## Unit Outline

**PUBH2001 Introduction to Epidemiology**  
**Semester 2, 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit study package code:</th>
<th>PUBH2001</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mode of study:</td>
<td>Internal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Tuition pattern summary: | Note: For any specific variations to this tuition pattern and for precise information refer to the Learning Activities section. Lecture: 1 x 2 Hours Weekly  
Tutorial: 1 x 2 Hours Weekly  
This unit does not have a fieldwork component. |
| Credit Value:            | 25.0     |
| Pre-requisite units:     |          |

- 303168 (v.0) Epidemiology and Biostatistics 180 or any previous version  
  OR  
- 313390 (v.0) Evidence Informed Health Practice 100 or any previous version  
  OR  
- 314512 (v.0) Evidence Informed Health Practice 130 or any previous version  
  OR  
- CMHL1001 (v.0) Evidence Informed Health Practice or any previous version  
  AND  
- 155699 (v.0) Bachelor of Science (Food Science and Technology) or any previous version  
  OR  
- 305717 (v.0) Bachelor of Science (Health Promotion), Bachelor of Science (Health and Safety) or any previous version  
  OR  
- 168999 (v.0) Bachelor of Science (Nutrition) or any previous version  
  OR  
- 311344 (v.0) Bachelor of Science (Health, Safety and Environment) or any previous version  
  OR  
- 155410 (v.0) Bachelor of Science (Health and Safety) or any previous version  
  OR  
- 155599 (v.0) Bachelor of Science - Health Sciences or any previous version  
  OR  
- 156799 (v.0) Bachelor of Science (Health Promotion) or any previous version  
  OR  
- 305655 (v.0) Bachelor of Science (Health Promotion), Bachelor of Science (Nutrition) or any previous version  
  OR  
- B-FOODSCST (v.0) Bachelor of Science (Food Science and Technology) or any previous version  
  OR  
- BB-HPRHSF (v.0) Bachelor of Science (Health Promotion), Bachelor of Science...
(Health and Safety) or any previous version
OR
B-NUTR (v.0) Bachelor of Science (Nutrition) or any previous version
OR
B-HLSFENV (v.0) Bachelor of Science (Health, Safety and Environment) or any previous version
OR
B-HLTHSC (v.0) Bachelor of Science (Health Sciences) or any previous version
OR
B-HLTPROM (v.0) Bachelor of Science (Health Promotion) or any previous version
OR
BB-HPRNTR (v.0) Bachelor of Science (Nutrition), Bachelor of Science (Health Promotion) or any previous version

Co-requisite units: Nil

Anti-requisite units: 13121 (v.0) Epidemiology 282 or any previous version
AND
303091 (v.0) Epidemiology 186 or any previous version
AND
8703 (v.0) Epidemiology 382 or any previous version

Result type: Grade/Mark

Approved incidental fees: Information about approved incidental fees can be obtained from our website. Visit fees.curtin.edu.au/incidental_fees.cfm for details.

Unit coordinator:
Title: Ms
Name: Rakhshanda Naheed
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Location: Building: 400 - Room: 430

Teaching Staff:
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Administrative contact:
Name: School of Public Health Student Support Office
Phone: + 61 8 9266 7927
Email: PHealthStudentSupport@curtin.edu.au
Location: Building: 400 - Room: 310

Learning Management System: Blackboard (lms.curtin.edu.au)

Acknowledgement of Country

We respectfully acknowledge the Indigenous Elders, custodians, their descendants and kin of this land past and present.
Syllabus

Introduction
Welcome to PUBH2001 Introduction to Epidemiology.
Introduction to Epidemiology introduces undergraduate students to the basic concepts and methods of epidemiology and their application to public health. Epidemiology is the study of the distribution and determinants of health and disease, and the application of this knowledge to the control of health problems. Thus, it is fundamental to the understanding of public health issues and applications across various disciplines of public health.

Unit Learning Outcomes
All graduates of Curtin University achieve a set of nine graduate attributes during their course of study. These tell an employer that, through your studies, you have acquired discipline knowledge and a range of other skills and attributes which employers say would be useful in a professional setting. Each unit in your course addresses the graduate attributes through a clearly identified set of learning outcomes. They form a vital part in the process referred to as assurance of learning. The learning outcomes tell you what you are expected to know, understand or be able to do in order to be successful in this unit. Each assessment for this unit is carefully designed to test your achievement of one or more of the unit learning outcomes. On successfully completing all of the assessments you will have achieved all of these learning outcomes.

Your course has been designed so that on graduating we can say you will have achieved all of Curtin’s Graduate Attributes through the assurance of learning process in each unit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>On successful completion of this unit students can:</th>
<th>Graduate Attributes addressed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Explain epidemiological concepts for the investigation of public health issues</td>
<td>🗒️  🐟</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Calculate and interpret measures of association, morbidity, mortality and prognosis</td>
<td>🚮  🐟</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Evaluate and interpret various diagnostic and screening tests.</td>
<td>🚮  🐟</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Explain various epidemiological study designs, their strengths and weaknesses and their application to public health</td>
<td>🚮  🐟</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Apply epidemiological knowledge, principles and techniques to investigate public health problems</td>
<td>🚮  🐟</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Curtin’s Graduate Attributes

| 🗒️  🐟 | Apply discipline knowledge | 🚮  🐟 | Thinking skills (use analytical skills to solve problems) | 🚮  🐟 | Information skills (confidence to investigate new ideas) |
| 🚮  🐟 | Communication skills       | 🚮  🐟 | Technology skills                                      | 🚮  🐟 | Learning how to learn (apply principles learnt to new situations) (confidence to tackle unfamiliar problems) |
| 🚮  🐟 | International perspective (value the perspectives of others) | 🚮  🐟 | Cultural understanding (value the perspectives of others) | 🚮  🐟 | Professional Skills (work independently and as a team) (plan own work) |

Find out more about Curtin’s Graduate attributes at the Office of Teaching & Learning website: ctl.curtin.edu.au

Learning Activities
If you have registered for a tutorial class BEFORE the orientation week, please check your timetable AGAIN, as some (not all) venues have changed due to unexpected increase in student numbers. There will also be an announcement on Black Board for this.

There will be 1x2 hour lecture every week. Though lectures will be available the quality of the recording cannot be guaranteed.

There will be 1x2 hour weekly tutorial. Tutorials are designed to enhance your understanding of the epidemiological concepts and to provide you an opportunity to apply these by working through exercises and problems in groups of 2–4 students.

Attendance is not compulsory for the tutorials though it is strongly recommended that you attend one weekly tutorial.

Work done in the tutorial will not be assessed and nor will it count towards assessment for this unit (though these will greatly help you tackle the questions in the assessments).

Please go through the lecture notes before coming to your tutorial class.

All the tutorial exercises and the solutions will be released through Blackboard every Friday 6pm during the semester.

For day/time and venue for your tutorial class please check Blackboard and your timetable.

Learning Resources

Essential texts

The required textbook(s) for this unit are:

- You will find the following book quite helpful:


  *If you already own first edition or have purchased it as secondhand this should still be all right. When it comes to recommended reading just follow the chapter titles instead of chapter numbers.*

Other required course materials are available through Black Board.

(ISBN/ISSN: 9780521177313)

Other resources

Other resources will be available through Black Board.
## Assessment

### Assessment schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Value %</th>
<th>Date Due</th>
<th>Unit Learning Outcome(s) Assessed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Open-book worksheet short answer</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td><strong>Week:</strong> 6&lt;br&gt;<strong>Day:</strong> Friday, 9th September 2016&lt;br&gt;<strong>Time:</strong> 11.59pm (WST)</td>
<td>1,2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Mid-semester test</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td><strong>Week:</strong> 12&lt;br&gt;<strong>Day:</strong> Wednesday 19th October to Friday 21st October 2016&lt;br&gt;<strong>Time:</strong> 9am (WST) to 4.30pm (WST)</td>
<td>3,4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Final Examination</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td><strong>Week:</strong> Examination period&lt;br&gt;<strong>Day:</strong> TBA&lt;br&gt;<strong>Time:</strong> TBA</td>
<td>1,2,3,4,5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Detailed information on assessment tasks

1. This will consist of short-answer questions including calculations based on topics covered in the first four weeks (no long answers/essays). The assignment will be made available under ‘Assessments’ on Black Board on Friday week 4 and you will have two weeks to work your way through those questions and submit your answers through a submission point on BB before Friday Week 6 (11.59pm WST). **Please do not attempt the assessment questions without working through the tutorial exercises first.** Announcements will be made on BB closer to time.

2. This is an Invigilated etest in the Assessment centre. You will be required to answer 20 multiple choice/true false questions in 40 minutes. Some of these will be based on doing some calculations and then picking the correct answer among the options provided multiple choice questions. You will be given a calculator for the test as well as a blank sheet of paper for doing your calculations. Both the sheet and the calculator will be collected after the test by the invigilating staff.

This test will cover materials and topics from week 1 to week 11 (week 11 topics included).

More details in the announcements on Blackboard closer to time and also under ‘Assessments’ on BB.

3. This will be a two-hour exam consisting of around 50 multiple choice, true false questions (No short or long answers). You will be allowed a calculator and one A4 sheet of notes and you can use both sides to either hand write or type your notes/equasions etc. More details on Blackboard under ‘Assessments’ closer to time.

**Day/time:** Please be prepared for any day/time for the final exam including Saturdays during the two-week examination period. The **day and time for the Final Exam will be unknown** till the Examination timetable is released by the Examination Office closer to time.
Pass requirements

- In order to pass this unit a student must achieve a minimum of Final Mark of 50.
- A student must attempt all three assessments (though passing every assessment is not compulsory).
- Assignments to be submitted through Blackboard ONLY. Link will be available close to time. No hand written assignments please as these cannot be marked online and feedback cannot be provided. Please make sure you submit your assignment as Word file format and also make sure that you submit the correct version of your completed work. Re submission will not be allowed and your work will be marked based on what you have submitted.

Students should allow 3 weeks marking turnaround after the submission deadline for written assignments.

Fair assessment through moderation

Moderation describes a quality assurance process to ensure that assessments are appropriate to the learning outcomes, and that student work is evaluated consistently by assessors. Minimum standards for the moderation of assessment are described in the Assessment and Student Progression Manual, available from policies.curtin.edu.au/policies/teachingandlearning.cfm

Late assessment policy

This ensures that the requirements for submission of assignments and other work to be assessed are fair, transparent, equitable, and that penalties are consistently applied.

1. All assessments students are required to submit will have a due date and time specified on this Unit Outline.
2. Students will be penalised by a deduction of ten percent per calendar day for a late assessment submission (eg a mark equivalent to 10% of the total allocated for the assessment will be deducted from the marked value for every day that the assessment is late). This means that an assessment worth 20 marks will have two marks deducted per calendar day late. Hence if it was handed in three calendar days late and given a mark of 16/20, the student would receive 10/20. An assessment more than seven calendar days overdue will not be marked and will receive a mark of 0.

Assessment extension

A student unable to complete an assessment task by/on the original published date/time (eg examinations, tests) or due date/time (eg assignments) must apply for an assessment extension using the Assessment Extension form (available from the Forms page at students.curtin.edu.au/administration/) as prescribed by the Academic Registrar. It is the responsibility of the student to demonstrate and provide evidence for exceptional circumstances beyond the student’s control that prevent them from completing/submitting the assessment task.

The student will be expected to lodge the form and supporting documentation with the unit coordinator before the assessment date/time or due date/time. An application may be accepted up to five working days after the date or due date of the assessment task where the student is able to provide an acceptable explanation as to why he or she was not able to submit the application prior to the assessment date. An application for an assessment extension will not be accepted after the date of the Board of Examiners’ meeting.

Assessment extensions:

The Application for Assessment Extension form can be found at the following link:

NO Application for Assessment Extension will be considered without supporting documentation (as per instructions on the form).

Applications for Assessment Extensions can be sent to:

- Directly to the Unit Coordinator - for requests for up to 5 days extension.
School of Public Health Teaching Support Office (PHTeachingSupport@curtin.edu.au) – where the extension is for more than 5 days or for the final piece of assessment.

The outcome of your Application for Assessment Extension will be notified to you by the Official Communication Channel (OCC) as per the Assessment and Student Progression Manual (refer to Section 13).


Appeals:
For details on the student appeals process please refer to the Assessment and Student Progression Manual.


Deferred assessments
If your results show that you have been granted a deferred assessment you should immediately check OASIS for details.

Deferred examinations/tests will be held from 20/07/2016 to 22/07/2016. Notification to students will be made after the Board of Examiners’ meeting via the Official Communications Channel (OCC) in OASIS.

Supplementary assessments
Supplementary assessments, if granted by the Board of Examiners, will have a due date or be held between 20/07/2016 and 22/07/2016. Notification to students will be made after the Board of Examiners’ meeting via the Official Communications Channel (OCC) in OASIS.

It is the responsibility of students to be available to complete the requirements of a supplementary assessment. If your results show that you have been granted a supplementary assessment you should immediately check OASIS for details.

Reasonable adjustments for students with disabilities/health circumstances likely to impact on studies

A Curtin Access Plan (CAP) is a document that outlines the type and level of support required by a student with a disability or health condition to have equitable access to their studies at Curtin. This support can include alternative exam or test arrangements, study materials in accessible formats, access to Curtin’s facilities and services or other support as discussed with an advisor from Disability Services (disability.curtin.edu.au). Documentation is required from your treating Health Professional to confirm your health circumstances.

If you think you may be eligible for a CAP, please contact Disability Services. If you already have a CAP please provide it to the Unit Coordinator at the beginning of each semester.

Referencing style
The referencing style for this unit is APA 6th Ed.

More information can be found on this style from the Library web site:

Copyright
© Curtin University. The course material for this unit is provided to you for your own research and study only. It is subject to copyright. It is a copyright infringement to make this material available on third party websites.
Academic Integrity (including plagiarism and cheating)

Any conduct by a student that is dishonest or unfair in connection with any academic work is considered to be academic misconduct. Plagiarism and cheating are serious offences that will be investigated and may result in penalties such as reduced or zero grades, annulled units or even termination from the course.

Plagiarism occurs when work or property of another person is presented as one’s own, without appropriate acknowledgement or referencing. Submitting work which has been produced by someone else (e.g. allowing or contracting another person to do the work for which you claim authorship) is also plagiarism. Submitted work is subjected to a plagiarism detection process, which may include the use of text matching systems or interviews with students to determine authorship.

Cheating includes (but is not limited to) asking or paying someone to complete an assessment task for you or any use of unauthorised materials or assistance during an examination or test.

From Semester 1, 2016, all incoming coursework students are required to complete Curtin’s Academic Integrity Program (AIP). If a student does not pass the program by the end of their first study period of enrolment at Curtin, their marks will be withheld until they pass. More information about the AIP can be found at: https://academicintegrity.curtin.edu.au/students/AIP.cfm

Refer to the Academic Integrity tab in Blackboard or academicintegrity.curtin.edu.au for more information, including student guidelines for avoiding plagiarism.

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Expectations

Curtin students are expected to have reliable internet access in order to connect to OASIS email and learning systems such as Blackboard and Library Services.

You may also require a computer or mobile device for preparing and submitting your work.

For general ICT assistance, in the first instance please contact OASIS Student Support: oasisapps.curtin.edu.au/help/general/support.cfm

For specific assistance with any of the items listed below, please contact The Learning Centre: life.curtin.edu.au/learning-support/learning_centre.htm

- Using Blackboard, the I Drive and Back-Up files
- Introduction to PowerPoint, Word and Excel

Additional information

Please make sure you regularly read the announcements on the Blackboard that will be posted from time to time throughout the semester.

Enrolment

It is your responsibility to ensure that your enrolment is correct - you can check your enrolment through the eStudent option on OASIS, where you can also print an Enrolment Advice.
Student Rights and Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of every student to be aware of all relevant legislation, policies and procedures relating to their rights and responsibilities as a student. These include:

- the Student Charter
- the University's Guiding Ethical Principles
- the University's policy and statements on plagiarism and academic integrity
- copyright principles and responsibilities
- the University's policies on appropriate use of software and computer facilities

Information on all these things is available through the University's "Student Rights and Responsibilities" website at: students.curtin.edu.au/rights.

Student Equity

There are a number of factors that might disadvantage some students from participating in their studies or assessments to the best of their ability, under standard conditions. These factors may include a disability or medical condition (e.g. mental illness, chronic illness, physical or sensory disability, learning disability), significant family responsibilities, pregnancy, religious practices, living in a remote location or another reason. If you believe you may be unfairly disadvantaged on these or other grounds please contact Student Equity at eesj@curtin.edu.au or go to http://eesj.curtin.edu.au/student_equity/index.cfm for more information.

You can also contact Counselling and Disability services: http://www.disability.curtin.edu.au or the Multi-faith services: http://life.curtin.edu.au/health-and-wellbeing/about_multifaith_services.htm for further information.

It is important to note that the staff of the university may not be able to meet your needs if they are not informed of your individual circumstances so please get in touch with the appropriate service if you require assistance. For general wellbeing concerns or advice please contact Curtin's Student Wellbeing Advisory Service at: http://life.curtin.edu.au/health-and-wellbeing/student_wellbeing_service.htm

Recent unit changes

Students are encouraged to provide unit feedback through eVALUate, Curtin’s online student feedback system. For more information about eVALUate, please refer to evaluate.curtin.edu.au/info/.

To view previous student feedback about this unit, search for the Unit Summary Report at https://evaluate.curtin.edu.au/student/unit_search.cfm. See https://evaluate.curtin.edu.au/info/dates.cfm to find out when you can eVALUate this unit.

Recent changes to this unit include:

- Review of the Assessments.
- Mandatory 10 minute break during the two hour lecture.
- Provision of more resource materials through Blackboard.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>BEGIN DATE</th>
<th>LECTURE</th>
<th>TUTORIAL</th>
<th>ASSESSMENT DUE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>1 August</td>
<td>Introduction: Role &amp; scope of Epidemiology</td>
<td>Preliminaries (Please refer to the Black Board)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>8 August</td>
<td>Measuring Morbidity and Mortality</td>
<td>Basics of Epidemiology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>15 August</td>
<td>Clinical Epidemiology</td>
<td>Measuring Morbidity and Mortality</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>22 August</td>
<td>Natural History, Surveillance &amp; Outbreaks</td>
<td>Clinical Epidemiology; Evaluating validity and reliability of different tests.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>August 29 – September 2</td>
<td>Tuition free week</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>5 September</td>
<td>Epidemiological Research Designs 1: Descriptive Study designs</td>
<td>Outbreak Investigation &amp; Measures of Prognosis</td>
<td>Assignment 1 due (Friday 9 September 11.59pm WST)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>12 September</td>
<td>Epidemiological Research Designs 2A: Cohort Studies</td>
<td>Descriptive study designs &amp; analysis</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>19 September</td>
<td>Epidemiological Research Designs 2B: Analysis of Cohort Studies</td>
<td>Measures of association &amp; assessment of Risk in Cohort studies (A)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>September 26 – 30</td>
<td>Tuition free week</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>3 October</td>
<td>Epidemiological Research Designs 3: Case-Control Studies &amp; Analysis</td>
<td>Measures of association &amp; assessment of Risk in Cohort studies (B)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>10 October</td>
<td>Epidemiological Research Designs 4: Intervention Studies &amp; RCTs</td>
<td>Measures of Association for Case Control studies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>17 October</td>
<td>Causality in Epidemiology</td>
<td>Measures of impact &amp; association</td>
<td>etest (Wed -Friday)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>24 October</td>
<td>Issues in Epidemiological Research; Bias &amp; Confounding</td>
<td>Practice Exam</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>31 October</td>
<td>Review</td>
<td>Review</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 - 25 November</td>
<td>Study Week</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 - 25 November</td>
<td>Examination weeks</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>