



Why do I
LOVE
my job in
**Occupational and
Environmental
Health and Safety?**

HERE'S WHY I LOVE BEING IN OEHS

- Occupational and Environmental Health and Safety (OEHS for short) is **a career based in science and health**. It's also referred to as 'Industrial Hygiene' which basically means safe and healthy workplaces.
- We apply our backgrounds in science, health, and medicine to **protect people** in creative ways.
- We **solve problems**. We think critically.
- We **help the environment**, by making sure toxic chemicals and hazardous materials aren't released into the air, land or water around us.
- My job **has a purpose**: I'm doing something bigger than myself, and I'm making a difference in people's lives.
- My job is **gratifying!** I'm making a difference in people's lives.
- If I want to, I get to travel to amazing places all over the world, because **workplaces are everywhere!**

ALL OF THESE COMPANIES AND MANY OTHERS HIRE OEHS EXPERTS...



JOHN DEERE



Boston
Children's
Hospital

Until every child is well™



WHAT EXACTLY DOES AN OEHS PROFESSIONAL DO?

OEHS professionals can be found in any industry, across the globe, protecting workers and the communities in which they work. An OEHS expert can be spotted:

- Using core sciences of chemistry, epidemiology, occupational medicine, physics, physiology, statistics, and toxicology to keep workers safe and healthy
- Assessing workplace risks to reduce the occurrence of injuries and diseases
- Testing ventilation systems to ensure healthy indoor environments, most recently during COVID-19
- Measuring and controlling worker exposures to noise, airborne dusts and gases, and radiation
- Preparing emergency response teams with protective gear and training to minimize their risks



A TYPICAL DAY AS AN OEHS PROFESSIONAL? EACH DAY IS DIFFERENT!

Your “office” could be:

- a manufacturing plant
- a pharmaceutical lab
- an oil rig
- a construction site
- an aerospace facility
- a hospital
- a railway
- a shipyard
- a potential natural disaster site

The possibilities are endless!



EXCITING NEW CHALLENGES EVERY DAY



WE PROTECT WORKERS ON THE JOB

- In manufacturing plants – we confirm products are safe for workers and consumers
- In hospitals – we protect against hazardous chemicals and infectious diseases
- In construction – we train workers to use protective gear against silica dust, asbestos, and noise
- In university and corporate labs – we manage safety data reports
- In Hollywood and on Broadway – we ensure proper use of chemicals and machinery
- In offices – we ensure ergonomic workspaces



WE HELP THOSE RESPONDING TO NATURAL DISASTERS

- After a hurricane, flooded homes, schools, stores, factories, and other buildings begin to dry and mold may develop
- Forest fires spread smoke and chemicals throughout the area
- A chemical spill on a highway can release dangerous chemicals into the air
- During cleanup, exposures can cause many kinds of health problems
- OEHS experts protect volunteers and community members from mold, chemicals, and other dangers so they stay safe and healthy



WE KEEP FIRST RESPONDERS SAFE...

- When exposed to extreme heat, smoke and chemicals during a fire.
- When poisonous gases that can trigger asthma, COPD or even cancer are released into the environment
- By making sure they have the right protective equipment
- By testing what chemicals are in the air

ARE YOU READY FOR A CAREER IN OEHS?

Do you or your friends describe you as:

- **Caring:** A OEHS professional is helping to protect people's health and safety.
- **Ambitious:** You set a goal yourself and go for it!
- **Protective of health and safety:** Do you point out potential dangers?
- **Passionate** about health, science, and/or the environment
- **Technical:** Are you curious about how and why things work?
- **Analytical:** Do you problem-solve?
- **Practical:** Are you the one who has the most 'common sense'?
- **Inclusive:** Do you like to make sure everyone feels part of the group?
- **Thinking what's ahead,** more than most of your friends

A DEGREE IN OEHS IN THE UNITED STATES MEANS...

- **Little to no tuition debt:** scholarships are available for full college tuition, and master's degree programs in colleges and universities across the country
- **Nearly 100% job placement after graduation:** OEHS professionals are in high demand
- **A higher salary** compared to other science or health-based careers.
 - According to the [2019 AIHA Salary Survey](#), the average starting salary among young professionals was **\$58,300**
 - After 10 years with their CIH certification, the reported average annual base salary in the US was **\$113,641**



SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE ACROSS THE U.S.



ABET-Accredited **Masters Level** Industrial Hygiene Programs

- Air Force Institute of Technology
- Colorado State University
- CUNY SPH Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy
- Johns Hopkins University
- Montana Technological University
- Purdue University
- Tulane University
- Uniformed Services University for the Health Sciences
- University of Central Missouri
- University of Cincinnati
- University of Illinois at Chicago
- University of Iowa
- University of Michigan
- University of Minnesota - Twin Cities
- University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
- University of Texas at Houston
- University of Toledo
- University of Utah
- West Virginia University

ABET-Accredited **Bachelors Level** Industrial Hygiene Programs

- Purdue University
- University of Houston-Clear Lake
- University of North Alabama
- Utah State University

Consult [ABET Accredited Programs](#) for updates



The American Industrial Hygiene Foundation awards scholarships as well! Learn more: www.AIHF.org

SO, IF YOUR CURRENT MAJOR IS RELATED TO:

- Engineering
- Biology
- Pre-Med
- Pre-Pharma
- Epidemiology
- Toxicology
- Chemistry
- Health
- Physics

*...a future in OEHS
may be for you.*



CONNECT WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

- Meet other students with the same interests who want to change the world!
- Your university may already have an AIHA Affiliated Student community. Check here: aiha.org/students



LET'S HEAR FROM A FEW RECENT GRADS...



“I joined the AIHA student local section at my university in order to enhance and develop my connections. I was able to tour factories and labs, attend a national conference, build a nationwide network of industrial hygienist professionals as well as take a leadership role in the student local section council. I feel confident, more than ever, in my decision to pursue industrial hygiene as a career as well in my own abilities as a leader and future IH professional.”

- Alessandra (Lexi) Pratt

Master of Science Student, Department of Occupational and Environmental Health at University of Iowa



“There are more job opportunities in [the OEHS] profession than people to fill the roles! Simply conduct a Google search and see for yourself! You can work anywhere from retail, manufacturing, consulting, healthcare, governance, etc. The world is vast in the field of OEHS and Industrial Hygiene, and the opportunities are endless!”

- Vishal D. Nathu

Received Master of Science Degree in Public Health from Eastern Kentucky University and is now employed as a Sr. Manager, Corporate Worker Health Safety Program Management at Amazon

LEARN MORE...



www.OEHSCareers.org

AIHA extends appreciation to the volunteers of AIHA's Academic Advisory Group for their input.