Occupational and Environmental Health, Ph.D.

A Ph.D. degree in occupational and environmental health (OEH) is an advanced research degree that emphasizes depth of knowledge and original research skills. The degree is designed to develop leaders in environmental and occupational health research and practice.

Students work with their faculty advisor to design a specialized curriculum of course work and research projects in the following areas:

- agricultural safety and health
- environmental health
- environmental toxicology
- ergonomics
- industrial hygiene
- occupational epidemiology
- occupational injury prevention

Requirements

The Doctor of Philosophy program in occupational and environmental health requires 72 s.h. of graduate credit. All students must complete a dissertation.

The Doctor of Philosophy with a major in occupational and environmental health requires the following work.

Required Courses

Students may use a course only once to fulfill a requirement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OEH:4240</td>
<td>Global Environmental Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OEH:5010</td>
<td>Occupational and Environmental Health Seminar</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OEH:5620</td>
<td>Occupational Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS:4120</td>
<td>Introduction to Biostatistics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPH:6100</td>
<td>Essentials of Public Health</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPH:7270</td>
<td>Principles of Scholarly Integrity: Public Health</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID:4400</td>
<td>Epidemiology I: Principles</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Interpreting OEH research course (consult advisor)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Research methods in OEH course (consult advisor)</td>
<td>3</td>
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One of these:

- OEH:6460 Quantitative Exposure Assessment: Study Design and Evaluation 3
- OEH:6520 Injury Epidemiology 3

At least 9 s.h. from these:

- OEH:6110 Rural Health and Agricultural Medicine 3
- OEH:6130 Agricultural Safety and Health: Practice, Research Methods, and Policy 3
- OEH:6420 Methods in Exposure Science 3
- OEH:6431 Assessing Noise Hazards 1
- OEH:6432 Assessing Nonionizing Radiation Hazards 1
- OEH:6433 Assessing Ionizing Radiation Hazards 1
- OEH:6440 Control of Occupational Hazards 3
- OEH:6450 Aerosol Technology 3
- OEH:6460 Quantitative Exposure Assessment: Study Design and Evaluation 3
- OEH:6510 Environmental and Occupational Epidemiology 3
- OEH:6520 Injury Epidemiology 3
- OEH:6710 Human Toxicology and Risk Assessment 3
- OEH:6720 Advanced Toxicology 4
- BIOS:5130 Applied Categorical Data Analysis 3
- BIOS:6310 Introductory Longitudinal Data Analysis 3
- EPID:6400 Epidemiology II: Advanced Methods 4
- STAT:6516 Design of Experiments 4

Electives

Students must earn a minimum of 18 s.h. in non-research-related courses, including classroom courses or equivalent web-based courses. Students work with their advisor to select courses appropriate for their professional goals.

Research Credit

Students earn the remaining credit for the Ph.D. by completing any combination of the following courses or other classroom courses. All students must complete a dissertation.

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OEH:7020</td>
<td>Independent Study in Occupational and Environmental Health</td>
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</table>

Admission

Applicants 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 the 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. Students with deficiencies in one area may be admitted if all other components of their application are very strong.

Ph.D. applicants must hold a bachelor's degree and have a cumulative g.p.a. of at least 3.25. 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 institution 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.

Completion of a master's program before beginning Ph.D. study is recommended.

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

Most students receive financial support via traineeships or graduate research assistantships.

Students accepted to programs with a focus on occupational health and safety, including agricultural safety and health, ergonomics, industrial hygiene, occupational epidemiology, and occupational injury prevention, receive traineeships and financial support in the form of fully paid tuition and a monthly stipend. These traineeships are sponsored by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), and are only available for U.S. citizens and U.S. permanent residents.

Students with a focus on environmental health, global health, or environmental toxicology are generally funded by graduate research assistantships.

### Postdoctoral Positions

The College of Public Health’s Environmental Health Sciences Training Program offers postdoctoral positions in environmental health/toxicology. Appointments are for two years with the possibility of an additional year. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

### Career Advancement

The program prepares students for professional and academic careers in environmental and occupational health. Graduates will be qualified for a career in a range of private, public, and academic positions; consulting firms; state and federal occupational and environmental agencies; chemical, consumer products, pharmaceutical industries, and universities.