



THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

**Course title:** PUBH7600 Introduction to Epidemiology

**Course co-ordinator:** Dr Chris Bain

**Mode:** Internal and External

**Course Introduction:**

This core course introduces you to epidemiology, one of the basic disciplines underpinning the practice of health care and health research at all levels, health evaluation, and disease prevention. Epidemiology is the study of the distribution and determinants of disease in populations. It involves a cycle which asks questions about the health and disease status of individuals and populations, develops methods to investigate problems identified, infer their causes, and evaluate interventions. The focus is on the application of epidemiology to the health of populations or communities. This core Public Health course complements [PUBH7630 Introduction to Biostatistics](#).

**Course Aims:**

The course introduces you to the basic principles and methods of epidemiology as they relate to the identification, control and prevention of ill-health in the community. The skills you acquire will help in reading and evaluation of the health literature and are broadly applicable to all areas of public health in which you might work.

**Course Content:**

Specific topics include: mortality and morbidity (data sources and measures), summary measures of population health, linking exposure and disease, study design, bias, confounding, association and cause, epidemics and their investigation, surveillance, disease prevention, screening, health services research and health policy.

**Method of Assessment:**

Assessment comprises 3 written assignments consisting of short answer questions.

**Recommended text:**

No recommended text. Topic reading lists are provided in course Study Guide.

**Resources:**

**Study Guide:** This contains the week-by-week learning materials. These include learning objectives, the required reading, an introduction, a brief synopsis and key definitions, case studies, and practical exercises.

**An online Blackboard site** provides an interactive environment for the students and teachers. Reliable and regular access to the Internet is essential.

**Further details** are provided in the [Course Profile](#).  
[http://www.uq.edu.au/study/course.html?course\\_code=PUBH7600](http://www.uq.edu.au/study/course.html?course_code=PUBH7600)