



Graduate Degrees in Industrial Hygiene at the College of Public Health

Why Pursue a Career in Industrial Hygiene?

Protecting the health of workers and the community is a very important and rewarding field. Industrial Hygienists do this by assessing and controlling hazards. According to the American Industrial Hygiene Association, the field of Industrial Hygiene (also known as Environmental Exposure Assessment and Control) is devoted to the anticipation, recognition, evaluation, control and prevention of environmental factors or stresses arising in or from the workplace which may cause sickness, impaired health and well being or significant discomfort among workers or citizens of the community. Industrial hygienists are considered to be workplace detectives, because they find and then fix the health and safety problems of workers of all ages in a variety of occupational and environmental settings.

Sunshine Education and Research Center

University of South Florida, College of Public Health • 13201 Bruce B. Downs Blvd., MDC56 • Tampa, FL 33612

Learning about Industrial Hygiene

If I decide to earn a degree in Industrial Hygiene, what will this degree actually prepare me to do?

You will be able to:

- Recognize health hazards that cause illness and Injury associated with various occupations;
- Apply basic scientific and engineering principles to evaluate actual and potential health hazards in the workplace;
- Design, use, maintain, and manage appropriate controls including engineering controls and personal protective equipment;
- Conceptualize, develop, manage, and evaluate programs to accomplish the above;
- Communicate verbally and in writing to professional peers, labor, management and diverse community populations about the nature, risks, and remediation of environmental health hazards;
- Interpret and assure compliance with applicable government regulations & national standards for good work practices related to occupational safety and health.

What would I actually do as an Industrial Hygienist ?

If you pursue a career in Industrial Hygiene, you will be called upon to recognize, evaluate and control hazards – chemical, physical, or biological. For example, you might have to manage the after-effects of a fire at a chemical plant. Or you could be hired to consult with a manufacturing company on how to prevent exposure to chemicals. Another possible job may involve prevention and management of fungal contamination (mold) in offices, homes, and public buildings.

Where do Industrial Hygienists typically work?

Industrial hygienists may work in a wide variety of jobs such as nuclear power plants, petroleum companies, chemical companies, pharmaceutical firms, industry and manufacturing of all types, public utilities and agribusinesses. Some industrial hygienists work for a branch of the military or for government agencies such as OSHA, NIOSH, the CDC, or the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Some industrial hygienists may go into consulting work, while others pursue research or academic careers. There are a wide variety of both types of jobs, and workplaces for Industrial Hygienists.

How much money can I earn as an Industrial Hygienist?

According to the Occupational Outlook Handbook (see <http://www.bls.gov/oco/>) the median annual earnings of occupational health and safety specialists were over \$50,000 in May 2004. Currently, entry level jobs pay about that much, and with 5 years experience and achieving Certified Industrial hygiene status, you can expect to earn \$75,000 to \$100,000 or more.

How Can I learn more about Industrial Hygiene?

Easy! Simply go to the American Industrial Hygiene Association website at <http://www.aiha.org> - look on the left bar of the page for students/young members link—which opens up a wealth of resources!

The Industrial Hygiene Program at USF COPH

How can I learn about the application process?

Go to: <http://health.usf.edu/publichealth/degereqs.html> to view additional information pertaining to admissions, and applications requirements and procedures for the College

Who can I contact at the College of Public Health/ERC?

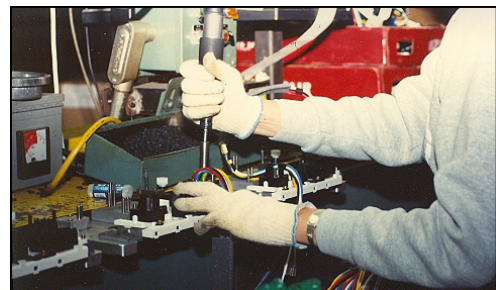
Please contact Dr. Steve Mlynarek at 813-974-6628.

What types of courses will I take?

- Students will take the required COPH core courses in Epidemiology, Biostatistics, Principles of Health Policy and Management, Environmental and Occupational Health, and Social and Behavioral Sciences Applied to Health.
- Students will also take required concentration courses in Industrial Hygiene, Environmental & Occupational Toxicology, Industrial Ergonomics, Analytical Methods in Industrial Hygiene, Control Aspects of Industrial Hygiene, Occupational Health Law, Safety Management Principles and Practices, and Industrial Ventilation.
- Students may select from an extensive array of elective courses, including: Occupational Health Risk Assessment, Environmental Health Law, Industrial Hygiene Aspects of Plant Operations, Indoor Environmental Quality, Radiation Health Principles, Occupational Safety Engineering, Biological Monitoring in Environmental Health, Aerosol Technology, Risk Communication, and Safety and Health Administration.

What Makes the USF College of Public Health's Industrial Hygiene Program 'stand out'?

The program is widely recognized for its excellent curriculum and faculty. The MSPH in Industrial Hygiene is accredited by the Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology (ABET). Students can obtain training support through the Sunshine ERC NIOSH Training grant. COPH IH graduates have had an excellent pass rate on the national certification exam as well as success in obtaining employment after graduation.



For more information, please see our website at: <http://health.usf.edu/publichealth/ehindustrial.html>