Occupational and Environmental Health, M.S.

A Master of Science degree in occupational and environmental health is offered by the department with optional subprograms in:

- agricultural safety and health
- industrial hygiene

Optional focus areas include:

- environmental health
- environmental toxicology
- ergonomics

Requirements

The Master of Science program in occupational and environmental health requires a minimum of 38 s.h. of graduate credit. It is offered with two optional subprograms: agricultural safety and health and industrial hygiene. The M.S. with agricultural safety and health subprogram requires a minimum of 39 s.h. of graduate credit; the M.S. with industrial hygiene subprogram requires a minimum of 43 s.h. of graduate credit. All M.S. students are required to complete a thesis.

The M.S. in occupational and environmental health without a subprogram requires the following work.

Core Courses

Students must complete all of the following courses.

- OEH:4240 Global Environmental Health 3
- OEH:5010 Occupational and Environmental Health Seminar 1
- OEH:5620 Occupational Health 3
- OEH:5710 Environmental Toxicology 3
- BIOS:4120 Introduction to Biostatistics 3
- CPH:6100 Essentials of Public Health 1
- CPH:7270 Principles of Scholarly Integrity: Public Health 1
- EPID:4400 Epidemiology I: Principles 3
- PATH:8133 Introduction to Human Pathology for Graduate Students 4

Electives

Credit earned in elective courses and the thesis completes the 38 s.h. required for the degree. Students work with their advisor to select electives appropriate for their professional goals.

Thesis

A thesis is required. Students may earn a maximum of 6 s.h. for the thesis.


M.S. with Subprogram in Agricultural Safety and Health

The M.S. with subprogram in agricultural safety and health requires a minimum of 39 s.h. of graduate credit. The program prepares students for careers in education, health care, insurance, and agribusiness as specialists in agricultural safety and health.

The M.S. in occupational and environmental health with the agricultural safety and health subprogram requires the following work.

Subprogram Core

Students must complete all of the following courses.

- OEH:4240 Global Environmental Health 3
- OEH:4540 Statistics for Experimenters 3
- OEH:5010 Occupational and Environmental Health Seminar 1
- OEH:5410 Occupational Safety 3
- OEH:5620 Occupational Health 3
- OEH:5710 Environmental Toxicology 3
- OEH:6110 Rural Health and Agricultural Medicine 3
- OEH:6120 Current Topics in Agriculture and Rural Health 1
- OEH:7040 Preceptorship in Occupational and Environmental Health 1
- CPH:6100 Essentials of Public Health 1
- CPH:7270 Principles of Scholarly Integrity: Public Health 1
- EPID:4400 Epidemiology I: Principles 3

Electives

Agricultural safety and health students must complete elective course work from one of four focus areas. The amount of credit required varies by focus area, as follows.

- Ergonomics: 9 s.h.
- Industrial hygiene: 9 s.h.
- Occupational epidemiology: 10 s.h.
- Occupational injury prevention: 9 s.h.

Thesis

A thesis is required. Students may earn a maximum of 6 s.h. for the thesis.


M.S. with Subprogram in Industrial Hygiene

The M.S. with subprogram in industrial hygiene requires a minimum of 43 s.h. of graduate credit. The program prepares students for careers in industrial hygiene as well as the broad field of occupational and environmental health. Career opportunities are available in health and safety departments of industries; in consulting firms; in academic institutions; and in local, state, and federal public health agencies.

The M.S. in occupational and environmental health with the industrial hygiene subprogram requires the following work.

Subprogram Core

Students must complete all of the following courses.

- OEH:4240 Global Environmental Health 3
- OEH:4540 Statistics for Experimenters 3
- OEH:5010 Occupational and Environmental Health Seminar 1
- OEH:5410 Occupational Safety 3
- OEH:5620 Occupational Health 3
- OEH:5710 Environmental Toxicology 3
- OEH:6110 Rural Health and Agricultural Medicine 3
- OEH:6120 Current Topics in Agriculture and Rural Health 1
- OEH:7040 Preceptorship in Occupational and Environmental Health 1
- CPH:6100 Essentials of Public Health 1
- CPH:7270 Principles of Scholarly Integrity: Public Health 1
- EPID:4400 Epidemiology I: Principles 3

Electives

Credit earned in elective courses and the thesis completes the 38 s.h. required for the degree. Students work with their advisor to select electives appropriate for their professional goals.

Thesis

A thesis is required. Students may earn a maximum of 6 s.h. for the thesis.

Subprogram Core

Students must complete all of the following courses.

- OEH:4240 Global Environmental Health 3
- OEH:4310 Occupational Ergonomics: Principles 3
- OEH:4540 Statistics for Experimenters 3
- OEH:5010 Occupational and Environmental Health Seminar 1
- OEH:5410 Occupational Safety 3
- OEH:5620 Occupational Health 3
- OEH:5710 Environmental Toxicology 3
- OEH:6420 Industrial Hygiene Fundamentals 3
- OEH:6430 Assessing Physical Agent Hazards 3
- OEH:6440 Control of Occupational Hazards 3
- OEH:6450 Aerosol Technology 3
- CPH:6100 Essentials of Public Health 1
- CPH:7270 Principles of Scholarly Integrity: Public Health 1
- EPID:4400 Epidemiology I: Principles 3

Electives

Credit in elective courses and the thesis completes the 43 s.h. required for the degree. Students work with their advisor to select electives appropriate for their professional goals.

Thesis

A thesis is required. Students may earn a maximum of 6 s.h. for the thesis.


Joint Degrees

Separate application to each degree program is required; applicants must be admitted to both programs before they may be admitted to the joint degree program.

Joint B.S.E. in Biomedical Engineering/ M.S.

Bachelor of Science in Engineering students majoring in biomedical engineering (biomechanics and biomaterials track) who are interested in earning a Master of Science in occupational and environmental health (industrial hygiene subprogram) may apply to the joint B.S.E./M.S. program offered by the College of Engineering and the College of Public Health. The joint program permits students to count a limited amount of credit toward the requirements of both degrees, enabling them to begin the study of public health before they complete the bachelor's degree. For information about the B.S.E. program, see the B.S.E. in Biomedical Engineering (College of Engineering) in the Catalog.

Joint M.S./M.A. or M.S. in Urban and Regional Planning

The joint Master of Science in occupational and environmental health/Master of Arts or Master of Science in urban and regional planning requires 65 s.h. of graduate credit. For information about the graduate programs in planning, see the "Requirements" section for the M.A. or M.S. degree in the School of Urban and Regional Planning (Graduate College) in the Catalog.

Admission

Applications to the M.S. program in occupational and environmental health must apply through the Schools of Public Health Application Service (SOPHAS); they also must apply for admission to the Graduate College through the University of Iowa Office of Admissions. For detailed application information and admission requirements, visit How to Apply to Occupational and Environmental Health web page.

The occupational and environmental health faculty takes several factors into consideration when evaluating applications for admission, including Graduate Record Exam (GRE) General Test scores, grade-point averages, letters of recommendation, intent and motivation for graduate study, and research interests. A student with deficiencies in one area may be admitted if all other components of the application are very strong.

M.S. program applicants must hold a bachelor's degree and have a cumulative g.p.a. of at least 3.00. All applicants must have taken the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) General Test. A verbal score of at least 151 and a quantitative score of at least 153 are recommended. For applicants who have not taken the GRE, the department considers scores from other standardized tests, such as the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT).

Applicants whose first language is not English and who do not hold a baccalaureate or more advanced degree from an accredited university in the United States, United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada (excluding French Quebec), English-speaking Africa, Australia, or New Zealand must score at least 100 (Internet-based) on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Applicants who score 81-99 (Internet-based) are required to take English fluency courses. Applicants who score below 81 are not considered for admission.

Undergraduate preparation for M.S. applicants must include course work in mathematics, biology, chemistry, and either physical sciences or engineering, depending on the applicant's chosen specialty area.

Students may enter in the fall. February 1 is the priority application deadline for consideration for financial support; May 1 is the final application deadline.

Financial Support

Several graduate student awards, including tuition and stipend support, are available for individuals interested in:

- agricultural safety and health
- ergonomics
- industrial hygiene

Full-time graduate students in good academic standing are eligible for a stipend and tuition support. All recipients must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents.