

FAQs PROGRAM CHANGES 2021

School of Population Health

(Formerly School of Public Health and Community Medicine)

Epidemiology and biostatistics core courses requirements

- **Summary of change**

From 2021, the core course requirements for the MPH, MIPH, and MIDI programs (including dual and extensions) will change from one combined core course in epidemiology and statistics (PHCM9498 Epidemiology and Statistics for Public Health) to separate core courses (**PHCM9794 Foundations of Epidemiology** and **PHCM9795 Foundations of Biostatistics**). This will increase the number of units of credit required to be taken as core in these programs.

MHM students are now able to take PHCM9794 Foundations of Epidemiology and PHCM9795 Foundations of Biostatistics courses as electives in their program.

- **I have already completed PHCM9498 Epidemiology and Statistics for Public Health, can I enrol in PHCM9794 Foundations of Epidemiology or PHCM9795 Foundations of Biostatistics courses?**

No, the course content for the PHCM9498 Epidemiology and Statistics for Public Health course is essentially the same as the two split courses – all are introductory postgraduate-level courses in epidemiology and biostatistics. Students can only enrol in either PHCM9498 Epidemiology and Statistics for Public Health or PHCM9794 Foundations of Epidemiology and PHCM9795 Foundations of Biostatistics courses.

- **I only have 6UOC remaining to complete my degree, can I enrol in PHCM9794 Foundations of Epidemiology or PHCM9795 Foundations of Biostatistics courses in Term 2 to complete my program?**

No, the program requirements for the MPH, MIPH, and MIDI include both epidemiology and biostatistics. Either PHCM9498 or both PHCM9794 and PHCM9795 must be completed to be eligible for completion of your program.

- **I completed a postgraduate biostatistics or epidemiology course at another university, can I get an exemption from one or both of these courses?**

Yes, you can apply for credit transfer from courses from equivalent programs and equivalent units of credit. Usual credit transfer application process applies. See the UNSW [Credit transfer page](#)

- **I am in the Master of Health Management, can I take PHCM9794 Foundations of Epidemiology or PHCM9795 Foundations of Biostatistics courses?**

The core course requirement for the MHLM is PHCM9781 Evidence-informed Decision-making. However, PHCM9794 and/or PHCM9795 can be taken as electives in the MHLM program.

PHCM9794 Foundations of Epidemiology and PHCM9795 Foundations of Biostatistics courses will be available for enrolment in Term 2 2021.

Master of Infectious Diseases Intelligence core course requirements

- **Summary of change**

From 2021, the core course requirements for the MIDI program will change. This includes the changes to epidemiology and statistics teaching (see above). Other changes are: (1) PHCM9781 Evidence-informed Decision-making will no longer be an optional core course. Students will be required to have completed PHCM9498 Epidemiology and Statistics for Public Health or complete the separate core courses (PHCM9794 Foundations of Epidemiology and PHCM9795 Foundations of Biostatistics); and (2) to accommodate the additional 6UOC core, PHCM9050 Immunisation Policy and Practice will no longer be a core requirement but will remain a highly recommended elective.

- **I completed PHCM9781 Evidence-informed Decision-making as the core option for my MIDI program. Will I need to complete PHCM9794 and PHCM9795?**

Current MIDI students who have completed PHCM9781 EIDM instead of PHCM9498 will be exempt from completing the PHCM9794 Foundations of Epidemiology and PHCM9795 Foundations of Biostatistics courses. However, they can be taken as “electives” as long as the remaining core requirements for the MIDI are met.

- **I completed PHCM9731 Outbreak Investigation as an elective but haven't completed the new core PHCM9788 Outbreak Investigation and Intelligence. Do I need to take this core course?**

No, students who have completed PHCM9731 but not PHCM9788 are exempt from this core course. Students should contact the [Education Support Office team](#) for advice on their progression plan.

In 2019, the core course PHCM9788 Infectious Diseases Intelligence was combined with the elective PHCM9731 Outbreak Investigation, so that PHCM9788 Outbreak Investigation and Intelligence is the core course for the MIDI.

- **I enrolled in the MIDI program in T3. How do I complete this program full-time?**

PHCM9788 Outbreak Investigation and Intelligence and PHCM9789 Bioterrorism and Health Intelligence will be available for enrolment in Term 3 2021. However, PHCM9789 Bioterrorism and Health Intelligence is also available for enrolment in Term 3 2020. To discuss the ideal progression plan for your program, contact the [Education Support Office team](#) or MIDI Program Director (Dr Abrar Chughtai).

Masters (extension) and dual (extension) programs and research projects

- **Summary of change**

Changes to the articulation requirements of our extension programs are:

- (1) the removal of the credit average articulation requirements to progress to the extension component;
- (2) a research project will no longer be a requirement. Instead, students can take either a research project or complete additional research methodology courses; and
- (3) from 2021, to enrol in any research project completion of 18UOC or more of coursework with a **distinction average grade, a WAM of 75 or higher** will be required.

The research methodology coursework electives are listed below and are the same courses included in the SPH [Articulation from Masters by Coursework to PhD](#) requirements.

- PHCM9132 Applied Research Methods
- PHCM9120 Qualitative Research Methods
- PHCM9517 Advanced Biostatistics
- PHCM9518 Advanced Epidemiology

- **I have a credit average from my courses taken in 2020, does this mean I am not eligible to undertake a research project?**

No. A credit average, WAM of 65 or higher and completion of 18UOC or more coursework completed prior to 2021 will still be eligible to undertake a research project as part of your program. For students commencing in 2021, a distinction average, WAM of 75 or higher and completion of 18UOC or more coursework is required.