UTHealth Houston
School of Public Health
Epidemiology

Have a Question? Let us know Here!

This presentation includes an overview of key things you'll want to know at the start of your academic journey with us and to serve as resource to you as needed during your time here. Please review and click on all the embedded hyperlinks to help you find the resources and information you'll need to be successful during your program!

We'll discuss key points during the Epidemiology Orientation Breakout Session held **both virtually and in-person on August 25th**, but please feel free to scan the QR code on the left side of this slide to share any questions you have with us ahead of time or during orientation itself.

Looking forward to meeting you!

https://pollev.com/hte



UTHealth® Houston

School of Public Health

Epidemiology

Go.uth.edu/EPI

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Faculty & Faculty Advising Information



Epidemiology Department Chair

Alanna Morrison, PhD, has served as chair of the Department of Epidemiology at UTHealth Houston School of Public Health in January 2016. She has been a member of the faculty since 2003, is the author of more than 200 scientific papers, and the recipient of numerous prestigious honors and awards that recognize her research in **human genetics and health.**

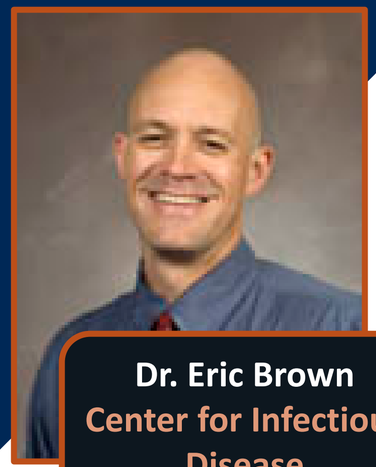
Epidemiology Department has 40+ Faculty!



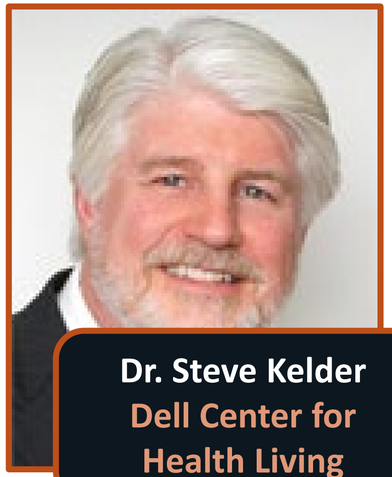
Dr. Bing Yu
Human Genetics Center



Dr. Shreela Sharma
Center for Healthy Communities



Dr. Eric Brown
Center for Infectious Disease



Dr. Steve Kelder
Dell Center for Health Living

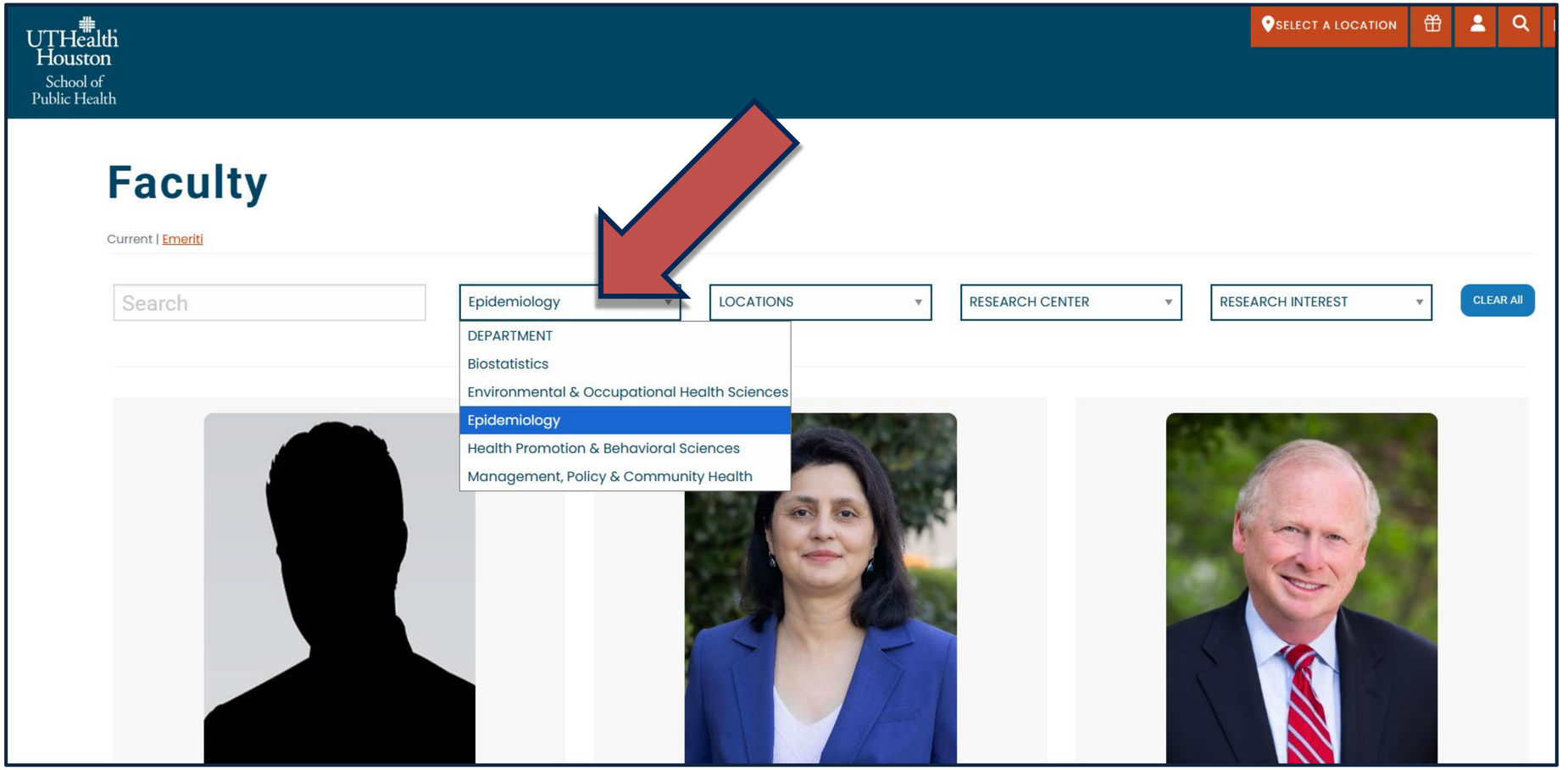


To Access Faculty Information:

- Click MENU on the SPH homepage
- Navigate to ‘FACULTY’

To Find Out More about Our Faculty…

…Use the Search Functions on the Faculty Page

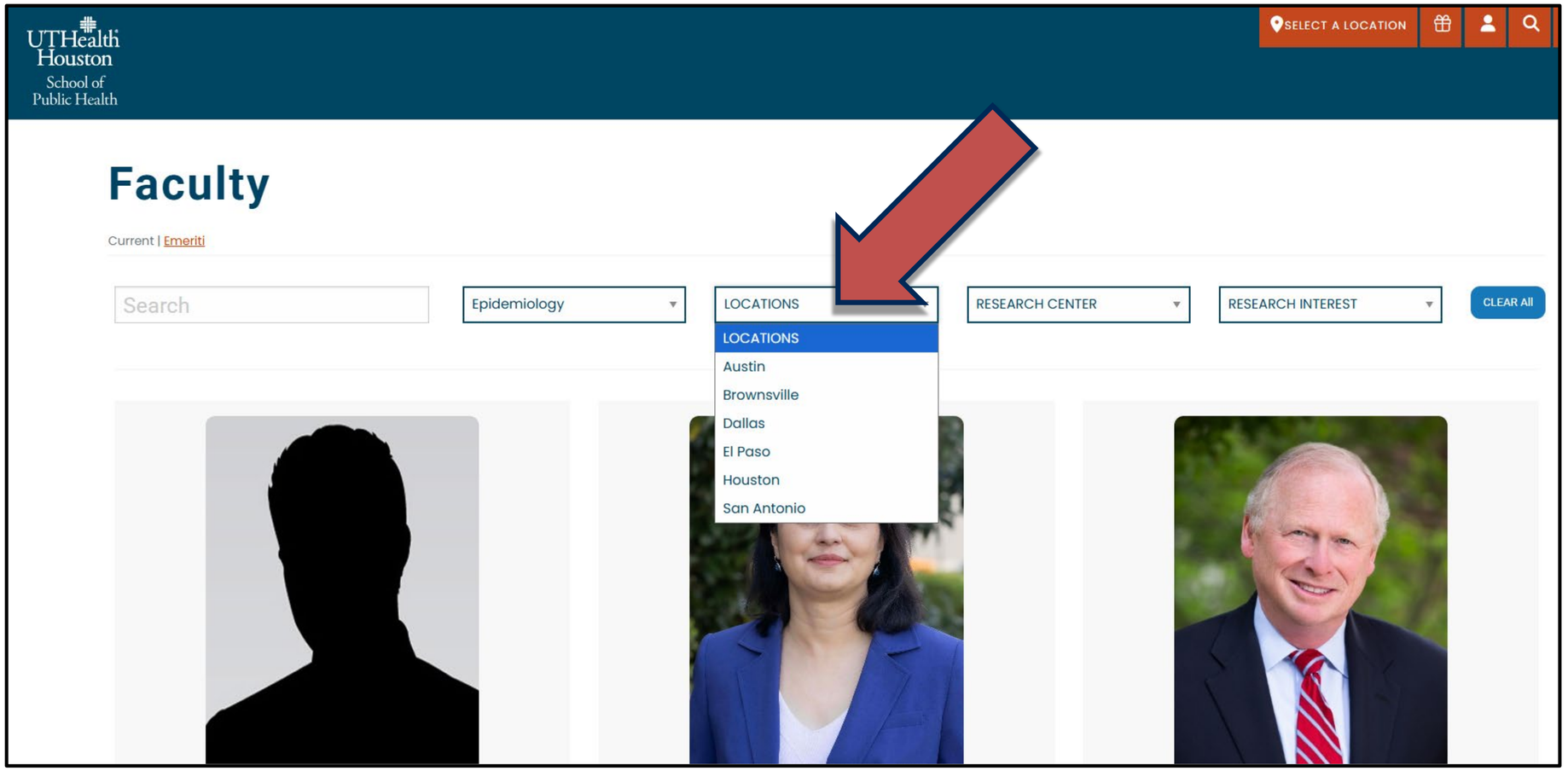


Use the Toolbar to Search by:

A. **Department**
B. Faculty Location
C. Research Center
D. Research Interests

To Find Out More about Our Faculty…

…Use the Search Functions on the Faculty Page



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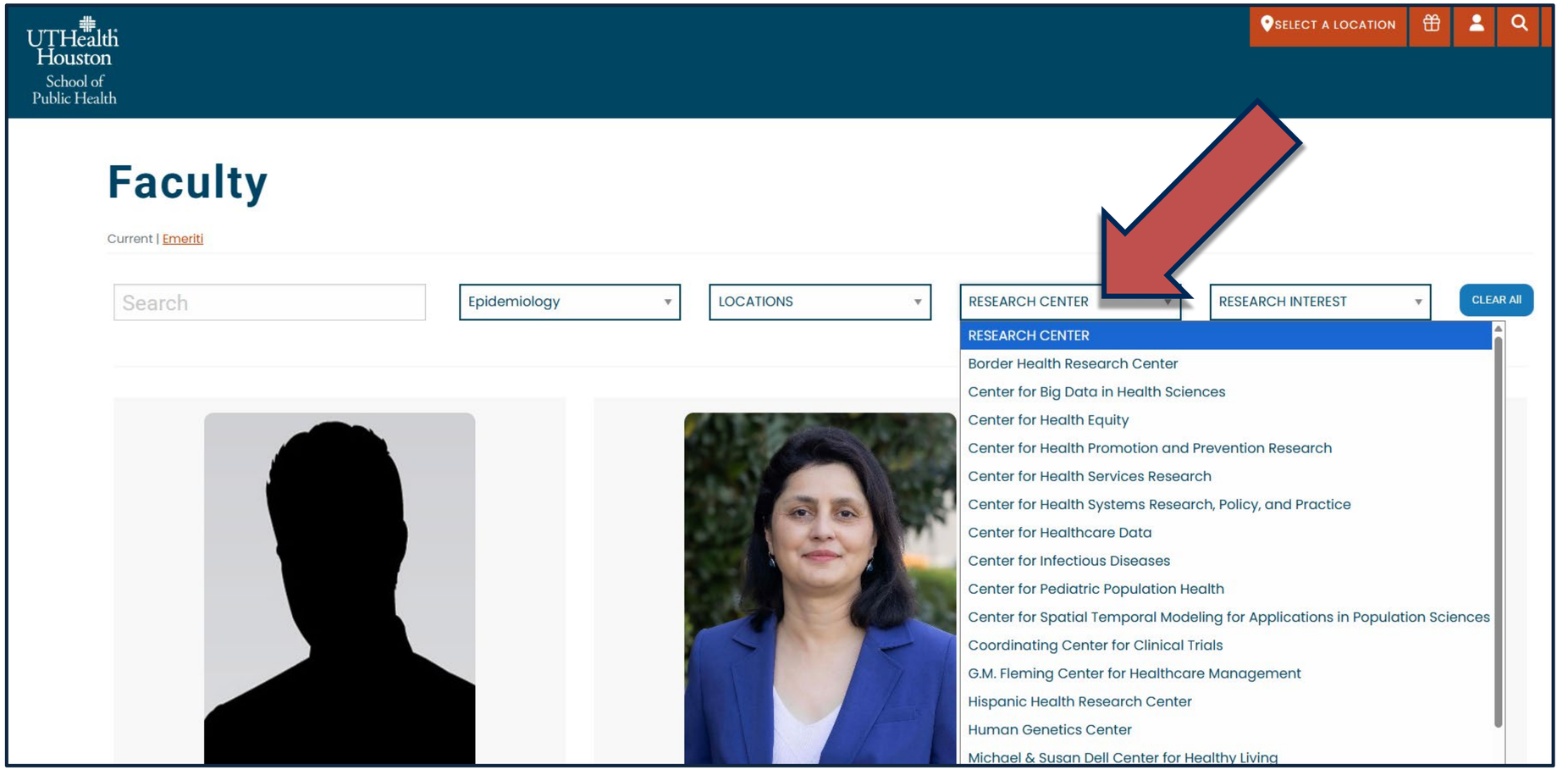

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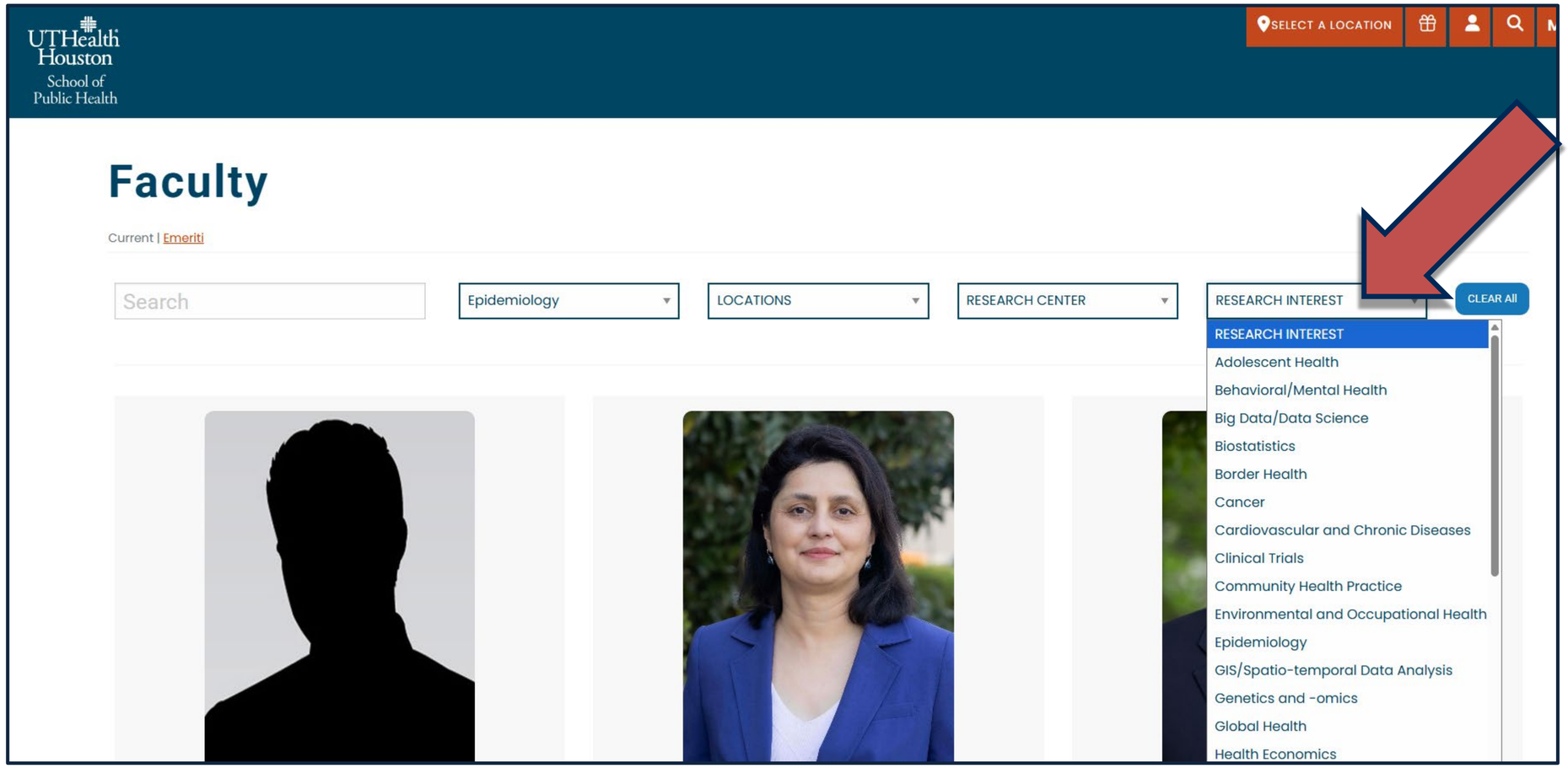


Use the Toolbar to Search by:

A. Department
B. Faculty Location
C. Research Center
D. **Research Interests**



You've Been Assigned A Faculty Advisor

Your advisor is your guide for your academic journey!

- You're required to meet with your advisor at the end of every fall and spring semester
- If you've not met already, please use your UTHealth email to reach out now to discuss fall classes & degree options
- Not sure who your assigned advisor is?
  - Contact JR Bright (see last slide)

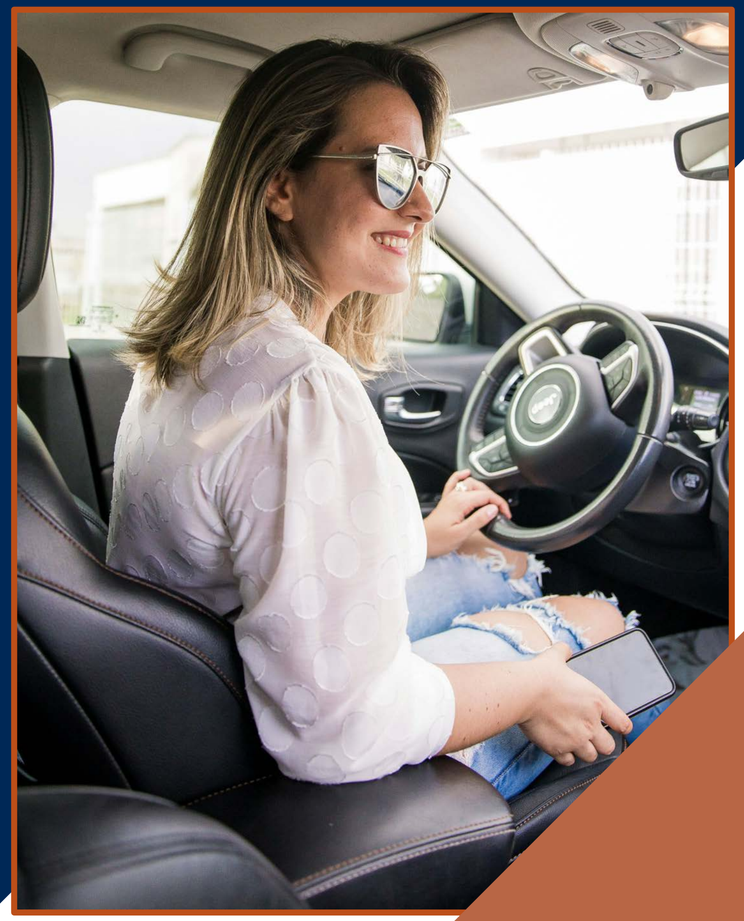


Photo by Junior REIS on Unsplash

Take the Wheel of Your Career!

- **Your goals are unique to you**, so the primary responsibility for setting goals, exploring opportunities, building professional relationships, and pursuing employment is yours!
    - Your advisor is here to help you navigate these decisions and connect you with resources along the way, but **you should be proactive** about reaching out for what you need.

- For best results, provide at least **2 weeks notice** if you need letters of recommendation, etc.



Roles & Responsibilities

Faculty Advisor

Guide you through your degree program options

Be a **first resource** for questions

Be your **advocate**!

You

Be proactive: Reach out when you have questions or are experiencing difficulty

Be professional: Schedule & attend your advising meetings (mandatory Fall and Spring)

Plan ahead: **Review** mySPH resources and be familiar with your degree plan & options

Be prepared: Come to advising meetings with questions



Topics To Discuss With Your Academic Advisor:

- **Your degree planner options & graduation timeline**
  - *Use your degree planner to map out your 1st year now*
  - *Explore the list of certificates offered & their requirements*
- **Your career and/or research goals & how to look for potential job and funding opportunities**
- **How to navigate life-work-academic responsibilities**
- **Want more detailed recommendations for early advising meetings?**
  - ***See slide 15 for MPH Guidance***
  - ***See slide 16 for PhD Guidance***

MPH Students: First Advising Meeting Discussion Recommendations

(We highly recommend meeting at the beginning of your degree program, but Evaluation Meetings are required at the end of every Fall and Spring semester. The Required Student Evaluation Form for the end of the semester can be found here.)

Advising Focus Area	Key Topics to Discuss	Example Discussion Questions | Recommended Guidance
1. Goals and Motivation	• Short- and long-term career goals • Areas of interest within public health	• *What did you come here to learn / what do you want to do after you graduate?* • *What areas of public health are you most interested in?* • *What would success in this program look like for you?*
2. Student Context and Support Needs	• Outside commitments (work, family) • Modality of coursework • School resources (ADA, financial aid, etc.) • International student status	• *Do you have any work or family commitments we should consider when planning?* • *Are you an online or an in-person student?* • *Are there any resources you need from the school to be successful here?* • *Are you an international student and do you know who your international advisor is?*

3. Degree Timeline	• Enrollment pacing (full-time vs. part-time)
	• Expected graduation goal
		• *Do you plan to take courses full time or part time?*
		  o Full time = 9 credit hours in fall and spring / 6 credit hours in summer; international students must be full time in fall and spring
		• *Do you have a target for graduation?*
		  o Graduation possible in May, August, & December (ceremony for all held in May)

4. Degree Planning and Coursework	• Recommended sequencing of core courses (e.g., take epidemiology, biostatistics early) • Importance of early planning using degree planner • Options for a graduate certificate	• *Do you know where to find your Degree Planner and have you tried mapping out your first year of study?* o Recommend taking Intro to Epi (PHM2612) & Intro to Biostats (PHM1690) early in your program • *Are you interested in completing a Graduate Certificate and do you know which certificates are available?*

5. Practicum & Integrative Learning Experience (ILE) Guidance	• Practicum, expectations, & timing
	• ILE options, expectations, & timing
		• *Practicums require a certain amount of coursework to begin*
		  o Best to undertake once most of the core MPH coursework is complete
		• *ILE requirements mean this experience is done towards the end of the program*
		  o There are 3 options: an academic thesis (requires at least 2 semesters), an independent learning experience (completed in 1 semester, but planning begins the semester prior) and the Capstone course (requires 1 semester)
		There are detailed online guides on MySPH you should review now to familiarize yourself with both these future experiences and their requirements!

PhD Students: First Advising Meeting Discussion Recommendations

(We highly recommend meeting at the beginning of your degree program, but Evaluation Meetings are required at the end of every Fall and Spring semester. The Required Student Evaluation Form for the end of the semester can be found here.)

Advising Focus	Key Topics to Discuss	Example Discussion Questions | Recommended Guidance
1. Goals and Motivation	• Motivation for pursuing a PhD • Short and long-term career goals (e.g., academia, industry, government, leadership)	• *What did you come here to learn?* • *What would success in this program look like for you?* • *What is your plan after graduation?*
2. Student Context and Support Needs	• Outside commitments (work, family) • Modality of coursework • School resources (ADA, financial aid, etc.) • International student status	• *Do you have any work or family commitments we should consider when degree planning?* • *Are there any resources you need from the school to be successful here?* • *Are you an international student and do you know who your international advisor is?*
3. Degree Timeline	• Anticipated preliminary exam timeline • Expected graduation goal	• *When do you want to take the preliminary exam?* o The exam is offered every January and May and has required coursework • *Do you have a target for graduation?* o Graduation possible in May, August, & December (ceremony for all held in May)
4. Degree Planning and Coursework	• Need for leveling classes • Enrollment pacing (full-time vs part-time) • Recommended early course work • Required minor	• *Do you have a prior MPH degree or need to complete any leveling coursework?* • *Do you plan to take courses full time or part time?* o Full time = 9 credit hours in fall and spring / 6 credit hours in summer; international students must be full time in fall and spring • *Have you used the Degree Planner to map out your first year of study?* o Recommend taking courses required for the preliminary exam early • *Do you know what area of study you want for your minor(s)?*
5. Research Interests & Fit	• Specific research topics, methods, or populations of interest • Alignment with faculty research & opportunities within research centers and institutes	• *Do you have prior research experience?* • *What are your interests for your future dissertation?* • *Do any of our faculty or research areas align with your interests?* • *Do you have questions or ideas for how to get involved in the research process?*
6. Mentorship & Employment Opportunities	• Opportunities for funding: funding, grants, & GRA/TA positions	• *Have you signed up for Handshake so you can apply for Graduate Research or Teaching Assistantships?* • *Are there options you want to discuss or pursue for funding support?*



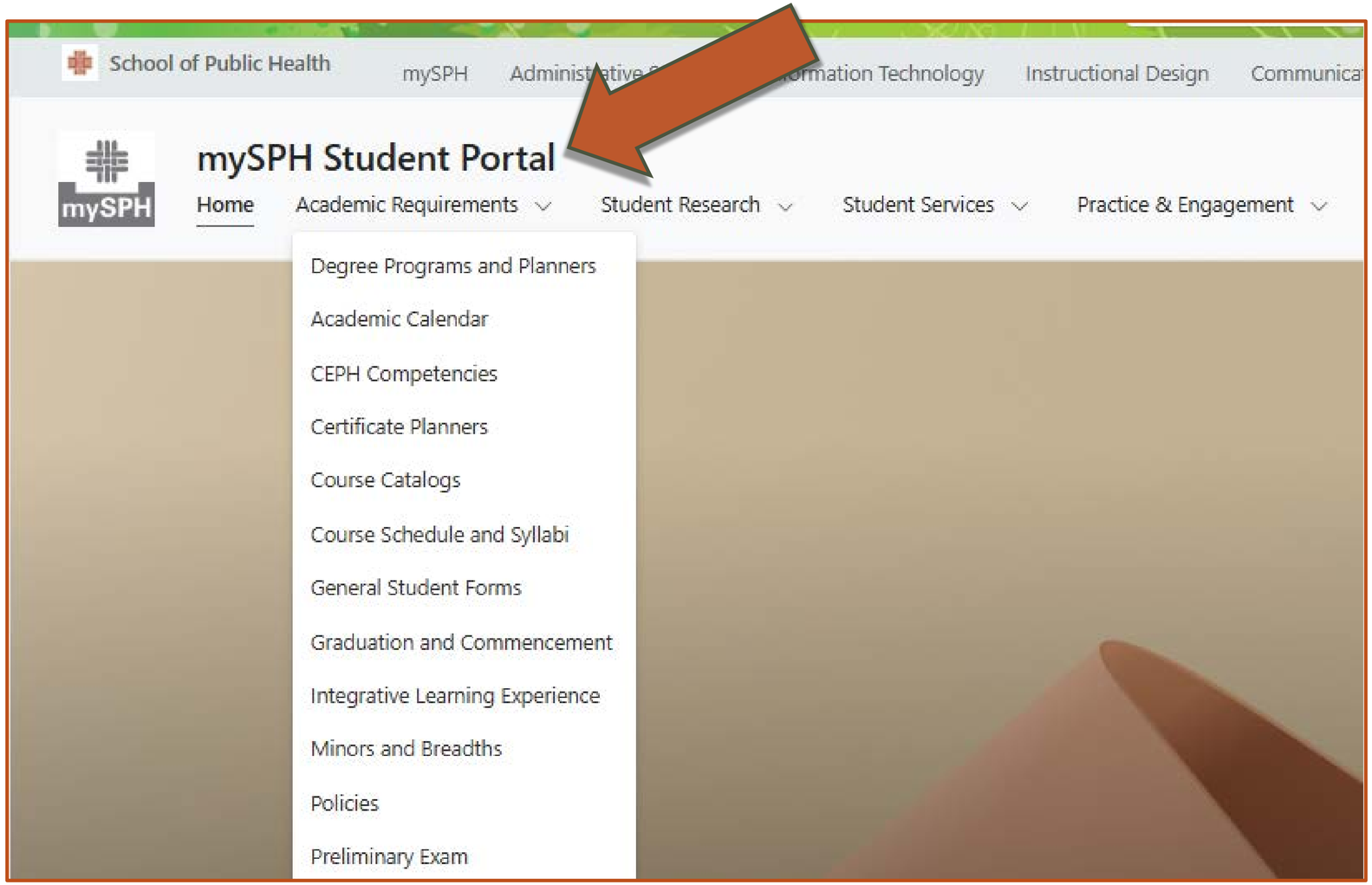
Degree Planner & Graduate Certificates Information

MPH & PhD Degrees

mySPH Student Portal

- Degree Planners
- Certificate Planners
- MPH Practicum & MPH ILE Information
- PhD Student Preliminary Exam Info
- Student Research Guides
- *Much more!*

EVERYTHING you need can be found on the mySPH Student Portal – Refer to it often!

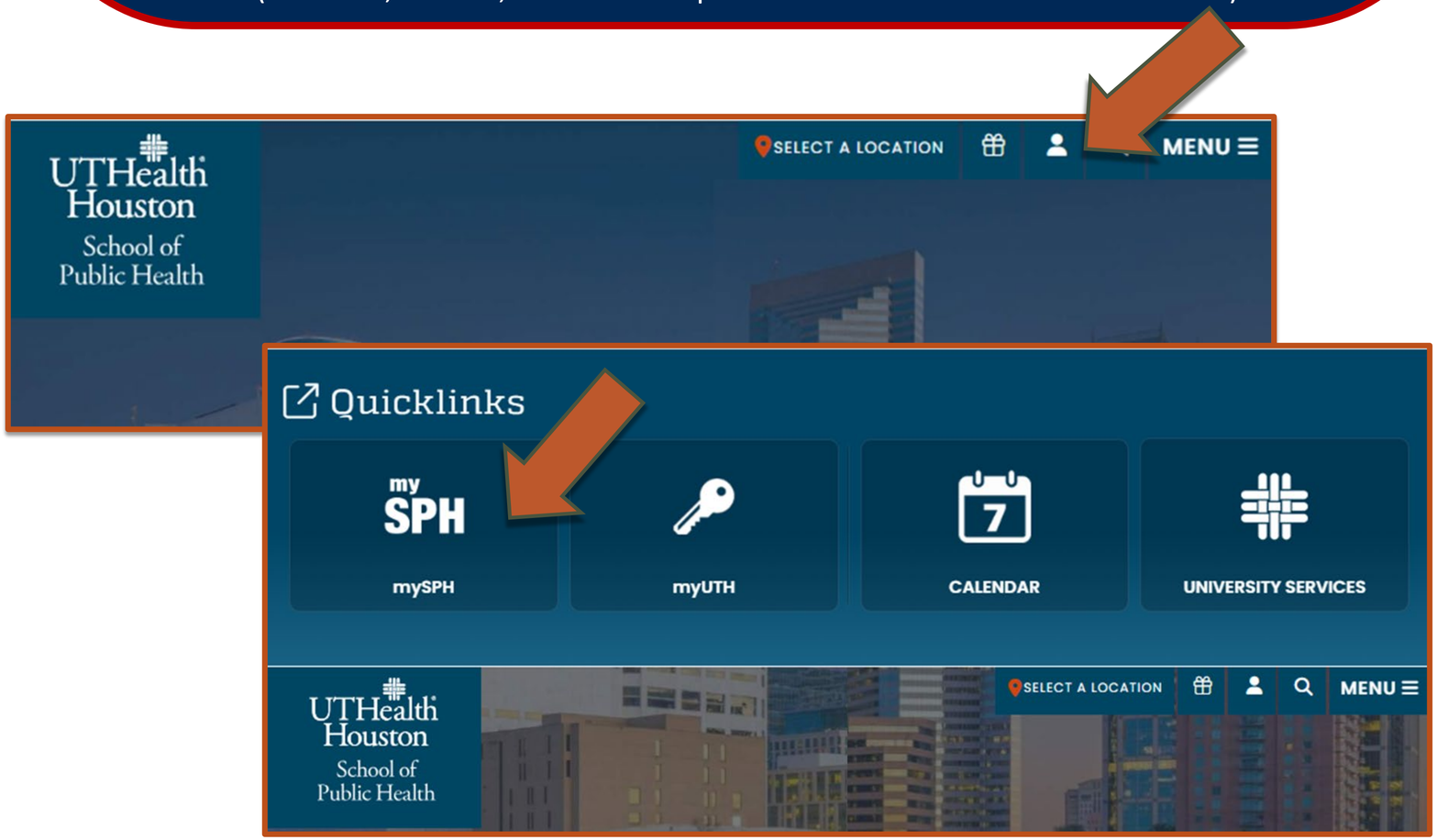


mySPH Student Portal

- Degree Planners
- Certificate Planners
- MPH Practicum & MPH ILE Information
- PhD Student Preliminary Exam Info
- Student Research Guides
- *Much more!*

To Access the mySPH Student Portal:

- Navigate to the ‘person icon’ on the top right on the SPH homepage
- Select ‘mySPH’ option from the toolbar
  - (webmail, Canvas, and other important resources also accessible here)



Degree Planner for MPH Epidemiology

18 Credit Hours	• Public Health Core Courses
9 Credit Hours	• Epidemiology Required Courses
6 Credit Hours	• Emphasis Area (Must be EPI courses)
6 Credit Hours	• Electives (Could be EPI-focused or any SPH course)
3 Credit Hours	• Practicum
3 Credit Hours	• Integrative Learning Experience

45 Total Credit Hours

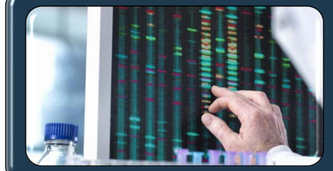
Access the MPH Degree Planner HERE

Masters of Public Health – Core Classes

Additional Required courses:

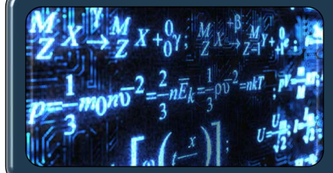
- Intermediate Biostatistics
- Intermediate Epidemiology
- Field Epidemiology

★ **Recommended to take early/1st semester**



Intro to Epidemiology ★

• 3 hours



Intro to Biostatistics in PH ★

• 4 hours



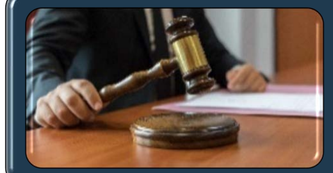
Health Promotion & Behavioral Sciences in PH

• 3 hours



PH Ecology & the Human Environment

• 3 hours



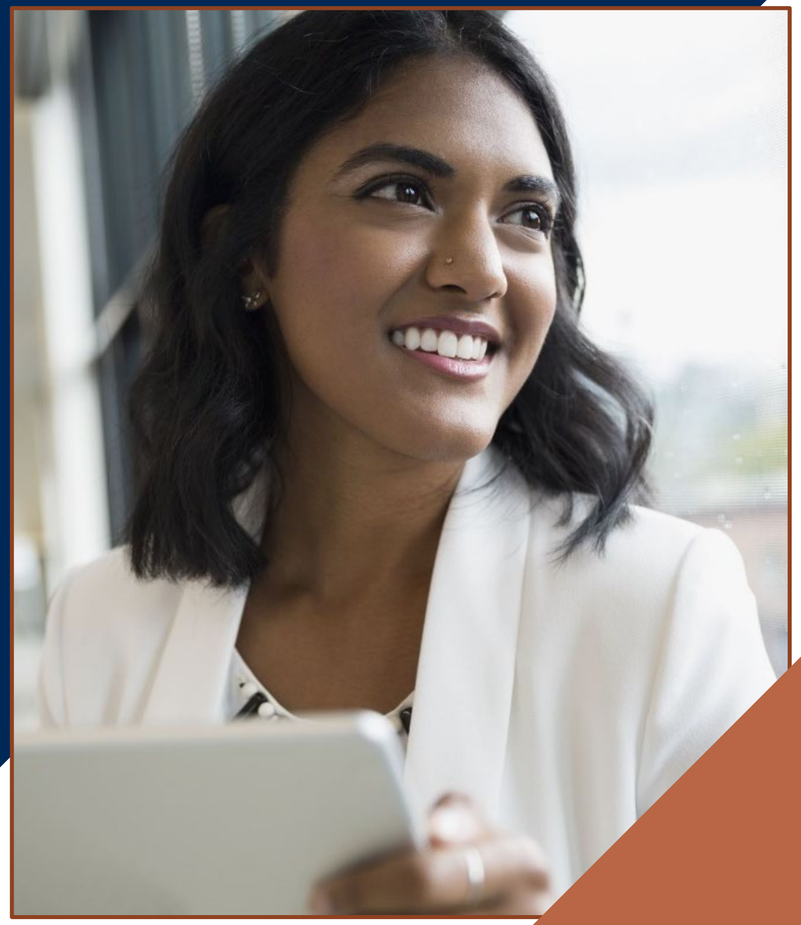
Management & Policy Concepts in PH

• 3 hours



Intro to Qualitative Research in PH

• 2 hours



MPH Practicum

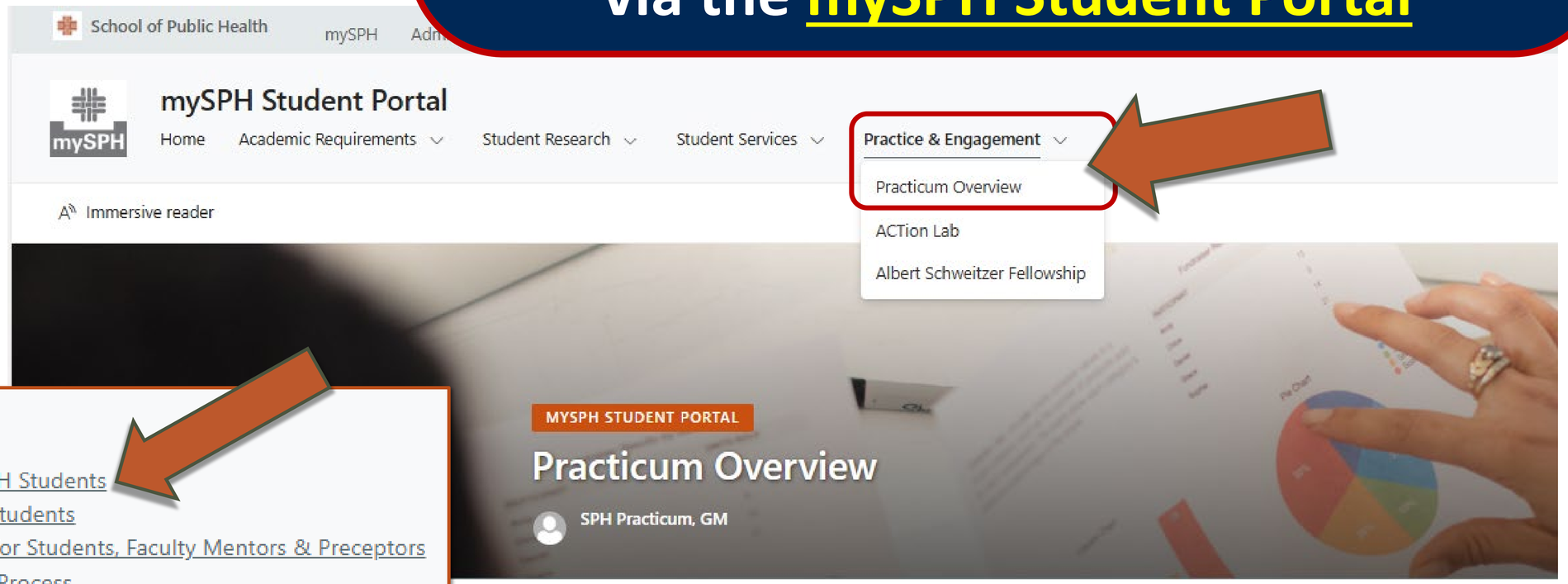
- Internship to apply your classroom education **in the community**
  - 3 credit hours
- You choose the project **according to your interests** & **community needs**

Discuss Timing & Ideas with Your Faculty Advisor!



Learn more about the MPH Practicum Online

A detailed Practicum Guide is accessible via the mySPH Student Portal



Practicum Guides:

- Practicum Guide for MPH Students
- Practicum Guide DrPH Students
- Quick Reference Guide for Students, Faculty Mentors & Preceptors
- International Practicum Process



There is a Searchable Practicum Experience Dashboard

Access it via the Practicum Overview page on the MySPH Student Portal

MYSPH STUDENT PORTAL

Practicum Projects Dashboard

Placement Site Map



Use the filters to focus your results and see all related projects.

Organization Type: All

Modality: All

Location Type: All

State, City: All

Year, Semester: All

Major: All

View Project Details | Clear All Filters

Organization	Organization Type	Modality	City	State	Country	Website
7More, Inc.	Nonprofit/Community Service/Non-Gov't Organization: Domestic	Virtual	Spring	TX	United States	https://www.7more.net/
A Rocha USA	Education: College/University	On-Location	San Antonio	TX	United States	https://sph.uth.edu/campuses/san-antonio
A Rocha USA	For-profit Business/Corporation/Industry: Domestic	Virtual	Wheaton	IL	United States	https://arocha.us/
AccessHealth	Healthcare delivery facility (hospital, clinic)	On-Location	Richmond	TX	United States	https://www.myaccesshealth.org/
AccessHealth	Nonprofit/Community Service/Non-Gov't Organization: Domestic	Hybrid	Richmond	TX	United States	https://www.myaccesshealth.org/
AccessHealth	Nonprofit/Community Service/Non-Gov't Organization: Domestic	On-Location	Richmond	TX	United States	https://www.myaccesshealth.org/
AccessHealth	Nonprofit/Community Service/Non-Gov't Organization: Domestic	Virtual	Houston	TX	United States	https://www.myaccesshealth.org
Advanced Semiconductor Materials Lithography	For-profit Business/Corporation/Industry: International	On-Location	Wilton	CT	United States	https://www.asml.com/en
Advanced Sleep Centers	Healthcare delivery facility (hospital, clinic)	On-Location	Houston	TX	United States	https://www.myadvancedsleepcenter.com/
Aetia Scientific Collaborative LLC	For-profit Business/Corporation/Industry: Domestic	Virtual	Boulder		United States	https://www.linkedin.com/company/aetia-scientific-collaborative/



MPH Integrative Learning Experience (ILE)

3 flexible avenues:

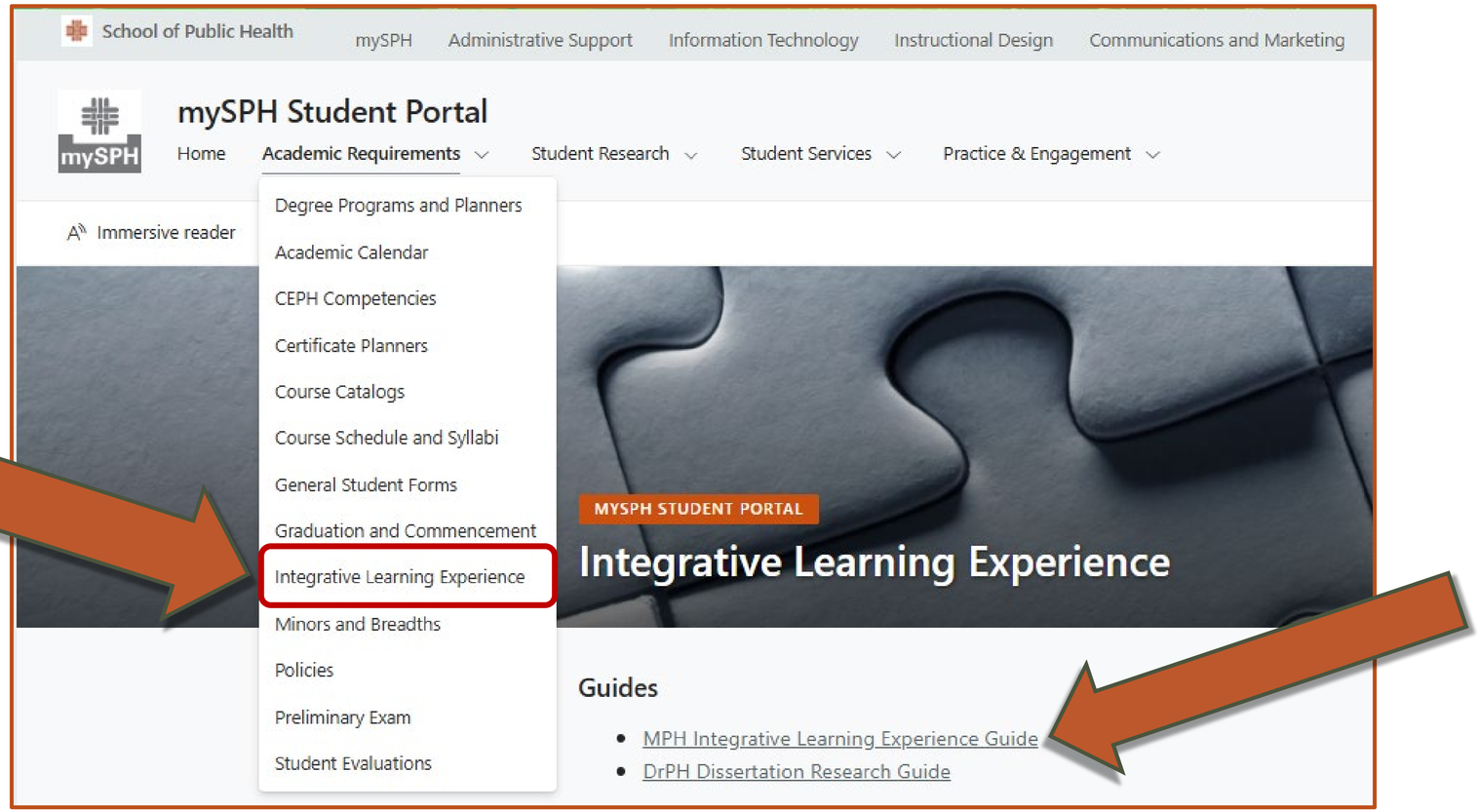
- Traditional academic thesis
- Independent Learning Experience
- Capstone Course

Discuss the Options with Your Faculty Advisor!



Learn More about the MPH Integrative Learning Experience (ILE) Online

A detailed ILE Guide is accessible via the mySPH Student Portal



Course Planner for PhD Students

13 Credit Hours	• Major Courses
9 Credit Hours	• Minors
9 Credit Hours	• 2nd Minor or Focus Area
11-14 Credit Hours	• Electives (at least two must be EPI courses)
3-6 Credit Hours	• Dissertation

48 Total Credit Hours

Access the PhD Degree Planner HERE!

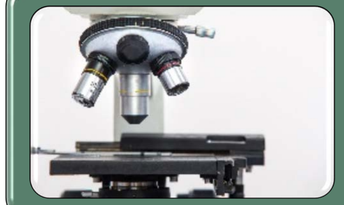
PhD Epidemiology – Major Coursework



Advanced Epidemiology

- 3 hours

★



Experimental Methods in Epidemiology

- 3 hours

★



Categorical Data or Survival Analysis

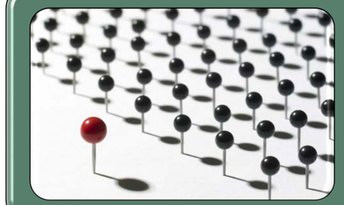
- 3 hours (either course)

★



Epidemiology Seminar

- 1 hour

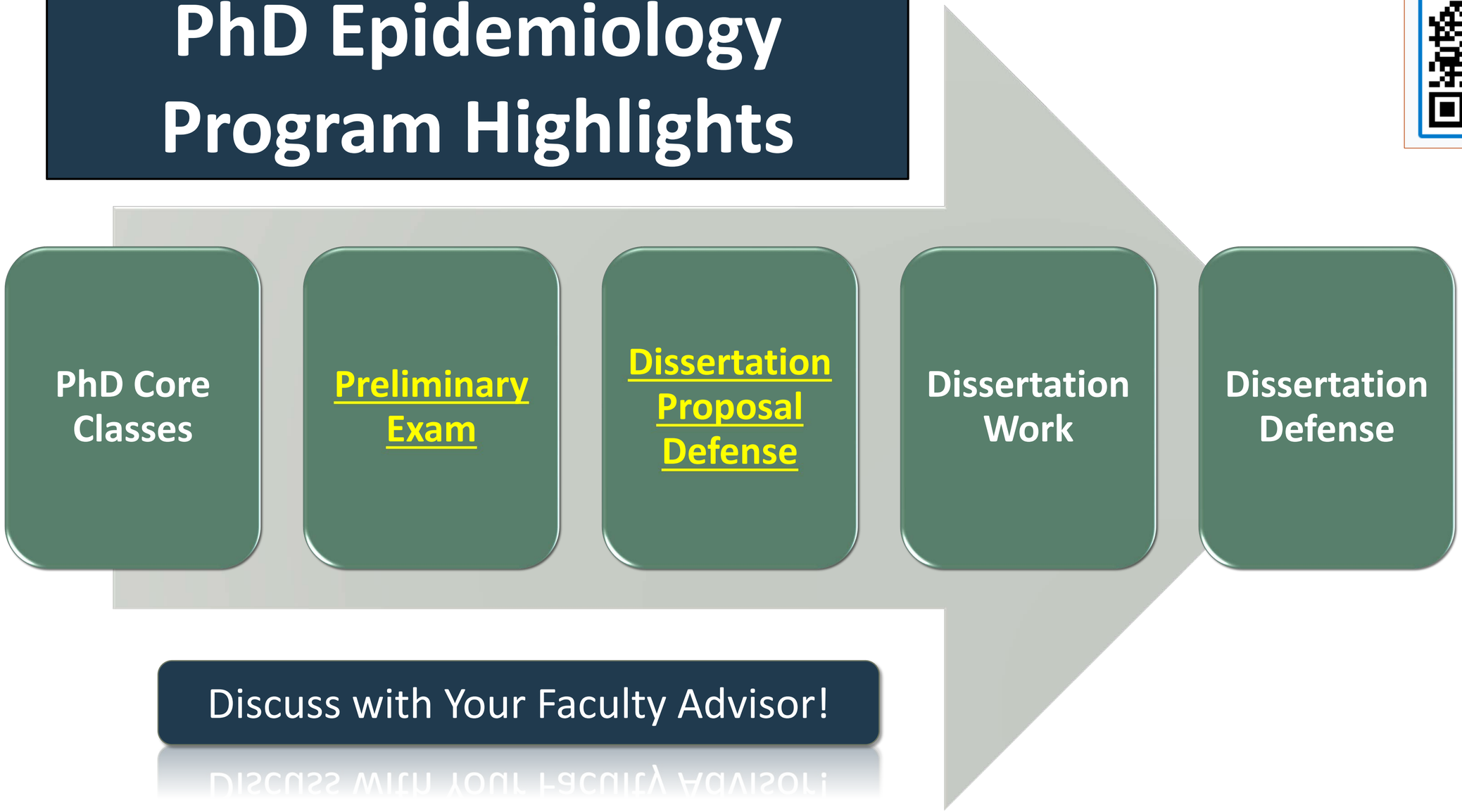


Epidemiology Proposal Development

- 3 hours

★ Required for the Preliminary Exam

PhD Epidemiology Program Highlights



Discuss with Your Faculty Advisor!

20+ Graduate Certificates Available

- Graduate certificates can be incorporated into both MPH & PhD degree programs and provide focused training in various public health specialties
- Explore graduate certificates HERE

Advanced Data Science	Advanced Healthcare Policy & Management	Advanced Planning and Evaluation for Health Promotion Programs	Advanced Qualitative Methods for Behavioral Sciences	Applied Biostatistics in Public Health
Culinary Nutrition in Public Health	Data Science	Dissemination & Implementation Science	Genomics & Bioinformatics	Global Health
Health Disparities	Health Economics	Health Promotion Program Planning & Evaluation	Healthcare Administration	Infectious Disease Epidemiology
Injury & Violence Prevention	Introduction to Qualitative Methods for Behavioral Sciences	Leadership Theory & Practice	Maternal & Child Health	Nutrition & Public Health
	Physical Activity & Public Health	Public Health Informatics	Public Health Law Research & Policy Surveillance	

Discuss with Your Faculty Advisor!

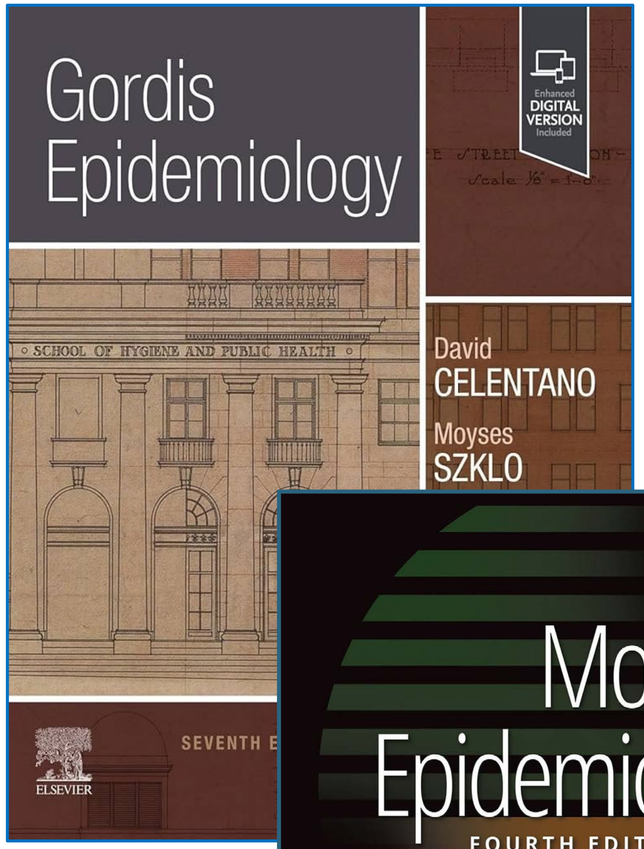


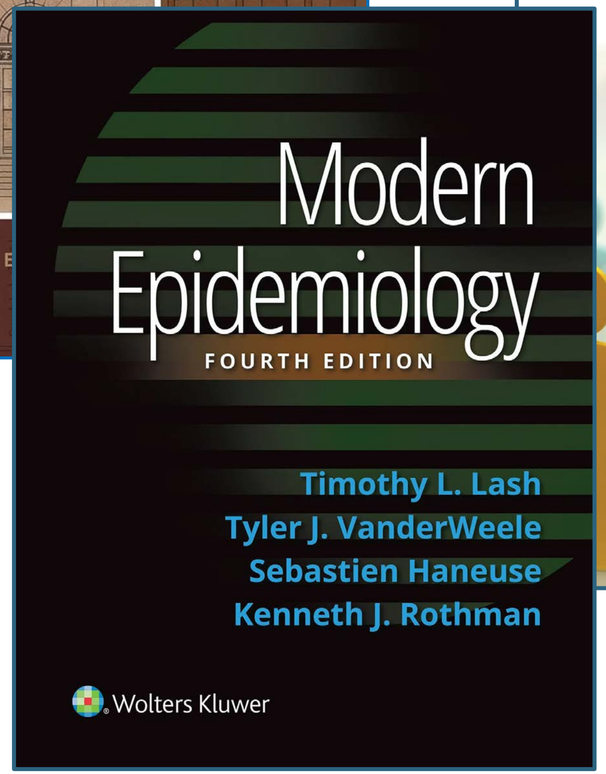
Student Resources

Many Required Textbooks Available Free Online

- Search for Textbook access here via Clinical Key **HERE**
- Review many other SPH Library Resources **HERE**

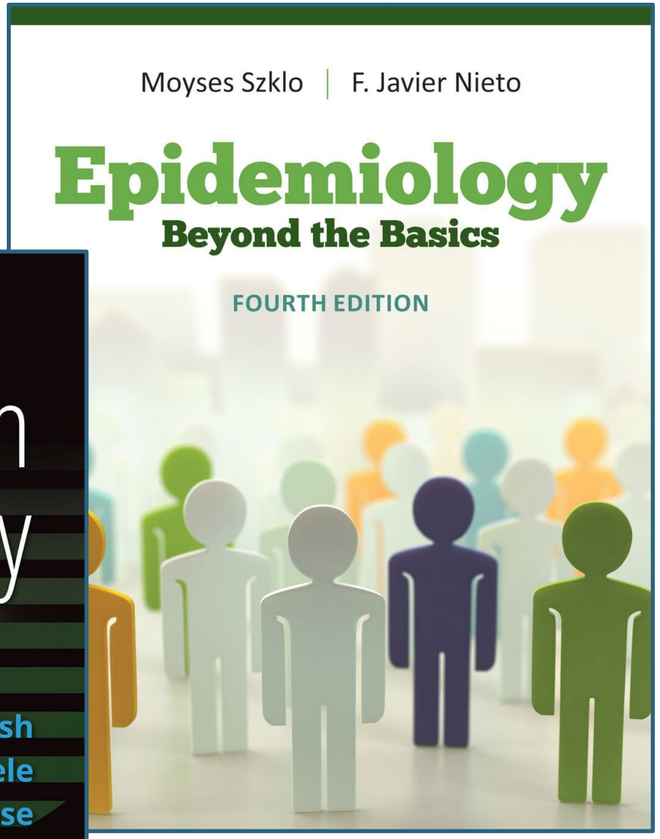
PH2612: Introduction to Epi text





PH2711: Advanced Epi text

PH2710: Intermediate Epi text



Healthcare & Counseling Services

Physical & Mental Health Resources

As a student at UTHealth School of Public Health, you have access to both Healthcare and Counseling Services:

- Healthcare Services
- Counseling Services



Employment & Career Services

Search for Job Opportunities via Handshake

- **Sign up for Handshake here!**
  - Teaching Assistant (TA), Graduate Assistants (GA), Graduate Research Assistant (GRA) positions are most accessible after you've completed your first semester

General Career Services & Resume Services

- **See resources & make appointments here!**

Career Services is accessible via the mySPH Student Portal

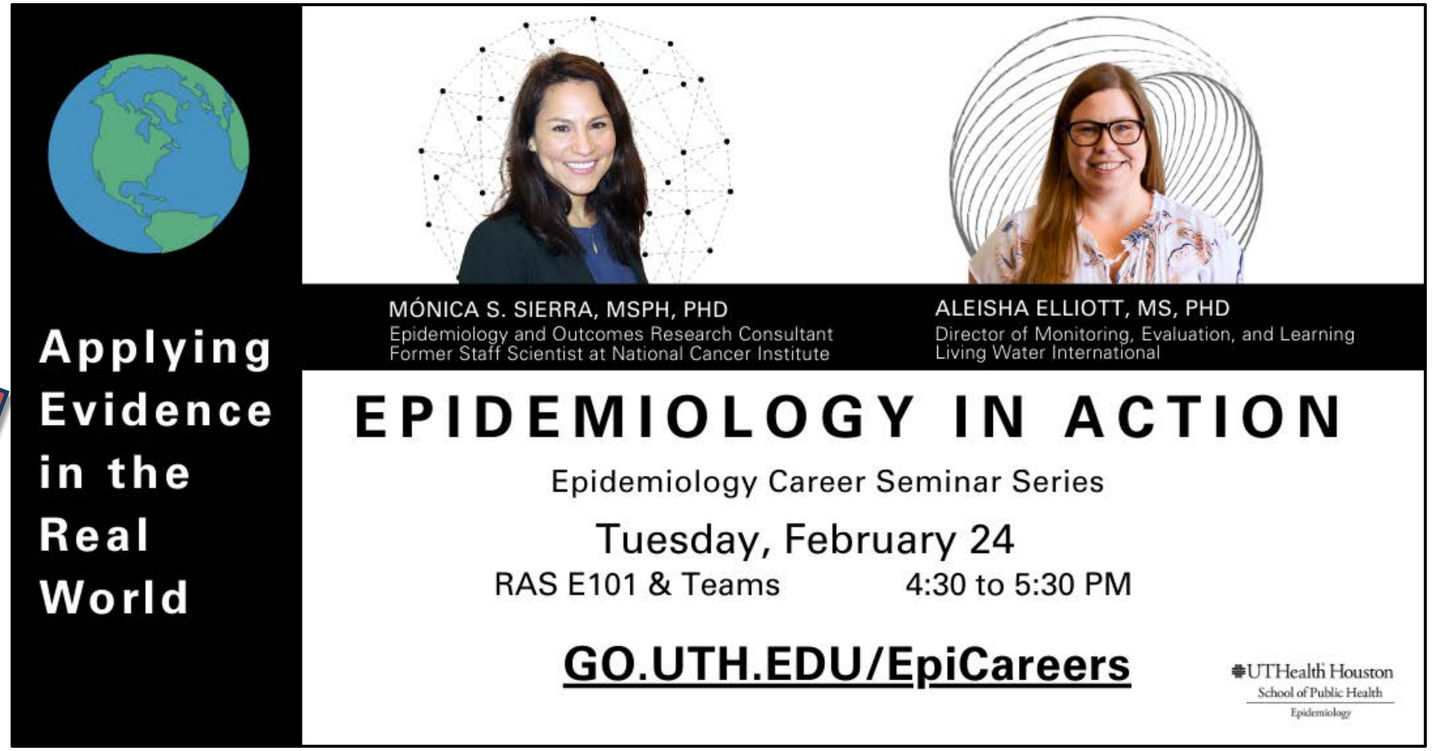




Epi Dept. Career & Professional Development Website

On this page, you can find:

- SPH career links
- Communication Trainings
- Professional Organization Links
- Other Training Resources



For example, find details for our upcoming Epi Career Seminar Talks

Quick Links to Other Epi Student Resources



Student Organizations!



Epi Newsletter Sign Up!



The Cupboard Student Food Pantry

Coming Soon!
New Quarterly Epi Dept. Professional Development Seminars

Exact Dates To Be Determined – Check Your Email!

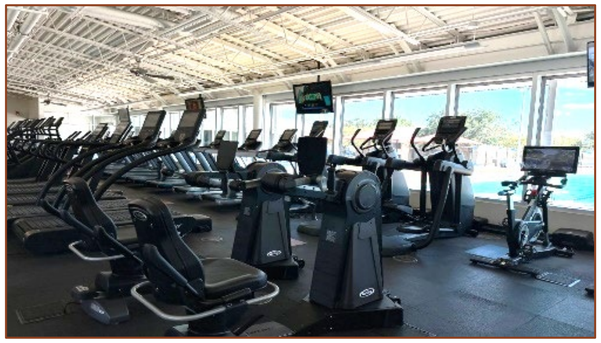
October	***Communicating with Diverse Audiences***
December	***Handling Difficult Conversations at Work and in Graduate School: Practical Skills for Real Situations***
February	***Resume Workshop***
April	***Job Interviews Workshop***



UTHealth Houston Shuttle Service

General information: https://www.uth.edu/shuttle/

Download the Shuttle Tracker app: https://www.uth.edu/shuttle/uthealth-shuttle-tracker



Recreation and Cardio Space



Technogym Strength Equipment



2 Outdoor Basketball Courts with Lights



Locker Rooms with Showers



Olympic Size Swimming Pool



2 Recreational Fields for Intramural Sports or Special Events



2 Outdoor Sand Volleyball Courts



4 Pickleball Courts Shared with Tennis Courts

UTHealth Houston Recreation Center

https://www.uth.edu/recreation-center/

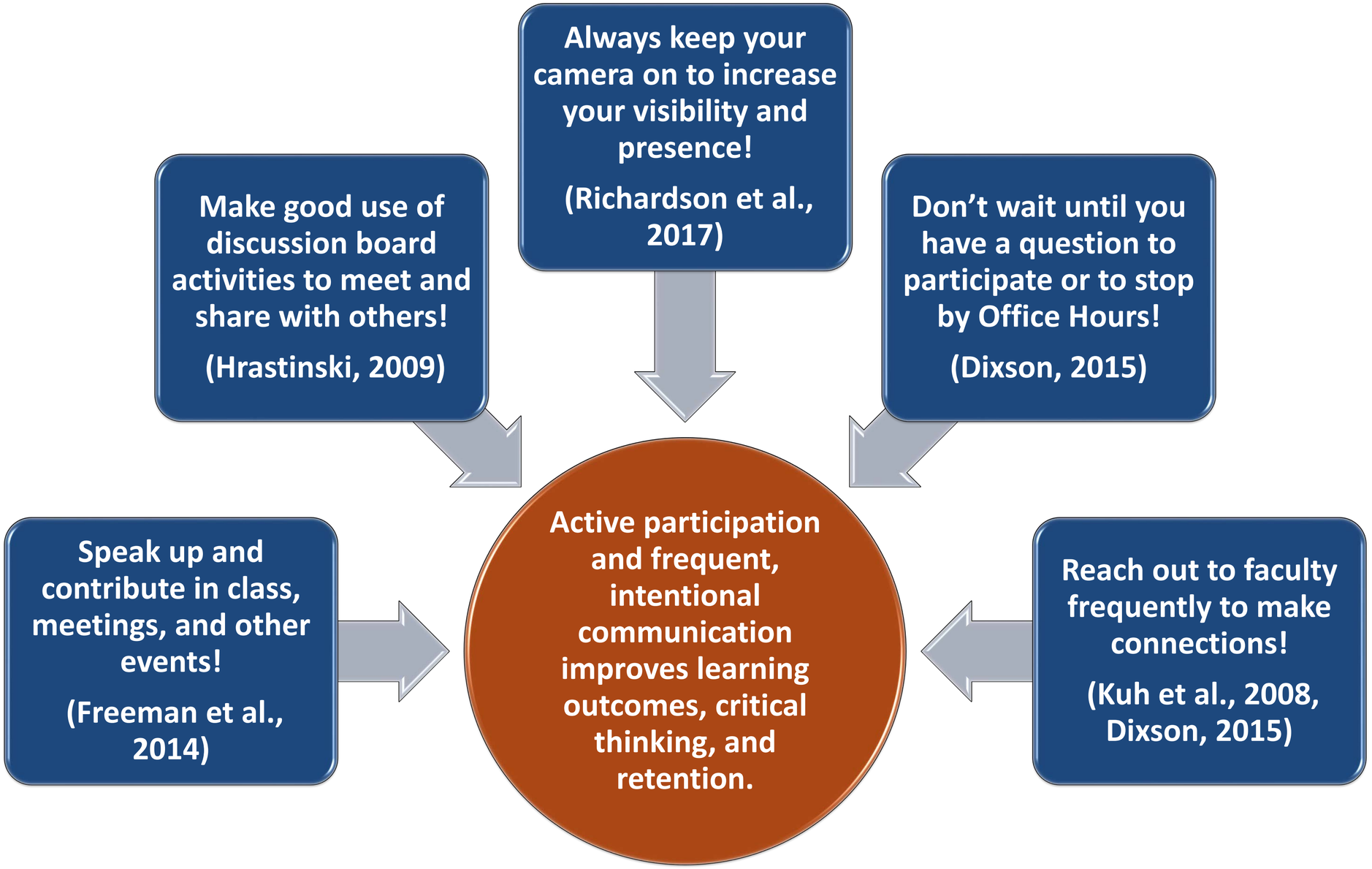
Tips for Success!

UTHealth is a vibrant community of faculty and students!

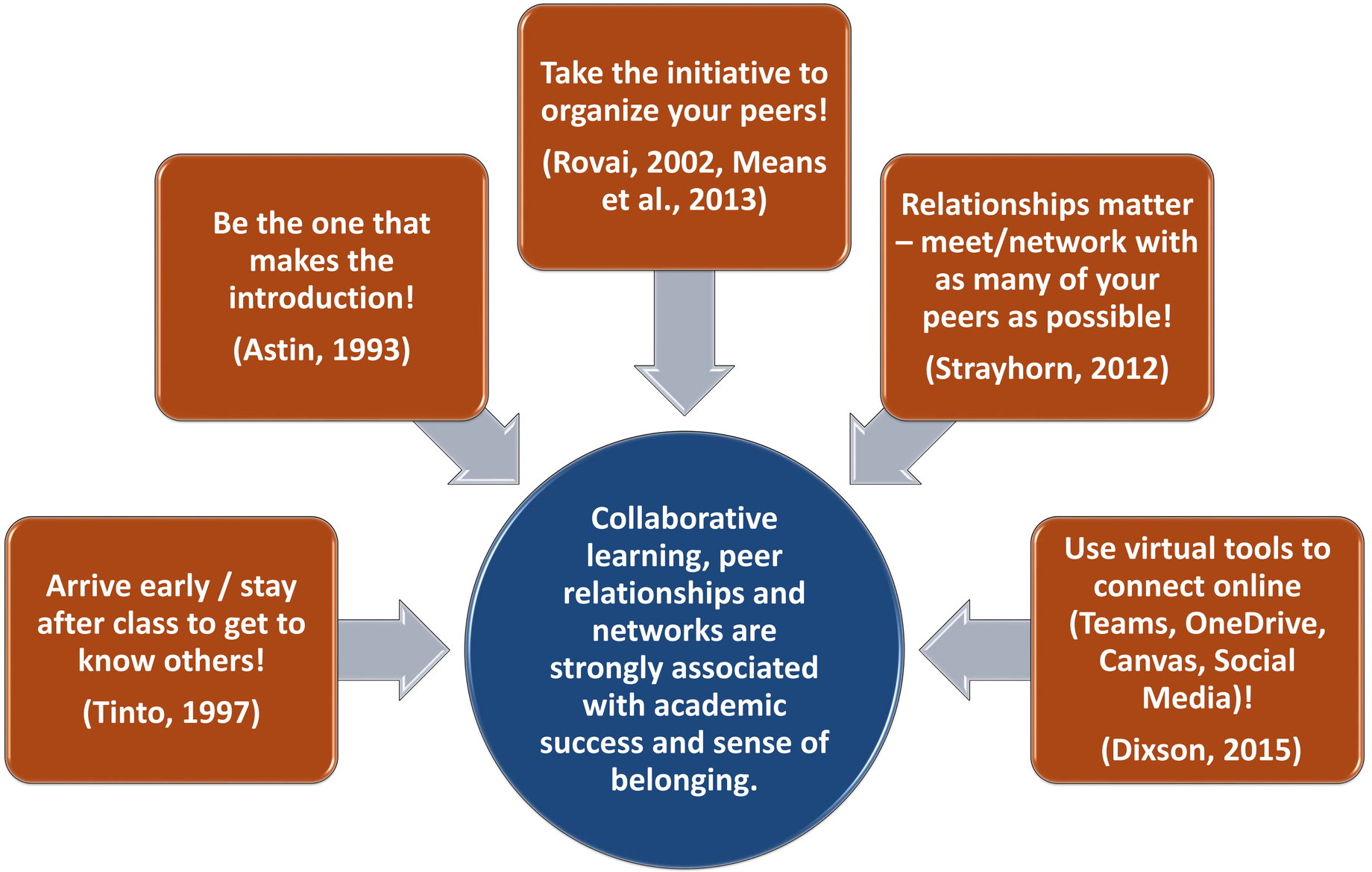
We want you to make the most of opportunities & connections that will boost your career, so here are a few evidence based-recommendations for connecting with faculty and peers.



Meet and Get to Know Faculty!



Build Connections with Peers!





Contact Information

We welcome your questions!

Contact Us!

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