



Department of Environmental & Occupational Health

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MPH in Occupational Health Practice

The occupational health practice concentration is intended for students interested in applied occupational health program design, development and management. This concentration is not a clinical or medical program. Graduates will be prepared to practice occupational health in a variety of settings with a multidisciplinary approach to the design, implementation, management, and evaluation of occupational health programs and services. The occupational health practice concentration is primarily designed for those individuals who are currently working in an occupational setting, who requires an M.P.H. for eligibility for board certification or for those who are interested in exploring the science of occupational health. The program is for individuals who wish to augment, enhance, or expand their current training or who wish to prepare for roles in health occupational health, including, but not limited to, the following areas: safety professionals, industrial hygienists, health practitioners (physicians, nurses, physician assistants) and human resource personnel (program management and procurement). This concentration is also designed for public health or occupational health professionals who wish to become knowledgeable in occupational health research, occupational health data management, and applied occupational health programs or management. **For the culminating experience, students may choose between a thesis or a comprehensive exam. Students selecting the comprehensive exam option must take an additional six (6) semester credit hours of electives in lieu of the thesis.** By the conclusion of the M.P.H. program, a student in the occupational health practice concentration will be able to:

1. Identify and be familiar with regulatory or legislative authority directed at occupational health practice.
2. Acquire, compile, collate, store, evaluate and analyze occupational health data by applying statistical methodology.
3. Identify external factors which influence worker safety and health.
4. Work effectively as a team member with other occupational health professionals by understanding their roles in occupational health services.
5. Describe employee legal rights to confidentiality of medical record information.
6. Perform assessment, implementation and assurance analyses of occupational health programs.
7. Recognize the roles and functions of employee assistance programs, medical surveillance programs, duty fitness programs, safety programs, and substance abuse testing in the occupational health setting.
8. Plan and conduct independent research focusing on the analysis and solution of a problem in occupational health practice, via the completion of a thesis/project reports.

Occupational Health Curriculum (45 SCH)

CORE COURSES: 15 SCH

BIOS	5210	Biostatistics for Public Health I	3 SCH
ENVR	5300	Environmental Health	3 SCH

EPID	5100	Principles of Epidemiology	3 SCH
HMAP	5210	Introduction to Health Management and Policy	3 SCH
SCBS	5110	Behavioral and Social Aspects of Public Health	3 SCH

REQUIRED COURSES: 18 SCH

ENVR	5325	Industrial Hygiene	3 SCH
ENVR	5330	Environmental and Occupational Toxicology	3 SCH
ENVR	5345	Physical Hazards	3 SCH
ENVR	5350	Occupational Diseases and Health Practice	3 SCH
ENVR	5380	Environmental Health Microbiology	3 SCH
ENVR	5410	Environmental Data Analysis	3 SCH

PRACTICE EXPERIENCE: 3 SCH (to be eligible for enrollment, students must complete all core courses and at least two required courses)

SPH	5855	Public Health Practice Experience	3 SCH
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ELECTIVE COURSES: 3 SCH for Thesis option or 9 SCH for Comprehensive Exam Option

ENVR	5310	Exposure and Risk Assessment	3 SCH
ENVR	5311	Air Pollution and Health	3 SCH
ENVR	5420	Texas-Mexico Border Health Issues	3 SCH
ENVR	5500	Biomarkers in Environmental Epidemiology	3 SCH
ENVR	5550	Introduction to Genomics and Public Health	3 SCH
ENVR	5910	Independent Study in Environmental Health	3 SCH
ENVR	6600	Spatiotemporal Environmental Health Modeling	3 SCH
EPID	6690	Occupational Epidemiology	3 SCH

- Students may substitute an elective course not on this list only with prior written approval of their advisor.
- Courses not approved as substitutes will not be applied toward the degree plan.

CULMINATING EXPERIENCE: 0-6 SCH

SPH	5950	Thesis	6 SCH
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Or

Comprehensive Exam (see details below)			0 SCH
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Students who select the comprehensive exam option do not register for a course in order to take the exam; however, they must complete six (6) additional semester credit hours of electives. Students are responsible for informing the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health of their intentions to take the exam. A student who encounters a last minute emergency (sickness, death in the family, etc.) may appeal to the exam committee for an opportunity to take a makeup exam. Students who fail the exam may, upon recommendation of the department chair, be allowed to retake a different exam. However, an opportunity for retaking the exam is not automatic, and students may only retake the exam once.