



OCCUPATIONAL HYGIENE



The Occupational Hygiene program at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health focuses on protecting workers. The curriculum emphasizes recognition, evaluation, and control of work-related chemical, physical, biological, and injury hazards.

Protect and improve the health and well-being of workers and community members through these comprehensive, highly-rated degrees that blend science with public health concepts.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

MS DEGREE

The MS program is ideal for those seeking to become occupational hygiene practitioners and those contemplating careers in research or at academic institutions, including those who seek to work toward a PhD degree. Students pursuing the MS degree must complete a field experience to gain practical experience and a data-oriented master's project.

The Occupational Hygiene MS degree is accredited through 2026 by the Applied and Natural Science Accreditation Commission of ABET.

PHD DEGREE

A PhD program in occupational hygiene prepares students for careers in research and higher education. Students must submit a dissertation with original research as part of this degree. Incoming PhD students should hold a master's degree in occupational (or industrial) hygiene from an ABET-accredited program, or expect to take the required courses that are part of the University of Minnesota MS degree.

ADVANTAGES OF THE PROGRAM

Funding opportunities. U.S. citizens and permanent residents can receive traineeships that cover tuition and fees for full- and part-time enrollment.

Connections. Strong relationships with industry partners such as 3M, Apple, Cummins, and Medtronic enhance the student experience through classroom instruction and support for field experiences.

State-of-the-art facilities. The 2,500 sq. ft. Occupational Hygiene Laboratory is well-equipped with the latest instruments and equipment necessary to learn sampling procedures and conduct research.

Supportive community. An energetic and highly supportive network of alumni and friends in a major metropolitan area lead to many opportunities for paid internships and post-graduation employment.

CAREERS

Occupational hygienists identify, evaluate, and prevent unhealthy exposures that cause workplace illness or injury. They are trained to recognize new and existing hazards and predict the likelihood of their effects.

Occupational hygiene professionals are in high demand. In a salary survey conducted by the American Industrial Hygiene Association, the average annual salary nationally for industrial/occupational hygienists with a master's degree and less than five years of experience was about \$70,000. For those with a master's degree and 11 to 14 years of experience, the average salary was about \$100,000. The average salary for industrial hygienists with PhD degrees was about \$120,000.

POSITIONS HELD BY GRADUATES

3M Company (PhD)

Vice President, Global Application Engineering and Regulatory

University of Texas Health Science Center (PhD)

Associate Professor

Amazon (MS)

Worldwide Industrial Hygiene Program Manager

Intel Corporation (MS)

Technology Development EHS Engineer

Apple (MS)

Global Industrial Hygiene Program Manager

Minneapolis VA Health Care System (MS)

Occupational Safety Manager

ADMISSIONS

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

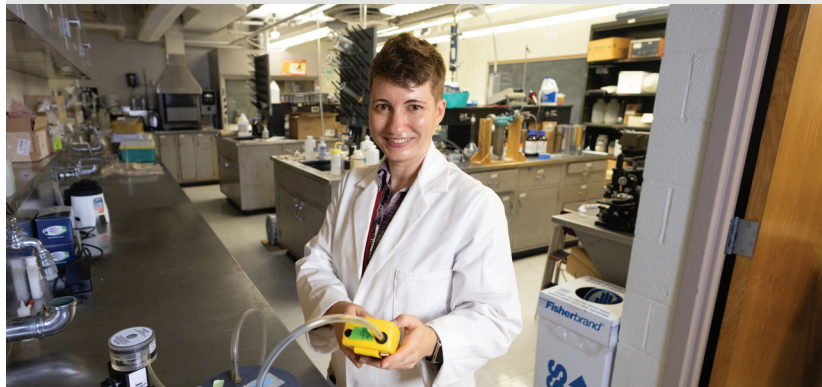
- Official transcripts
- 3 letters of recommendation
- Statement of purpose

PREREQUISITES

MS: Undergraduate coursework in human biology, chemistry (including organic chemistry), physics, and college-level mathematics. Absence of one of these prerequisite courses may be offset by relevant work experience.

PhD: A master's degree in occupational (or industrial) hygiene, or MS required courses must be incorporated into the PhD degree.

STUDENT RESEARCH EXAMPLES



MS STUDENT RESEARCH EXAMPLES

- Evaluation of Real-Time Low-Cost Sensors in a Controlled Environment
- Understanding the Association between Frequency of Contact by Healthcare Workers on Surfaces and Level of Antineoplastic Drug Contamination in Healthcare Settings
- Noise Exposure Assessment for Animal Care Workers in Canine Facilities
- Evaluation of Potential Airborne Exposures to Noncritical Surface Disinfectants during Simulated Cleaning
- Characterization of Volatile Organic Compound Exposures in One Nail Salon and Manicure Table Orientation Concept as an Exposure Control Method

PhD RESEARCH EXAMPLES

- Respiratory Diseases and Exposures to Taconite Dust Components
- Effects of Spray Surfactant and Particle Charge on Respirable Dust Control
- The Use of Heuristics and Exposure Models in Improving Exposure Judgment Accuracy
- An Assessment of Occupational Inhalation Exposures to Volatile Oil Components on Four Rig Vessels for the GuLF STUDY

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Email: enhsss@umn.edu

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