

FAST FACTS: Environmental & Occupational Health and Safety



CEPH Accredited

Master of Public Health (MPH) Degree

Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety Science Program

The 45-semester credit MPH degree is offered via the Northwest Ohio Consortium for Public Health (NOCPH), a collaboration of Bowling Green State University and the University of Toledo. The MPH program is accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH). The University of Toledo Department of Public Health & Homeland Security coordinates the Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety Science program.

What is an Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety Specialist?

Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety (EOHS) specialists focus on a combination of scientific, technical and regulatory aspects of public health that relate to the assessment and control of hazards such as physical, chemical and biological agents in non-occupational and occupational environments. (The hazardous agents addressed also include, but are not limited to, agents associated with terrorism.) The major focus is recognition, evaluation and control of human exposures resulting from contact with contaminated air, water, soil and food. Emergency and disaster planning, preparation, recognition and response are also emphasized.

The Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety Science major expands students' knowledge, comprehension and skills to prepare them for work as professionals involved with development, implementation, delivery and management of applicable focused or broad scope environmental and occupational health and safety programs. Examples of applicable programs include community and/or worker awareness education and training programs; environmental and occupational disease causation, prevention and remediation programs; hazardous non-occupational and occupational site investigation, sampling, assessment and control; and regulatory compliance and/or enforcement. EOHS professionals also have the education and training applicable to preparedness for, recognition of, and response to natural disaster and intentional terrorist events.

The major objectives for the Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety Science program are to graduate professionals that are prepared to:

- apply the fundamental and advanced principles of statistics, epidemiology, general environmental and occupational health and safety science relative to real-world public health issues and problems.
- objectively and subjectively assess chemical, biological, and physical agents classified as hazardous to human health (including agents used in terrorism events).
- critically analyze and interpret statistical, epidemiological, toxicological and communicable disease information for prevention and remediation program development and implementation.
- conduct fundamental sample collection of matrices contaminated with and or affected by hazardous chemical, biological, and physical agents.
- collect and evaluate applicable information necessary to perform risk assessments and conduct disaster preparation/planning.
- make administrative decisions based on recommended measures to reduce or eliminate environmental and occupational health hazards.
- demonstrate administrative, scientific, technical, and regulatory knowledge and skill that would relate to their roles in public health administration.
- develop and present administrative, scientific, technical and/or regulatory reports.
- work for governmental agencies (e.g. EPA; OSHA; Health Departments), industries, consulting firms, union organizations, healthcare organizations, and others.

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What are the entrance requirements/prerequisites?

Applicant may qualify for "**Regular Admission**" if he/she satisfies all of these requirements:

- Completed bachelor degree, including foundation courses. It is expected that all applicants will have successfully completed college-level mathematics and biology and course work in the social sciences. (In addition, completion of college-level courses in inorganic and organic chemistry are required for the Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety Science major.)
- GPA \geq 3.0 (or equivalent)
- TOEFL \geq 550 (Not Applicable if English is Applicant's Primary Language)
- Recommended by 3 References

Applicant may qualify for "**Provisional Admission**" if he/she has one or more of the following deficiencies:

- Must complete necessary foundation course(s)
- GPA \geq 2.7 but $<$ 3.0 (or equivalent)

What is the application timeline? Applications are processed, and students are accepted, as applications are received (rolling admission), but should be received no later than June 15 for Fall term, October 15 for Spring term, and March 15 for Summer term.

How long is the program? Can I complete the program on a part-time basis? The curriculum requires completion of 45 semester credits of advised courses. The duration of the program is 16 months (i.e. four consecutive terms) for full-time students and approximately 32-36 months for part-time students.

Is the program offered on evenings or weekends? Classes are scheduled on Monday through Thursday nights, one night per week per course and on some courses on Saturdays.

I already have completed some graduate college courses; can I apply any of the credits I have completed? A maximum of 12 credits of approved transfer of graduate courses completed elsewhere.

What type of financial aid is available? Federal financial aid programs are available. Each NOCPH institution offers two to three tuition scholarships and one to two graduate assistantships per major. Additional funding may be available via funded grants and contracts.

What are the features of a successful candidate? Academically prepared; writes and speaks well; has a true desire to work with and help people; curious and excited by challenges involving problem-solving.

What are the job opportunities? What is a typical salary for a new graduate? Salaries vary greatly depending on geographic location and type of facility. New graduates can expect to start at \$40,000 – \$60,000.

Why should I attend the Northwest Ohio Consortium for Public Health (Bowling Green State University and University of Toledo)?

- Reasonable, public school tuition
- MPH students attend classes and have access to facilities on all campuses.
- Relatively small class sizes (typically 10-20 students per class in areas of concentration)
- Technologically sophisticated classroom and laboratory learning environments.
- Faculty have national reputations for practice and research
- Fieldwork/Internship and Research opportunities
- Beautiful campuses, reasonable off-campus housing costs

Where can I find more information about the profession and the program requirements?

- The Northwest Ohio Consortium for Public Health website: www.nocphmph.org
- American Public Health Association (www.apha.org); Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov)
- Phone 419-383-4112 or e-mail publichealth@utoledo.edu for questions regarding admissions.
- Sheryl Milz, PhD, Interim Chair or Farhang Akbar, PhD, CIH Professor, UT Department of Public Health & Preventive Medicine, Northwest Ohio Consortium for Public Health
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