-based preceptor, for students to demonstrate overall public health, leadership, and concentration focused problem-solving skills
4. Integrative learning experiences resulting in field-based products consistent with advanced practice designed to influence programs, policies or systems addressing public health (e.g., dissertation proposal development; scientific grant writing)
5. Evaluations (self and faculty)

## Health Behavior Concentration

The Health Behavior concentration prepares students to plan, implement, and evaluate interventions designed to improve community and population health status and to conduct high-quality research addressing important public health issues, as well as to lead efforts and organizations conducting these activities. Building upon a social ecological framework, the program emphasizes capacity building as a health outcome, and recognizes a multi-determinants health perspective in framing interventions and research.

In the Health Behavior concentration, students will:

- Analyze critical themes in public health history in order to argue how these relate to the evolution of public health, public health problems, and the future of public health.
- Develop appropriate conceptual models for addressing community health issues that integrate behavioral theories, concepts, and tools.

- Design an evaluation plan appropriate for a multi-level community health/health promotion program.
- Formulate a multi-level health promotion/community health-focused intervention, utilizing at least 2 of the 5 socio-ecological levels, and which integrates evidence-based theories and strategies.
- Critically assess and analyze peer reviewed articles related to health behavior interventions, with focus on components (i.e., strength and validity of the hypothesis, study design and methods, results, conclusions) and public health significance of findings.

## Epidemiology Concentration

The Epidemiology concentration is designed to develop public health leaders who apply advanced epidemiologic methods and public health concepts to identify and understand the factors driving the occurrence and distribution of diseases and health conditions in human populations. The curriculum prepares students to design, conduct, supervise, and evaluate observational or experimental studies in population or clinical settings, ultimately to develop the evidence base for controlling health problems and improving health status. Graduates will be prepared to hold leadership roles in public health practice-based settings such as health departments, community-based organizations, non-profit organizations, international agencies, and academic institutions.

In the Epidemiology concentration, students will:

- Use epidemiologic evidence to make inferences about the scope and magnitude of threats to public health.
- Plan, implement, and evaluate a public health study to assess a threat to population health.
- Utilize theoretical foundations to address critical public health issues.
- Connect epidemiology to interdisciplinary research.
- Prepare reports and scholarly presentations and participate in conference presentations in order to appropriately influence relevant state-of-the-art practice.

## The Environmental Health Concentration

The Environmental Health concentration prepares students to address health issues related to exposures from natural and human-generated hazards. The curriculum is designed to prepare professionals with advanced-level training with the ability to draw from a multidisciplinary knowledge-base (e.g., toxicology, microbiology, safety engineering, industrial hygiene, medicine, nursing, ergonomics, human factors, well-being, aging, and occupational health) that contribute to recognizing, assessing, and controlling public health risks. Students will learn to work in communities including rural, urban and occupational settings to measure and monitor risk as they learn to plan, prepare and execute multi-level interventions.

In the Environmental Health concentration, students will:

- Evaluate the influence of susceptibility based on a hazards' biological mode of action. Assess the impact of major environmental determinants of human disease on the likelihood of adverse effects.
- Interpret concentrations or doses of health hazards compared with risk based and non-risk based criteria and guidelines.

- Develop intervention and prevention strategies to help vulnerable communities improve their health by reducing exposures to environmental hazards.
- Analyze environmental data and articulate the characteristics of major physical, radiological, chemical, and biological hazards.
- Critically assess peer-reviewed published articles related to environmental impacts on health. Analyze the strength and validity of the hypothesis, study design and methods, results, conclusions, and the public health significance.

See the Department of Health Behavior (<https://public-health.tamu.edu/departments/hb/>), Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics (<https://public-health.tamu.edu/departments/epi-bio/>), and Department of Environmental and Occupational Health (<https://public-health.tamu.edu/departments/eoh/>) for the degree curriculum for each concentration.

Applicants to the DrPH will hold a master's degree. For further information regarding admission, please visit the School of Public Health's Admissions website (<https://public-health.tamu.edu/admissions/>).

## Program Requirements

### Program Requirements

- Student's Advisory Committee (p. 2)
- Degree Plan (p. 2)
- Credit Requirements (p. 3)
- Limitations on Credits and Coursework (p. 3)
- Research Proposal (p. 3)
- Examinations (p. 4)
  - Preliminary Examination (p. 4)
  - Preliminary Examination Format (p. 4)
  - Preliminary Examination Scheduling (p. 4)
  - Preliminary Examination Grading (p. 4)
  - Retake of Failed Preliminary Examination (p. 5)
  - Final Examination (p. 5)
  - Final Examination Grading (p. 5)
- Dissertation (p. 5)

### Student's Advisory Committee

After receiving admission to graduate studies, students will consult with the graduate program concerning selection of a chair and members for an advisory committee representative of the student's field(s) of study and research. The student's advisory committee will consist of no fewer than four members of the Graduate Committee Faculty representative of the student's several fields of study and research, where the chair or co-chair must be from the student's department (or intercollegiate faculty, if applicable), and at least one or more of the members must have an appointment to a department other than the student's major department.

Only members of the Graduate Committee Faculty located on Texas A&M University campuses may serve as chair of a student's advisory committee. Other members of the Graduate Committee Faculty – including those located outside the university or off-campus (if permitted by program, department, and college/school policy) – may serve as a co-chair or member.

The advisory committee as a group – and as individual members – are responsible for advising the student on academic matters. The duties

include responsibility for approving the student's proposed degree plan; research proposal (if applicable); DNP Project; and conducting examinations (if required). The advisory committee members' approval of a degree plan indicates their willingness to accept the responsibility for guiding and directing the entire academic program of the student and for initiating all academic actions concerning the student. Additionally, in the case of academic deficiency, the advisory committee is responsible for initiating recommendations to the Graduate and Professional School.

The chair of the advisory committee, who usually has immediate supervision of the student's degree program, has the responsibility for calling meetings at any time considered desirable.

If the chair of the student's advisory committee is unavailable for an extended period of time in any academic period during which the student is involved in activities relating to an internship, thesis or professional paper – and is registered for courses such as 684, 691, 692, or 693 – the Department Head or intercollegiate faculty Chair may appoint an alternate advisory committee chair during the interim period.

If the chair of a student's advisory committee is on an approved leave of absence – and the student is near completion of the degree and wants the chair to continue to serve in this role – a written request must be submitted to the Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate and Professional School, by the Department Head or intercollegiate faculty Chair, that the faculty member who is on an approved leave of absence be allowed to continue to serve as chair of the advisory committee – without a co-chair – for up to one year. The request must confirm that the faculty member is able to engage in the required duties as chair during the leave of absence. Extensions beyond the one-year period (if necessary) may be granted with additional approval of the Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate and Professional School.

If the chair of a student's advisory committee voluntarily separates from the university, and the student is nearing completion of the degree, the chair may continue to serve in this role – at the student's request – for up to one year. Two options are available:

- The chair may continue, with a co-chair, without additional approval by the Graduate and Professional School. The student must select a current member of the Graduate Committee Faculty – from the student's academic program and located near the Texas A&M University campus site – to serve as co-chair of the advisory committee.
- The chair may continue, without a co-chair, with approval by the Graduate and Professional School. A written request must be submitted to the Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate and Professional School by the Department Head or intercollegiate faculty Chair to allow the faculty member to continue as chair, without a co-chair, of the advisory committee.

For both options, extensions beyond the one-year period (if necessary) may be granted with approval of the Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate and Professional School.

Although individual advisory committee members may be replaced by petition for valid reasons, all members of a student committee cannot resign *en masse*.

### Degree Plan

The student's advisory committee – in consultation with the student – will evaluate the student's previous education, develop a proposed degree plan, and outline a research problem based upon the student's degree

objectives. When completed, the degree plan will constitute the basic requirements for the degree.

The degree plan must be created, submitted, and approved through the online Document Processing Submission System (<http://ogsdps.tamu.edu/>) (DPSS). The degree plan must be submitted prior to the deadline imposed by the student's college or school and approved by the Graduate and Professional School no later than 90 days prior to the date of the preliminary examination.

Additional coursework may be added to the approved degree plan by petition through DPSS, if deemed necessary by the student's advisory committee, to correct deficiencies in the student's academic preparation. No changes can be made to the degree plan once the student's Request for Final Examination or Request for Final Examination Exemption is approved by the Graduate and Professional School.

Coursework included on the degree plan is subject to the requirements and restrictions detailed in the Credit Requirement and Limitations on Credits and Coursework sections in each degree program page.

Degree program time limits apply to courses listed on a degree plan. Details are available on the Time Limits section in each degree program page.

## Credit Requirements

A minimum of 60 hours is required on the degree plan for the Doctor of Public Health for a student who has completed a master's degree. A student who has completed a DDS/DMD, DVM, or MD at an accredited academic institution within the United States is also required to complete a minimum of 60 hours.

A student who has completed a baccalaureate degree, but not a master's degree, will be required to complete a minimum of 90 hours. Completion of DDS/DMD, DVM, or MD degree at a foreign institution requires completion of a minimum of 90 hours for the Doctor of Public Health.

Students enrolled in a master's degree and a doctoral degree simultaneously must have their master's degree awarded before they are eligible to complete a 60-hour doctoral degree.

A field of study may be primarily in one department or in a combination of departments.

## Limitations on Credits and Coursework

Credit-hour requirements are subject to the following limitations:

1. To receive a graduate degree from Texas A&M University, students must earn one-third or more of the credits through the institution's own direct instruction. This limitation also applies to joint degree programs.
2. Transfer credits may be used toward meeting the credit hour requirements under the following limitations:
  - Courses taken in residence at an accredited United States or international institution (recognized by the Office of Admissions), with a final grade of B or greater, may be considered for transfer credit if – at the time the courses were completed – the courses would be accepted for credit toward a similar degree for a student in degree-seeking status at the host institution.
  - An official transcript from the institution at which transfer coursework was taken must be sent directly to the Office of Admissions. Credit for coursework submitted for transfer

from any college or university must be shown in semester credit hours or equated to semester credit hours.

- Grades for courses completed at other institutions are not included in computing the GPA.
  - Coursework in which no formal grades are given, or in which grades other than A or B were earned (for example, CR, P, S, U, H, etc.), is not accepted for transfer credit.
  - Except for officially approved cooperative doctoral programs, credit for thesis or dissertation research – or the equivalent – is not transferable.
  - Courses used toward a degree at another institution may not be applied for transferred graduate credit.
    - Courses used toward a certificate, but not applied to an awarded degree, may be considered for transfer.
    - If the course to be transferred was taken for a certificate or prior to the conferral of a degree at the transfer institution, a letter from the registrar at that institution stating that the course was not applied for credit toward the degree must be submitted to the Graduate and Professional School.
  - Credit for "internship" coursework in any form, or taken by extension, is not transferable.
  - Courses for which transfer credits are sought must be approved by the student's advisory committee and the Graduate and Professional School.
3. Approval to enroll in any professional course should be obtained from the Department Head or intercollegiate faculty Chair (if applicable) in which the course will be offered before including such a course on a degree plan.
  4. A maximum of 9 credit hours of advanced undergraduate courses (400-level) may be considered for application to the degree plan.
  5. No more than 50 percent of the non-research credit hours required for an in-person degree program may be completed through distance education courses.
  6. No credit may be obtained by correspondence study, by extension, or for any course of fewer than three weeks duration.

Some departments may have additional or more restrictive requirements.

## Research Proposal

The general field of research to be used for the dissertation should be agreed on by the student and the advisory committee at their first meeting, as a basis for selecting the proper courses to support the proposed research. As soon thereafter as the research project can be outlined in reasonable detail, the dissertation research proposal should be completed. The research proposal should be approved at a meeting of the student's advisory committee, at which time the feasibility of the proposed research and the adequacy of available facilities should be reviewed.

For doctoral students, a Research Proposal should be submitted to the Graduate and Professional School through the Academic Requirements Completion System (ARCS) according to guidelines and deadlines set by the individual department or program and as soon as possible following the completion of formal coursework on a degree plan but no later than 20 working days prior to the submission of the Request for Final Examination. Students must have an approved research proposal to be admitted to candidacy.

Compliance issues must be addressed if a graduate student is performing research involving human subjects, animals, infectious biohazards or recombinant DNA. A student involved in these types of research should check with the Office of Research Compliance and Biosafety at (979) 458-1467 to address questions about all research compliance responsibilities. Additional information can also be obtained on the website <http://rcb.tamu.edu> (<http://rcb.tamu.edu/>).

## Examinations

### Preliminary Examination

The student's major department (or chair of the interdisciplinary degree program faculty, if applicable) and his or her advisory committee may require qualifying, cumulative or other types of examinations at any time deemed desirable. These examinations are entirely at the discretion of the department and the student's advisory committee.

The preliminary examination is required. The preliminary examination for a doctoral student shall be given no earlier than a date at which the student is within 6 credit hours of completion of the formal coursework on the degree plan (i.e., all coursework on the degree plan except 681, 684, 690, 691, 692, 693, 695, 697, 791, or other graduate courses specifically designated as S/U in the course catalog). The student should complete the Preliminary Examination no later than the end of the semester following the completion of the formal coursework on the degree plan.

### Preliminary Examination Format

The objective of preliminary examination is to evaluate whether the student has demonstrated the following qualifications:

1. a mastery of the subject matter of all fields in the program;
2. an adequate knowledge of the literature in these fields and an ability to carry out bibliographical research;
3. an understanding of the research problem and the appropriate methodological approaches.

The format of the preliminary examination shall be determined by the student's department (or interdisciplinary degree program, if applicable) and advisory committee, and communicated to the student in advance of the examination. The exam may consist of a written component, oral component, or combination of written and oral components.

The preliminary exam may be administered by the advisory committee or a departmental committee; herein referred to as the examination committee.

Regardless of exam format, a student will receive an overall preliminary exam result of pass or fail. The department (or interdisciplinary degree program, if applicable) will determine how the overall pass or fail result is determined based on the exam structure and internal department procedures. If the exam is administered by the advisory committee, each advisory committee member will provide a pass or fail evaluation decision.

Only one advisory committee substitution is allowed to provide an evaluation decision for a student's preliminary exam, and it cannot be the committee chair.

If a student is required to take, as a part of the preliminary examination, a written component administered by a department or interdisciplinary degree program, the department or interdisciplinary degree program faculty must:

1. offer the examination at least once every six months. The departmental or interdisciplinary degree program examination should be announced at least 30 days prior to the scheduled examination date.
2. assume the responsibility for marking the examination satisfactory or unsatisfactory, or otherwise graded, and in the case of unsatisfactory, stating specifically the reasons for such a mark.
3. forward the marked examination to the chair of the student's advisory committee within one week after the examination.

### Preliminary Examination Scheduling

Students are eligible to schedule the preliminary examination in the Academic Requirements Completion System (ARCS) if they meet the following list of eligibility requirements applies:

- Student is registered at Texas A&M University for a minimum of one semester credit hour in the long semester or summer term during which any component of the preliminary examination is held. If the entire examination is held between semesters, then the student must be registered for the term immediately preceding the examination.
- An approved degree plan is on file with the Graduate and Professional School prior to commencing the first component of the examination.
- Student's cumulative GPA is at least 3.000.
- Student's degree plan GPA is at least 3.000.
- All English language proficiency requirements are satisfied.
- At the end of the semester in which at least the first component of the exam is given, there are no more than 6 hours of coursework remaining on the degree plan (except 681, 684, 690, 691, 692, 693, 695, 697, 791, or other graduate courses specifically designated as S/U in the course catalog). The head of the student's department (or Chair of the Interdisciplinary Degree Program, if applicable) has the authority to approve a waiver of this criterion.

### Preliminary Examination Grading

Credit for the preliminary examination is not transferable in cases where a student changes degree programs after passing a preliminary exam.

If a written component precedes an oral component of the preliminary exam, the chair of the student's examination committee is responsible for making all written examinations available to all members of the committee. A positive evaluation of the preliminary exam by all members of a student's examination committee with at most one dissension is required to pass a student on his or her preliminary exam.

The student's department will promptly report the results of the Preliminary Examination to the Graduate and Professional School *via* the Academic Requirements Completion System (ARCS) within 10 working days of completion of the preliminary examination.

If an approved examination committee member substitution (one only) has been made, their approval must be submitted to the Graduate and Professional School *via* ARCS. The approval of the designated department approver is also required on the request.

After passing the required preliminary oral and written examinations for a doctoral degree, the student must complete the final examination within four years of the semester in which the preliminary exam is taken. Exams taken in between terms will expire at the end of the term that ended prior



to the exam. For example, a preliminary exam taken and passed during the Fall 2023 semester will expire at the end of the Fall 2027 semester. A preliminary exam taken in the time between the Summer and Fall 2023 semesters will expire at the end of the Summer 2027 semester.

### Retake of Failed Preliminary Examination

Upon approval of the student's examination committee, with no more than one member dissenting, and approval of the Graduate and Professional School, a student who has failed the preliminary examination may be given one re-examination. Adequate time must be given to permit the student to address the inadequacies emerging from the first preliminary examination. The examination committee must agree upon and communicate in writing to the student, an adequate time-frame from the first examination (normally six months) to retest, as well as a detailed explanation of the inadequacies emerging from the examination. The student and the committee should jointly negotiate a mutually acceptable date for this retest. When providing feedback on inadequacies, the committee should clearly document expected improvements that the student must be able to exhibit in order to retake the exam. The examination committee will document and communicate the time-frame and feedback within 10 working days of the exam that was not passed.

### Final Examination

Candidates for doctoral degrees must pass a final examination by deadline dates announced in the Graduate and Professional School Calendar (<https://grad.tamu.edu/knowledge-center/dates-and-deadlines/dates-and-deadlines/>) each semester. A doctoral student is allowed only one opportunity to take the final examination.

No unabsolved grades of D, F, or U for any course can be listed on the degree plan. The student must be registered for any remaining hours of 681, 684, 690, 691, 692, 791 or other graduate courses specifically designated as S/U in the course catalog during the semester of the final exam. No student may be given a final examination until they have been admitted to candidacy and their current official cumulative and degree plan GPAs are 3.00 or better.

Refer to the Admission to Candidacy (<https://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/academic-expectations-general-degree-requirements/#degreerequirementstext>) section of the graduate catalog for candidacy requirements.

A request to schedule the final examination must be submitted to the Graduate and Professional School *via* ARCS a minimum of 10 working days in advance of the scheduled date. Any changes to the degree plan must be approved by the Graduate and Professional School prior to the submission of the request for final examination.

The student's advisory committee will conduct this examination. Only one committee member substitution is allowed with the approval of the Graduate and Professional School. If the substitution is for the sole external member of the advisory committee – with an appointment to a department other than the student's major department – then the substitute must also be external to the student's major department. In extenuating circumstances, with approval of the Graduate and Professional School, an exception to this requirement may be granted.

The final examination is not to be administered until the dissertation or record of study is available in substantially final form to the student's advisory committee, and all concerned have had adequate time to review the document. Whereas the final examination may cover the broad field of the candidate's training, it is presumed that the major portion of the time will be devoted to the dissertation and closely allied topics. Persons

other than members of the graduate faculty may, with mutual consent of the candidate and the chair of the advisory committee, be invited to attend a final examination for an advanced degree. A positive vote by all members of the graduate committee with at most one dissension is required to pass a student on his or her exam. A department can have a stricter requirement provided there is consistency within all degree programs within a department. Upon completion of the questioning of the candidate, all visitors must excuse themselves from the proceedings.

### Final Examination Grading

The student's department will promptly report the results of the Final Examination to the Graduate and Professional School Academic Requirements Completion System (ARCS) within 10 working days of completion of the final examination. The Graduate and Professional School will be automatically notified *via* ARCS of any cancellations.

A positive evaluation of the final exam by all members of a student's advisory committee with at most one dissension is required to pass a student on his or her final exam. If an approved committee member substitution (1 only) has been made, their approval must be included on the form submitted to the Graduate and Professional School *via* ARCS.

### Dissertation

The dissertation, which must be a candidate's original work, demonstrates the ability to perform independent research. Whereas acceptance of the dissertation is based primarily on its scholarly merit, it must also exhibit creditable literary workmanship. Dissertation formatting must be acceptable to the Graduate and Professional School as outlined in the Guidelines for Theses, Dissertations, and Records of Study.

After successful defense and approval by the student's advisory committee and the head of the student's major department (or chair of intercollegiate faculty, if applicable), a student must submit the dissertation in electronic format as a single PDF file to <https://etd.tamu.edu/>. Additionally, a dissertation approval form with original signatures must be received by the Graduate and Professional School through the Academic Requirements Completion System (ARCS). Both the PDF file and the completed ARCS approval form must be received by the deadline.

Deadline dates for submitting are announced each semester or summer term in the Graduate and Professional School Calendar (see Time Limit statement). These dates also can be accessed *via* the Graduate and Professional School website (<https://grad.tamu.edu/>).

Each student who submits a document for review is assessed a one-time thesis/dissertation processing fee paid through Student Business Services. This processing fee is for the thesis/dissertation services provided. After commencement, dissertations are digitally stored and made available through the Texas A&M Libraries.

A dissertation that is deemed unacceptable by the Graduate and Professional School because of excessive corrections will be returned to the student's department head or chair of the intercollegiate faculty. The manuscript must be resubmitted as a new document, and the entire review process must begin anew. All original submittal deadlines must be met during the resubmittal process to graduate.

## Additional Requirements

### Additional Requirements

- Residence (p. 6)
- Time Limit (p. 6)

- Continuous Registration (p. 6)
- Admission to Candidacy (p. 6)
- Foreign Languages (p. 6)
- Internship or Practicum (p. 6)
- 130 Hour Cap for DrPH (p. 6)
- Application for Degree (p. 7)

## Residence

A student who enters the doctoral degree program with a baccalaureate degree must spend one academic year plus one semester in resident study at Texas A&M University. A student who holds master's degree when he/she enters doctoral degree program must spend one academic year in resident study. One academic year may include two adjacent regular semesters or one regular semester and one adjacent 10-week summer semester. The third semester is not required to be adjacent to the one year. Enrollment for each semester must be a minimum of 9 credit hours each to satisfy the residence requirement.

To satisfy the residence requirement, the student must complete a minimum of 9 credit hours per semester or 10-week summer semester in resident study at Texas A&M University for the required period. A student who enters a doctoral degree program with a baccalaureate degrees may fulfill residence requirements in excess of one academic year (18 credit hours) by registration during summer sessions or by completion of a less-than-full course load (in this context a full course load is considered 9 credit hours per semester).

Students who are employed full-time while completing their degree may fulfill total residence requirements by completion of less-than-full time course loads each semester. In order to be considered for this, the student is required to submit a Petition for Waivers and Exceptions along with verification of his/her employment to the Graduate and Professional School. An employee should submit verification of his/her employment at the time he/she submits the degree plan. See Registration. (<https://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/academic-expectations-general-degree-requirements/#registrationandacademicstatustext>)

See Residence Requirements (<https://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/academic-expectations-general-degree-requirements/#degree requirementstext>).

## Time Limit

All requirements for doctoral degrees must be completed within a period of 10 consecutive calendar years for the degree to be granted. A course will be considered valid until 10 years after the end of the semester in which it is taken. Graduate credit for coursework more than 10 calendar years old at the time of the final oral examination may not be used to satisfy degree requirements.

After passing the required preliminary oral and written examinations for a doctoral degree, the student must complete the final examination within 4 calendar years. Otherwise, the student will be required to repeat the preliminary examination.

After passing the required preliminary oral and written examinations for a doctoral degree, the student must complete the final examination within four years of the semester in which the preliminary exam is taken. Exams taken in between terms will expire at the end of the term that ended prior to the exam. For example, a preliminary exam taken and passed during the Fall 2019 semester will expire at the end of the Fall 2023 semester. A

preliminary exam taken in the time between the Summer and Fall 2019 semesters will expire at the end of the Summer 2023 semester.

A final corrected version of the dissertation or record of study in electronic format as a single PDF file must be cleared by the Graduate and Professional School within one year of the semester in which the final exam is taken. Exams taken in between terms will expire at the end of the term that ended prior to the exam. For example, a final exam taken and passed during the Fall 2022 semester will expire at the end of the Fall 2023 semester. A final exam taken in the time between the summer and Fall 2022 semesters will expire at the end of the Summer 2023 semester. Failure to do so will result in the degree not being awarded.

## Continuous Registration

A student in a program leading to a Doctor of Public Health who has completed all coursework on his/her degree plan other than 691 (Research) are required to be in continuous registration until all requirements for the degree have been completed.

See Continuous Registration Requirements (<https://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/academic-expectations-general-degree-requirements/#registrationandacademicstatustext>).

## Admission to Candidacy

To be admitted to candidacy for a doctoral degree, a student must have:

1. completed all formal coursework on the degree plan with the exception of any remaining 681, 684, 690, 691 and 791.
2. a 3.0 Graduate GPA and a Degree Plan GPA of at least 3.0 with no grade lower than C in any course on the degree plan,
3. passed the preliminary examination (written and oral portions),
4. submitted an approved dissertation proposal,
5. met the residence requirements.

The final examination will not be authorized for any doctoral student who has not been admitted to candidacy.

## Foreign Languages

A student is required to possess a competent command of English. For English language proficiency requirements, see the Admissions section of this catalog. The doctoral foreign language requirement at Texas A&M University is a departmental option, to be administered and monitored by the individual departments of academic instruction.

## Internship or Practicum

Students in the DRPH are required to fulfill a practicum requirement. Specific course names and numbers by department are PHEB 684, PHEO 684, PHPM 684, and HBEH 684. Instructions on submission and successful completion of the practicum are posted on the School of Public Health practicum website as well as with the department's practicum coordinator. Students are to work specifically with their department practicum coordinator on meeting this curriculum course requirement. Students must be in good academic standing, have completed all core public health courses, or be enrolled concurrently in no more than one core course at the time they enroll in the 684 course, and have no registration or university blocks related to enrollment.

## 130 Hour Cap for DrPH

There is a state mandated cap on number of hours a student can enroll in without penalty. The cap is currently 130 hours (approximately 5 and

one-half years), and once students reach this cap, they are required to pay out-of-state tuition on all subsequent hours until they graduate.

### **Application for Degree**

For information on applying for your degree, please visit the Graduation (<https://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/academic-expectations-general-degree-requirements/#degreerequirementstext>) section.