



EHAC Graduate Program Guidelines

For more information please go to:

<http://www.nehspac.org/seek-accreditation/graduate-requirements>

I. Master's Program Accreditation

Accreditation may be granted for master's level academic programs educating students for careers in the field of environmental health science and protection. The programs must provide education and training (knowledge and skills) required by a graduate to function as an environmental health science and protection professional.

II. The Accreditation Council

The National Environmental Health Association established the National Accreditation Council for Environmental Health Curricula as a separate accrediting body in 1967 after holding several workshops on the education of environmental health professionals. The charge to the Council was to develop and implement a program accrediting undergraduate and graduate programs in the field of environmental health. The name of the Council was changed to the National Environmental Health Science and Protection Accreditation Council in 1991 to reflect the breadth of the field of practice considered by the Council.

The council is an autonomous incorporated organization that relates to and works closely with the National Environmental Health Association and other relevant organizations. Membership of the Council consists of environmental health professionals elected by members of the Council, and no more than two public members appointed by the Council chair. At least one-half, but not more than two-thirds of the elected Council members are associated with education and training in environmental health science and protection. The remainder of the elected membership includes individuals experienced with private and public sector organizations and companies employing environmental health science and protection professionals. The Council is composed of at least 18 but not more than 21 members. The Council General Chair may appoint ex-officio members and consultants to the Council for special assignments.

III. Aims and Objectives of the Council

- A. Promote a high quality education at the baccalaureate and master's levels for persons studying environmental health science and protection.
- B. Assist and support universities and colleges developing or offering a curriculum in environmental health science and protection, and advising them on curriculum content and faculty qualifications.
- C. Promote commonality in coverage of basic concepts of environmental health science and protection education.
- D. Promote undergraduate curricula of a quality and content compatible with admission prerequisites of graduate programs in environmental health science and protection.
- E. Promote graduate curricula providing advanced level environmental health technical and scientific education and administrative and management concepts and skills.

National Environmental Health Science & Protection Accreditation Council (EHAC)

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F. Evaluate academic programs at the baccalaureate and master's levels in environmental health science and protection using criteria established by the Council.

G. Publish and disseminate a list of the institutions with programs accredited by the Council.

IV. Goal of Master's Program Accreditation

The goal of accreditation of master's environmental health science and protection programs is to enhance the education and training of students seeking advanced environmental health research, technical and/or administrative knowledge and skills. The criteria used in the evaluation of master's programs have been developed through the joint efforts of environmental health science and protection academicians and practitioners.

V. Accreditation Criteria

A. Mission, Goals, Objectives

A program must have clearly articulated a mission, goals and objectives that are consistent with the goal of accreditation.

B. Curriculum

It is recognized that each institution has its own unique requirements or constraints that may dictate the depth and breadth of a curriculum. The resources at hand, including the availability and qualification of faculty, will determine the areas and the degree of emphasis on specific subjects. The National Environmental Health Science and Protection Accreditation Council recognizes these factors and expects variation among environmental health curricula. The Council also recognizes that progress toward the development of the "optimum" environmental health curriculum requires the skillful application of imagination and creativity. The Council therefore, welcomes the opportunity to review innovative programs and curricula in environmental health science and protection.

- The curriculum must be responsive to the mission, goals and objectives of the program.
- The curriculum must be organized and structured to integrate and sequence its content in an orderly and logical fashion.
- The curriculum must require attainment of the following competencies:
 - Analytical skills
 - Statistical analysis
 - Research methods
- Communication skills
 - Written
 - Oral
- Administrative skills
- Skills and knowledge of natural sciences including biological sciences, chemistry and other sciences
- Environmental and public health science knowledge and skills
 - Epidemiology
 - Toxicology
 - General technical knowledge and skills in environmental health science areas such as those listed in Table 1.
 - Specialized technical knowledge and skills in at least one environmental health science area at a graduate level (see Table 1).
- Risk assessment, risk communications and risk management.

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The curriculum must include a culminating experience such as a thesis, portfolio, written exam or professional paper. The culminating written product must be of professional quality appropriate to graduate level education.

C. Faculty

Sufficient full-time equivalent, in conjunction with part-time or adjunct faculty, who are academically and professionally qualified, as required to meet the teaching, research and service obligation of the program.

D. Administration

The institution must have an appropriate and effective mechanism for administering the graduate program in environmental health science and protection. The administration must provide stability and a continuity of support for the program.

E. Resources

The program must have sufficient and appropriate resources to support its educational mission. These resources may include:

- classrooms
- laboratories
- offices
- equipment
- supplies
- support staff
- library materials

F. Students

The program must clearly delineate sufficient and appropriate student admission, performance, progress and graduation requirements.

G. External Advisory Committee

An external advisory committee to the environmental health science and protection program is recommended. An environmental health science and protection program can benefit from an active, concerned and knowledgeable advisory committee composed of environmental health science and protection practitioners working with local, state, and federal agencies, businesses and industries. Such a committee can provide "outside" overview of the environmental health science and protection program and give perspective on breadth, balance and comprehensiveness of the curriculum. The committee may assist in locating internship opportunities, suggesting and finding outside sources of funding and equipment, and be an advocacy group for the program.

Table 1. Environmental and public health science technical knowledge and skills. (List not intended to be comprehensive.)

• Air Quality Control (indoor, outdoor)
• Environmental Health Planning for land use, transportation issues and resource consumption and conservation
• Environmental Health Law
• Environmental Management
• Food/Milk Protection

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- Geographic Information Systems/Global Positioning Systems
- Global Environmental Issues including global warming, ozone depletion and population issues
- Hazardous Materials Management
- Healthful Housing
- Industrial Hygiene and Occupational Health
- Injury Prevention
- Institutional Health
- Noise Control
- Radiation Protection (ionizing, non-ionizing)
- Recreational Area Environmental Health
- Resource Consumption and Conservation
- Solid & Hazardous Waste Management
- Vector Control
- Wastewater Management
- Water Supply

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