



DREXEL UNIVERSITY  
**Dornsife**  
School of Public Health

**DOCTORAL VIEWBOOK**

# **URBAN FOCUS. GLOBAL IMPACT.**



## ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

**The Dornsife School of Public Health at Drexel University – Philadelphia's #1 school of public health – prepares doctoral students to become public health researchers, professionals, and advocates ready to take on today's public health challenges at a national and global level.**

Our School is a center of excellence in urban health, and our research aims to understand and find innovative solutions to today's public health problems through science, partnerships, and policy.





## RESEARCH

Within the past decade Dornsife has tripled its research expenditures while continuing to reaffirm a commitment to health and human rights, to eliminating health disparities, and to translating evidence into policy and practice.

Our research projects are funded by federal, state, and local governments as well as foundations and industry. Federal funders include NIH, CDC, Health Resources and Services Administration, FEMA, and the National Science Foundation.

In FY2021 Dornsife faculty were involved in **184 active grants/contracts** and received **85 awards** for funding.

# WHAT MAKES DORNSIFE'S PUBLIC HEALTH DOCTORAL PROGRAMS UNIQUE?

Doctoral students benefit from the Dornsife School of Public Health's emphasis on urban health and social justice, and the school's location in Philadelphia—the 6th largest city in the United States—where dynamic networks of academic, government, non-profit, and community-based organizations share a commitment to addressing health problems.

Drexel University's pledge to being “the most civically engaged university in the country” drives its partnerships in Philadelphia and throughout the region, offering students meaningful research and leadership opportunities.

Benefits of Dornsife's public health doctoral programs include:

## ► **Research Opportunities**

Dornsife sits within a top-tier research university, offering access to faculty, coursework, and resources across Drexel's 15 schools and colleges.

## ► **Financial Support**

Full-time students with research fellowships or graduate assistantships receive full tuition, 12-month stipend, and health insurance.

## ► **Mentorship**

Students are matched with outstanding faculty mentors from diverse backgrounds based on their research interests.

## ► **Teaching Opportunities**

Students have hands-on opportunities to improve their professional and academic skills.

## ► **Cohort Size**

A close-knit culture offers a tailored small-class doctoral experience and a favorable faculty-to-student ratio.

## ► **A Renowned Program**

*U.S. News & World Report* ranks Dornsife the #1 graduate school of public health in Philadelphia and in the top 15 percent nationwide. Dornsife is accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH).

# DOCTORAL CURRICULUM

Dornsife doctoral programs focus on training scholars in discovery. Advanced research skills and methods prepare every graduate for a unique career path as an independent scholar.

Students learn from faculty who are a mix of traditional academics and researchers, dedicated teachers, and experienced practitioners, providing a range of perspectives.

All doctoral students complete and defend a dissertation under the guidance of a faculty advisor. The dissertation offers students the opportunity to conduct original, complex research and demonstrate their ability to substantially contribute to the field of public health.



## PROGRAMS

Dornsife offers a Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) degree program and five Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree programs.

The **DrPH in Health Management and Policy** equips students with a mix of skills needed to pursue advanced, practice-based careers in health management and policy in health care, public health, or related domains to become effective leaders at successive levels within health organizations during the course of their careers. Core areas of study include health care organization and systems, research and evaluation, health economics and finance, and leadership and strategic management.

The **PhD in Biostatistics** trains researchers to develop new statistical methods for applications in biomedical, public health, and the biological sciences and to work collaboratively with researchers across a spectrum of scientific research fields. Our biostatisticians are able to generate new statistical theory, grounded in fundamental concepts from probability and contribute scientifically to both the statistical methods and applications literatures.

The **PhD in Community Health and Prevention** program emphasizes the application of interdisciplinary, theoretical, and applied research paradigms to the understanding and prevention of public health problems. Students gain a broad-based, systemic understanding of public health scholarship related to the social and behavioral determinants of health and illness, and the ability to conduct original research to benefit the public's health.

# STUDENT LIFE

"The research provides evidence that having health programs and policies can make a difference in reducing racial and ethnic disparities both at a state level and in community-based physician practices."

**-CINTHYA ALBERTO, MPH, PHD**  
Health Services Research and Policy

*Cynthia investigated the impact of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) on health care access for children.*

Dornsife's diverse student body comes from many parts of the United States and from different countries all over the world. Students bring their experiences, ambition, and life stories to Drexel Dornsife where they can create a unique identity and grow as individuals.

**DORNSIFE'S PUBLIC HEALTH DOCTORAL STUDENTS ADVISORY GROUP (PHDSAG)** represents all doctoral students in the school. The group enhances doctoral students' experiences by partnering with school administrators, faculty members, and public health researchers and practitioners in the community.



Doctoral students receive support from the Student Affairs team to help achieve their professional, academic, and personal goals, including:

**Career planning and assessment · Alumni mentoring · Academic support · Student wellness · Student diversity and inclusion · Navigating Drexel and Philly**

## The PhD in Environmental and Occupational Health

trains students with the skills necessary to perform scientifically rigorous research to address pressing environmental and occupational health issues. Students have an opportunity to specialize in areas such as environmental epidemiology, injury prevention, occupational health and safety, industrial hygiene, or exposure assessment.

## The PhD in Epidemiology

prepares graduates to use the science of epidemiology to ask and answer highly meaningful public health questions. Students develop the skill and expertise to initiate and direct scientifically rigorous research that can improve the health and well-being of populations through public health and medical policy and procedure.

## The PhD in Health Services Research & Policy

equips students with the skills to identify and answer research questions regarding healthcare and public health services, systems, and policies in the United States. Students translate and disseminate findings into actions that improve both personal and population health.

## FUNDING AND SUPPORT

In general, doctoral students finance their education through a variety of sources. DrPH students typically rely on funding from the organization/agency in which they work, or they personally finance their degree.

Dornsife provides financial support for PhD students through training grants, scholarships, stipends, and working as a teaching or research assistant. Fully funded research and teaching fellowship opportunities are available, including fellowships at Dornsife's Urban Health Collaborative.

**95 percent of Dornsife PhD students** receive tuition remission, stipend above the NIH rate, and health insurance.

**To learn more about PhD scholarships & fellowships visit [drexel.edu/dornsife/admissions/scholarships](https://drexel.edu/dornsife/admissions/scholarships).**

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**"I was struck by how accessible and personable the faculty was" at Dornsife. "Everyone at Dornsife is truly committed to student success and professional growth, which is not true everywhere!"**

**-RINI JOSE, MPH**

PhD Candidate in the department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics



# YOUR FUTURE

Drexel Dornsife prepares doctoral students to lead as public health scientists, researchers, educators and professionals in a broad range of academic, policy and service settings both in the United States and globally.

Students build a strong professional identity, prepared to make a meaningful impact in the field of public health.

## APPLY NOW

In general, doctoral degree applicants are asked to submit an application, official transcripts, letters of recommendation, standardized test scores (optional for some programs), and a personal essay.

Dornsife doctoral programs select students for admission based on prior academic record, standardized test scores if required, professional interests, and alignment with faculty expertise.

Prospective doctoral students are typically notified of their admissions decisions in February and are given until April 15 to make their decision.

**APPLY: [drexel.edu/dornsife/admissions/apply/](https://drexel.edu/dornsife/admissions/apply/)**

PROMOTING AND PROTECTING  
BOTH HEALTH AND  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
IS NOTHING SHORT  
OF REVOLUTIONARY FOR  
PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE.  
- J. MANN, MD, MPH

Learn more:  
[drexel.edu/dornsife](https://drexel.edu/dornsife)

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