

Course and comprehensive exam expectations for graduate programs in epidemiology at the Centre for Veterinary Epidemiological Research (CVER)

Overview – One of the goals of CVER is to provide advanced and comprehensive epidemiological training to graduate students. Our MSc and PhD programs include extensive training in population-based research methodology, with emphasis on courses in quantitative epidemiology and biostatistics. The training guarantees all graduate students with a specialization in epidemiology will have ample opportunity to develop strong analytical and communicative skills in epidemiology (and related disciplines). In order to help achieve this goal, academic supervisors for programs in epidemiology within CVER also commit to support the comprehensive training through the enrolment in courses and the data-driven research undertaken by their students. Course and comprehensive exam expectations are indicated below.

Courses – Normally, the core CVER courses are two courses in epidemiology based on the textbook Veterinary Epidemiological Research (2nd ed) and at least one course in biostatistics. When relevant, the second epidemiology course may be replaced with a suitable course(s) in other areas of epidemiology, statistics or research methodology related to population-based research. The normal credit requirement for graduate programs in epidemiology is a minimum of 11 credit hours, but many programs go beyond that by including additional courses, e.g. from the Epi on the Island summer course program. The course requirement may be relaxed for students who enter the program with a strong background in epidemiology (typically this will be PhD students who had extensive epidemiology training as part of an MSc degree).

Comprehensive exam – For PhD students in epidemiology, it is expected that their comprehensive exam will cover the content of the two core courses in epidemiology (or alternative if one or more methodology courses have been substituted for the second epidemiology course). In all cases, it is expected that the comprehensive exam will include a take-home component.

Current list of graduate courses in epidemiology and biostatistics within CVER's graduate program

Course name	VHM no	Credits	Notes
Epidemiology I	8110	4	
Epidemiology II	8120	4	
Introduction to quantitative risk analysis applied to animal and veterinary public health	8330	3	
Introduction to quantitative risk assessment in animal health and food safety	8340	2	online and shortened version of VHM 8330
Veterinary biostatistics	8010	3	mandatory, per AVC regulations
Advanced veterinary biostatistics	8020	3	partially co-taught with VHM 8120 (2 credits if both courses are taken)
(Selected) Topics in biostatistics and epidemiology	8310 (8320)	2 (1)	typically offered as Epi on the Island summer courses
Directed studies related to epidemiology or biostatistics	8810/ 8820	1-3	topics targeted to individual students

Additionally, the AVC regulations require completion of a seminar course (VHM 8900/9900, 1 credit) and several mandatory workshops.