Distinctly Brown

Over 250 years since its founding, Brown remains committed to the values that define and sustain our record of excellence and influence in the world. Brown is a place where ideas, passion, and constructive irreverence lead to lives of purpose and positive consequence. Our students have opportunities to learn, grow, and explore amidst a supportive and distinguished community of scholars.

Steeped in Brown Traditions

The iconic Van Wickle Gates on the Quiet Green open only twice per year: inward for Convocation, when new students walk in and are welcomed by a gathering of the Brown community, and outward for Commencement, when graduating students process out past alums, family, friends and others. According to superstition, any Brown student who passes through the gates more than these two times will be cursed with bad luck.

Brown School of Public Health

The Brown University School of Public Health has three distinguishing features. First is an overarching approach that carries across our departments and 11 nationally-renowned research centers and institutes: we learn public health by doing public health. The enterprise has expanded since its founding in 2000 to support more than 200 faculty and 275 undergraduate and graduate students—and to attract over $56 million in annual external research funding. Second, we embrace Brown University’s ethos of service to others. Our work has impact on entire populations, with the potential to improve the health and well-being of millions. And finally, the School is focused on training professionals who can collect, analyze, and apply data that inform public policy. Graduates from our programs go on to fulfilling careers in education, service, policy, and practice in the fields of public health.

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Connect with Brown!
About Epidemiology at Brown

Our vibrant community of science, learning, and practice includes 50 world-class faculty, multiple degree programs, and a diverse range of internationally-recognized research. Drawing upon Brown’s commitment to innovative approaches to education, our department combines the best of traditional epidemiologic methods along with creative new cross-disciplinary activities.

Major areas of research activity include cancer; cardiovascular disease; environmental epidemiology; global/international health; health services and pharmacoepidemiology; infectious disease; pediatric and perinatal epidemiology; molecular and genetic epidemiology; nutrition, metabolism, and physical activity; psychiatric epidemiology; quantitative methods; and social and behavioral determinants of health.

Degrees Offered

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
Master of Science (ScM)

Requirements for admission

Students entering our PhD program come from diverse academic backgrounds. However, command of a basic body of epidemiologic knowledge is needed to access both courses and the scientific literature. Many students admitted directly to the PhD track will already possess a master's degree, but this is not a requirement. If appropriate coursework has not been completed at the time of application, students should describe a plan for doing so. In some cases, the courses can be taken after admission.

The master’s program is designed to provide advanced training in the underlying principles and practice of epidemiology for students with little or no prior graduate-level training. We do not require a specific type of undergraduate degree, and indeed we encourage applications from students with a variety of academic backgrounds.

For both programs, results from a recent GRE (within five years) are required. Subject test scores can be submitted but are not required. Other standardized tests (e.g. MCAT, LSAT) may not substitute for the GRE. TOEFL scores are required for students whose native language is not English, but may be waived for those who hold a bachelors or master's degree from a US institution.

• Applications are due January 5th for fall-semester admission. http://www.brown.edu/academics/gradschool/apply

• Course Offerings link: http://www.brown.edu/academics/public-health/courses-manual

• Financial Assistance link: http://www.brown.edu/about/administration/financial-aid/graduate-overview-facts-tips-and-tools

Student Profile

NINA JOYCE

Nina joined the PhD program after four years as a clinical research coordinator for an emergency medicine department. Having learned the structure of health claims from a clinical perspective, her research has focused on using large health claims databases to study patterns of health utilization and disease. Most recently she was awarded a highly competitive predoctoral dissertation grant from the American Heart Association.

“The small size of the faculty, relative to other schools, has the obvious added benefit of more personal attention. Unlike other programs with a more entrenched curriculum, there is the flexibility to incorporate the latest methods, as opposed to reserving them for higher level electives later in our training.”

Faculty Profile

SIMIN LIU, MD, ScD
Professor of Epidemiology and Medicine

Dr. Simin Liu’s research focuses on identifying molecular and nutritional strategies for chronic disease prevention, diagnosis, and control. An experienced and accomplished researcher, Dr Liu also cares deeply about teaching and has taught and mentored many graduate and undergraduate students at Harvard, UCLA, and Brown University.

“The multidisciplinary and supportive environment in our epidemiology program allows for close interactions between professors and students and nurtures the development of lifelong learning habits for advanced thinking and resolution.”