Epidemiology Specialty Field in Population Health

It is increasingly clear that epidemiologists and economists often address similar problems related to population-level human health; in fact, these two disciplines are the major contributors of research and expertise related to health policy. However, the two disciplines employ different analytical tools and assumptions to motivate their research and inferences, often with lack of substance knowledge about the core of the other discipline. In light of this convergence of focus, it seems important to introduce interested doctoral candidates in epidemiology to the basic concepts and tools of related to health services and policy analysis. The Health Services and Policy Analysis (HSPA) PhD program at UC-Berkeley has recognized a complimentary need to introduce its doctoral candidates to the basic concepts and tools of epidemiologic design and analysis.

The Graduate Group in Epidemiology already indicated the minimum set of courses for HSPA doctoral candidates in such a program; HSPA has done the same for epidemiology.

The courses recommended for those epidemiology doctoral candidates who wish to gain basic expertise in HSPA are:

- PH 226A or PH 226B Microeconomics of Health Care Policy (with ECON 101A as a possible prerequisite, if the student has no microeconomics background)
- PH 226C Health and the Economy
- PH 230 or PH 293.17 Health Politics (with PH 220 Master's Health Policy as a prerequisite)
- ARE* 213 Applied Econometrics (requires linear algebra regression background)

The first three courses are considered the minimum. ARE 213 is strongly recommended for those students interested in understanding how economists approach causal inference.

In addition, the Divisions of Epidemiology and HSPA will offer a joint seminar for all of their doctoral candidates during the time scheduled for the Friday Epidemiology Doctoral Seminar. The format and frequency of joint meetings will be announced in the Seminar.

- ARE = Agricultural and Resource Economics