

# *Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics*

## *Graduate Program*

### *Frequently Asked Questions*

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#### *What sort of undergraduate preparation should I have to be competitive in the application process?*

Please visit our Departmental website for more information on our [Fields of Study](#). In general however, our program requires students to have had a recent course in statistics. If a great deal of time has elapsed since you have taken statistical courses, we recommend that you include in your application, concrete examples of how you use statistical theory in your regular role at work.

**Population Epidemiology:** Applicants to this field of the program come from a wide variety of backgrounds including (but not restricted to) biology, sociology, psychology, statistics, economics, political science or a health care discipline. A good aptitude for quantitative statistical methods is integral to success in this field.

**Health Services and Policy Research:** Applicants to this field have a wide variety of backgrounds including social sciences, biological sciences, statistics and the health care professions.

**Clinical Epidemiology:** Applicants to this field should hold a degree in a health care profession (e.g. MD, PT).

**Biostatistics:** Applicants to this field should have a mathematical statistics background and hold a degree from a department of statistics, mathematics or applied mathematics.

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#### *Does it matter what field I apply to?*

Although you should have a good understanding of all the [Fields of Study](#) before applying, the Admissions Committee will review and validate your field selection to ensure that the appropriate one has been chosen.

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#### *What is the difference between the degree program and the certificate program?*

The [Certificate Program](#) in Epidemiology is available only to individuals who are licensed to practice medicine in Canada. It is intended to provide a “methodological toolkit” for established clinical faculty. It is not an alternative to an MSc or PhD.

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#### *How long will it take me to complete: an MSc? PhD?*

For full-time MSc students, a typical registration period is 2 years. Full-time PhD students typically require 4 years to complete the program.

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#### *What is the cut-off average for admission to your program?*

Our degree programs are competitive with an A- (80% or 10/12) cut off admissions average. Please note however that meeting the minimum average requirement does not guarantee admission. Other criteria for application approval include: letters of reference, academic preparation and how well the program will prepare you for your planned career path.

***How do you calculate my admission average?***

For full-time undergraduate/graduate students, we count back two academic years, whereas for part-time undergraduate/graduate students, the last 10 full or 20 half courses are counted.

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***What are my tuition fees? Do you offer tuition assistance?***

For the academic year 2009-2010 annual full-time tuition for Domestic students was \$4, 818 while annual full-time tuition for International students was \$10, 062. For updated tuition and fees information, [please click here](#). Last year, full-time students entering with an academic average of greater or equal to 80% received full tuition support.

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***Can you mail me an application package?***

No. All of the application instructions and forms are posted on our website.

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***My transcripts/letters of reference have been requested but may arrive after the deadline. Is that acceptable?***

Applications that are otherwise complete by February 1<sup>st</sup> (i.e. only missing transcripts and/or letters of reference) will be marked as ‘pending’ until all supporting documentation arrives. However given that only completed applications are circulated to the Admissions Committee for consideration, it is in your best interest to ensure your application is submitted in its entirety by the February 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. A delay may result in your application not being considered for the first round of offers.

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***I do not have an academic reference for the “Letter of Recommendation” is that acceptable?***

Yes. Although an academic referee is preferred, a non-academic referee (e.g. an employer) will be accepted.

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***My first language is not English. Do I need to provide proof of proficiency?***

Yes, unless, you have at least a two-year degree from a North American university.

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***Do you require Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) test scores?***

No. GRE scores are not requirement of this program.

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***How can I verify that you have received my graduate application package and if it is complete?***

You will receive an email from [epibio@schulich.uwo.ca](mailto:epibio@schulich.uwo.ca) if we require further information from you.

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***When will I know if I have been accepted?***

You will be notified as soon as a decision is made. If you have not heard back from the department, it is because the Admissions Committee has not yet decided whether to extend you an offer. **Given the volume of**

**applications, we will not be able to respond to telephone inquiries regarding the status of your application.**

*How will I be notified if I am accepted?*

You will be contacted by email or by telephone to acknowledge acceptance into the program. A formal letter from the department will follow.

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*How many students are admitted each year?*

Over 100 applications are received, from which approximately 25 students are accepted.

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*Do you accept late applications?*

Yes, however, please be aware that late applicants will only be considered after the Admissions Committee has reviewed applications received by the deadline.

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