

# Global Certificate in Legal Epidemiology

## Syllabus, February 2022

**DESCRIPTION:** The Global Certificate in Legal Epidemiology provides in-depth, self-guided instruction in legal epidemiology, the study of law as a factor in the cause, distribution, and prevention of disease and injury, also called public health law research. Created and taught by expert staff from Temple University's Center for Public Health Law Research, this asynchronous certificate program invites participants to explore the field of legal epidemiology while learning about the crucial role of law in public health today, in the United States and around the world. Through the successful completion of this three-module certificate, participants will be able to identify key doctrines of public health law, describe the practice and importance of scientific legal mapping, and learn the basic principles of legal evaluation, while developing the requisite skills to identify how law and legal practices influence public health.

**PREREQUISITES:** No prerequisites are required for this program

**EXPECTED HOURS OF TIME COMMITMENT:** about 16 hours

**INSTRUCTIONAL FORMAT:** This is a non-credit, fully online, asynchronous program offered using pre-recorded video-based lectures. There are no live meetings included.

**COURSE TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS:** This certificate requires the use of Canvas to access course materials and submit assignments. All videos posted on the certificate's Canvas portal require the use of speakers.

**COURSE COMMUNICATIONS:** Please send all inquiries to [LearnLegalEpi@temple.edu](mailto:LearnLegalEpi@temple.edu).

**GENERAL POLICIES:** All [Temple University Academic Policies](#) will be upheld.

**STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES:** Freedom to teach and freedom to learn are inseparable facets of academic freedom. The University has a policy on [Student and Faculty Academic Rights and Responsibilities](#) (Policy #03.70.02).

**ACADEMIC HONESTY:** According to the University Student Code of Conduct, students must not commit, attempt to commit, aid, encourage, facilitate, or solicit the commission of academic dishonesty and impropriety including plagiarism, academic cheating, and selling lecture notes or other information provided by an instructor without the instructor's authorization. Violations may result in failing the assignment and/or other sanctions as enumerated in the [University Code of Conduct](#).

**DISABILITY DISCLOSURE STATEMENT:** Any student who has a need for accommodation based on the impact of a documented disability should contact [Disability Resources and Services](#) (DRS), Ritter Annex 100, 215-204-1280 or 215-204-1786 (TTY) or [drs@temple.edu](mailto:drs@temple.edu), to make arrangements. Students requesting accommodations should meet with the instructor as soon as possible after the start of classes to discuss their needs and to provide documentation from DRS. Accommodations are not retroactive.

Information regarding accessibility for additional technologies is available for [Canvas](#) and [Outlook](#).

**TECHNICAL SUPPORT:** For a listing of technical support services available at Temple University non-credit courses, please see this [FAQ](#).

**PRIVACY POLICY:** Visit [Temple University](#) and [Canvas Instructure](#) for more information regarding privacy policies.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Participants will have access to the online materials in Canvas. The Certificate is comprised of three modules. To complete the Certificate, participants need to complete all modules within 12 months from the date the student begins Module 1. To complete a module, participants need to complete the individual units within each module. To complete an individual unit, participants are required to view the unit video and complete the unit assessment. Each unit assessment must be passed with a minimum of 80% correct answers to receive credit for completion. Assessments may be completed as many times as needed to reach the 80% threshold. Please follow the specific instructions located within each unit's page.

Participants will receive a certificate from the Temple University Office of Non-Credit Education upon successful completion of the course.

## Certificate Structure and Goals

### **Module 1: The New Public Health Law**

*(Time estimated: 6 hours and 30 minutes)*

This four-unit module introduces the transdisciplinary model of public health law, the Five Essential Public Health Law Services, and key doctrines of the United States and global health law.

To complete Module 1 participants will need to complete all four units. To complete a unit, participants are required to view the unit video and complete the unit assessment. The unit assessment is a quiz that must be passed with a minimum of 80% correct answers to receive credit for completion. Students may take the assessment as many times as needed to achieve 80% correct answers.

## **MODULE 1, UNIT 1**

### **The New Public Health Law: A Transdisciplinary Approach**

*(Time estimated: 1 hour)*

*By the end of this unit, you will be able to*

- Define “legal epidemiology” and “the transdisciplinary model of public health law”
- Explain the crucial roles of law in public health
- Identify legal tasks and skills in your own public health work or study
- Understand and improve the delivery of the Five Essential Public Health Law Services

## **MODULE 1, UNIT 2**

### **Fundamentals of Public Health Law: Powers, Duties and Limitations**

*(Time estimated: 45 minutes)*

*By the end of this unit, you will be able to*

- Describe public health as a collective enterprise carried out for the common good
- Explain how law provides authority, restrains public health action, and may impose duties to act
- Analyze the social construct as a basis for rights and responsibilities
- See how law and politics interact to empower and restrain public health in action

**Note: Although we suggest that you complete both Unit 2A and Unit 2B, you need to complete one of Unit 2A or 2B to satisfy course requirements.**

## **MODULE 1, UNIT 2A**

### **Public Health Law in the United States**

*(Time estimated: 1 hour)*

*By the end of this unit, you will be able to*

- Describe the federal system in the United States
- Explain the nature of and distinctions between forms of preemption
- Identify the basis for government public health actions in the police power and the Spending and Commerce Clauses of the U.S. Constitution
- Identify potential limitations on government actions in the U.S. Constitution, including the Bill of Rights, Due Process, and Equal Protection of Law

## **MODULE 1, UNIT 2B**

### **Global Health Law**

*(Time estimated: 1 hour)*

*By the end of this unit, you will be able to*

- Explain the nature and scope of “global health law”
- Explain which international standards are important for the protection of health
- Reflect on the lawmaking role of the World Health Organization

- Discuss the implication of these standards for domestic public health settings
- Identify how international human rights standards are important for the protection of health

### **MODULE 1, UNIT 3**

#### **Delivering the Five Essential Public Health Law Services: Tools for Building Health Policies in Law**

*(Time estimated: 1 hour and 15 minutes)*

*By the end of this unit, you will be able to*

- Apply basic tools and strategies for evidence-informed policy development
- Use the concept of “mechanisms of legal effect” to develop effective legal interventions
- Identify important roles of lawyers and non-lawyers in policy development
- Understand how lawyers and health professionals work together to put policy ideas into law
- Recognize the importance of social and behavioral mechanisms of legal effect
- Define options for legal form and the reasons for selecting one over another

### **MODULE 1, UNIT 4**

#### **Advocacy, Implementation, Enforcement and Evaluation**

*(Time estimated: 1 hour and 30 minutes)*

*By the end of this unit, you will be able to*

- Develop key strategies for more effective advocacy, including Kingdon’s Policy Streams model and Moral Foundations Theory
- Use sociological theory and a responsive regulation approach to improve regulatory practice and implementation
- Explain the role of lawyers in defending legal solutions
- Define policy surveillance and explain the important role of monitoring and evaluation in public health

## **Module 2: Policy Surveillance**

*(Time estimated: 4 hours and 30 minutes)*

This three-unit module teaches the process from start to finish for conducting policy surveillance to create legal data for evaluation and practice. The instructors review the history, practice, and application of policy surveillance, a form of scientific legal mapping.

To complete Module 2, participants will need to complete all three units. To complete a unit, participants are required to view the unit video and complete the unit assessments. The unit assessment is a quiz that must be passed with a minimum of 80% correct answers to receive credit for completion. Students may take the assessment as many times as needed to achieve 80% correct answers.

## **MODULE 2, UNIT 1**

### **Introduction to Advanced Legal Mapping**

*(Time estimated: 1 hour)*

*By the end of this unit, you will be able to*

- Explain the history of legal mapping
- Define the different forms of legal mapping, including policy surveillance
- Understand the basic steps of the policy surveillance process

## **MODULE 2, UNIT 2**

### **The Policy Surveillance Process**

*(Time estimated: 2 hours and 30 minutes)*

*By the end of this unit, you will be able to*

- Define the scientific legal mapping process of policy surveillance
- Understand the steps in the policy surveillance process
- Explain the basics of project management for a detailed policy surveillance dataset

## **MODULE 2, UNIT 3**

### **Policy Surveillance in Practice**

*(Time estimated: 1 hour)*

*By the end of this unit, you will be able to*

- Understand the publication and dissemination phase of the policy surveillance process
- Learn about the documentation published with each policy surveillance dataset to assure transparency and replicability
- Explain where and how communication activities may be accomplished throughout the entirety of the policy surveillance process to facilitate broader dissemination of data upon publication

Optional videos providing examples of policy surveillance data products, ways to use legal data for advocacy, and how to use policy surveillance to build workforce capacity are available as additional resources for this unit.

## **Module 3: Legal Evaluation**

*(Time estimated: 3 hours)*

In this two-unit module, participants will learn the basic principles of legal evaluation and the necessary elements of quasi-experimental design to scientifically evaluate the impact of law on population health, a crucial part of legal epidemiology practice.

To complete Module 3, participants will need to complete both units. To complete a unit, participants are required to view the unit video and complete the unit assessments. The unit assessment is a quiz that must

be passed with a minimum of 80% correct answers to receive credit for completion. Students may take the assessment as many times as needed to achieve 80% correct answers.

## **MODULE 3, UNIT 1**

### **Evaluating the Impact of Laws and Policies on Health**

*(Time estimated: 1 hour and 30 minutes)*

*By the end of this unit, you will be able to*

- Assess law as a factor in public health
- Manage causal inference in conducting and consuming research
- Use the concept of “mechanism of legal effect” in designing public health law research and interpreting results

## **MODULE 3, UNIT 2**

### **Going a Step Further with Legal Data**

*(Time estimated: 1 hour and 30 minutes)*

*By the end of this unit, you will be able to*

- Discuss the key terms of legal evaluation
- Understand that legal evaluation requires collaboration by a transdisciplinary team
- Explore the theoretical framework of legal evaluation and the use of legal and outcome data
- Discuss quasi-experimental designs specific to evaluating laws