National Environmental Health Science & Protection Accreditation Council

Enhancing the education and training of students in environmental health science and protection

Graduate Outcome Assessment

2024-2025

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Chapter 1. Introduction

This report details analysis of the data provided by former graduates of EHAC accredited Master's programs seeking reaccreditation during the 2024-2025 academic year and a number of their supervisors.

Background

Employer related surveys of Alumni of EHAC accredited degree programs are required by EHAC Policy **4.8 Alumni Outcome Assessment Survey Policy**:

- EHAC requires each academic degree program up for reaccreditation to collect alumni and their employer's feedback through the EHAC Outcome Assessment Survey tool.

1. This tool is to be used by EHAC to assess the criteria by which accreditation is assessed. The college or university may elect to use the information for academic degree program assessment as well.
2. The academic degree program is responsible for administering the survey to its graduates and their employers.

The outcome assessment tool consists of two surveys conducted via surveymonkey.com, one for current employees and the other for their supervisors. It is distributed to the reaccreditation candidate Program Directors for distribution to former students. The graduates then provide the survey link to their supervisors for survey completion.

Chapter 1. Introduction

Survey Context and Summary

EHAC's core mission is to accredit Environmental Health (EH) Programs that provide a scientifically rigorous and practical based education, which prepares graduates to enter the EH field "workforce ready" and prepared to problem solve using critical thinking skills acquired during their university education. Toward this end, EHAC is continuously identifying strengths and weaknesses related to graduates successfully entering and progressing in the EH field of their choice. Survey responses from both graduates employed in the EH field (employees), and their supervisors assist EHAC in assessing and adapting Undergraduate Requirements and Graduate Guidelines for accreditation to the ever-evolving field of Environmental Health.

Questions for both employees and their supervisors focus on assessing the adequacy and effectiveness of an employee's knowledge, skills, and abilities related to their EH job, with employees conducting self-assessments and supervisors evaluating their current employees.

The following report provides a graphic representation of the results of the surveys. Table 1 presents the EHAC accredited Graduate degree programs going through the 2024-2025 reaccreditation process, the number of employee responses, their dates of graduation, and the number of supervisor responses. There were six total employee respondents to the survey. Six of these respondents are currently employed in EH-related professions. Four supervisors of Graduate EH employees participated in the survey and their responses are included in this report, as well.

Chapter 1. Introduction

Survey Context and Summary

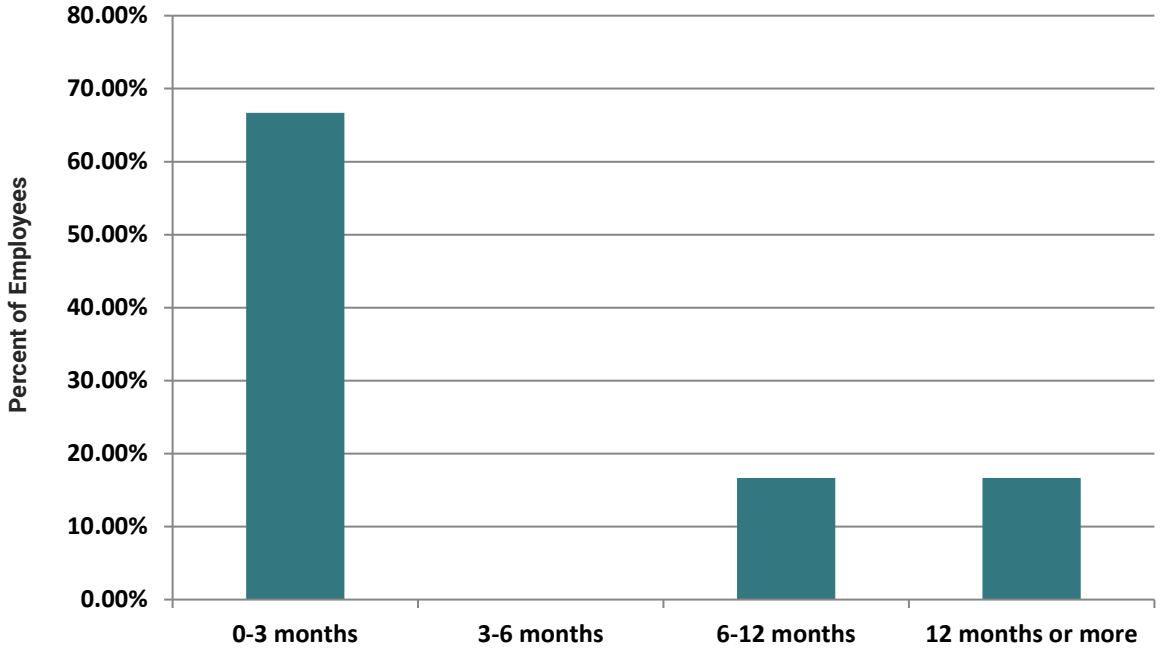
Table 1: 2024-2025 Outcome Assessment Respondents Graduate Programs

Re-accreditation Applicants	Next Accreditation Review	Initial Accreditation Year	Graduating Classes Reflected	Number of EH Employee Respondents	Number of Supervisor Respondents
University of Illinois, Springfield	2025	2006	2020, 2021, 2022, 2023	6	4 (partially completed)

Chapter 2. Graduate Employee Results

EH Employee Workplace Data

Chart 1: Length of Time to First EH Employment Post Graduation (N=6)



Chapter 2. Graduate Employee Results

EH Employee Workplace Data

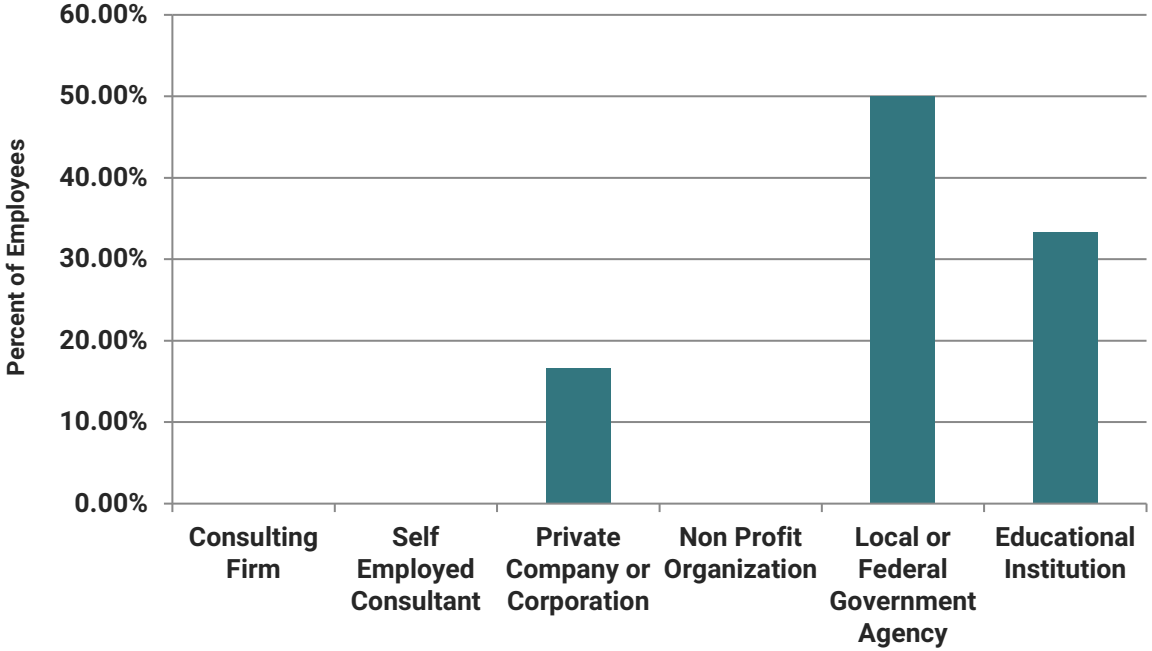
Table 2: Job Titles of Employee Respondents

Job Title	Total
Health Surveillance Officer	1
Graduate Program Coordinator – MPH and Environmental Science at the School Integrated Sciences, Sustainability and Public Health	1
Licensed Environmental Health Practitioner/Environmental Health Supervisor - Food Program	1
Quality Manager	1

Chapter 2. Graduate Employee Results

EH Employee Workplace Data

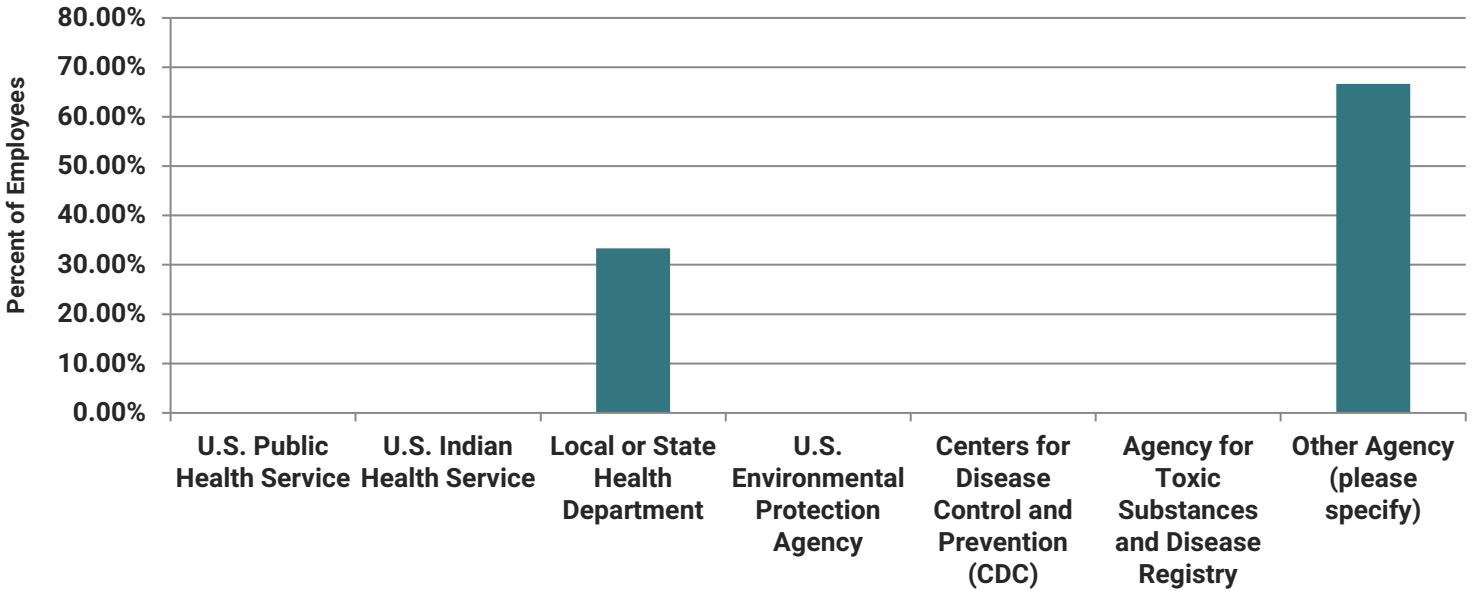
Chart 2: Job Sector Distribution of Employees (N=6)



Chapter 2. Graduate Employee Results

EH Employee Workplace Data

Chart 3: Distribution of Employees Working at Local, State, or Federal Government Agencies (N=6)

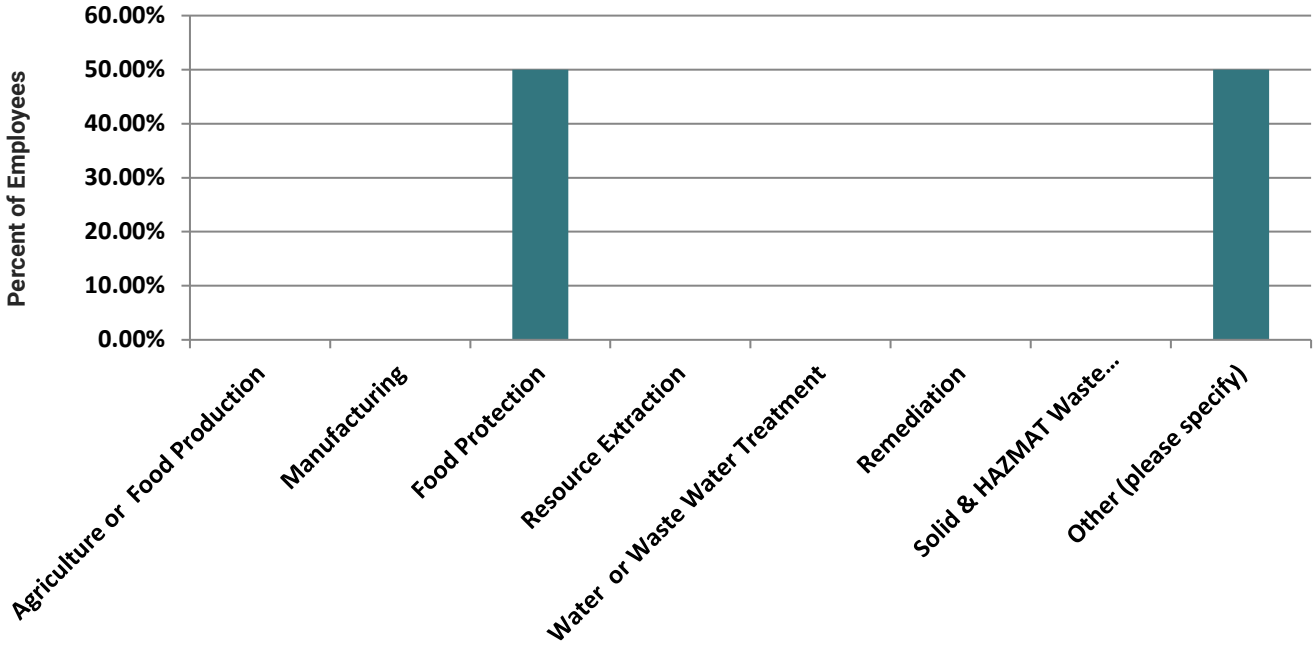


- "Other" Category included:
  - Turks and Caicos Islands Government
  - Not a local or state government agency

Chapter 2. Graduate Employee Results

EH Employee Workplace Data

Chart 4: Primary Areas of Employee Work (N=6)

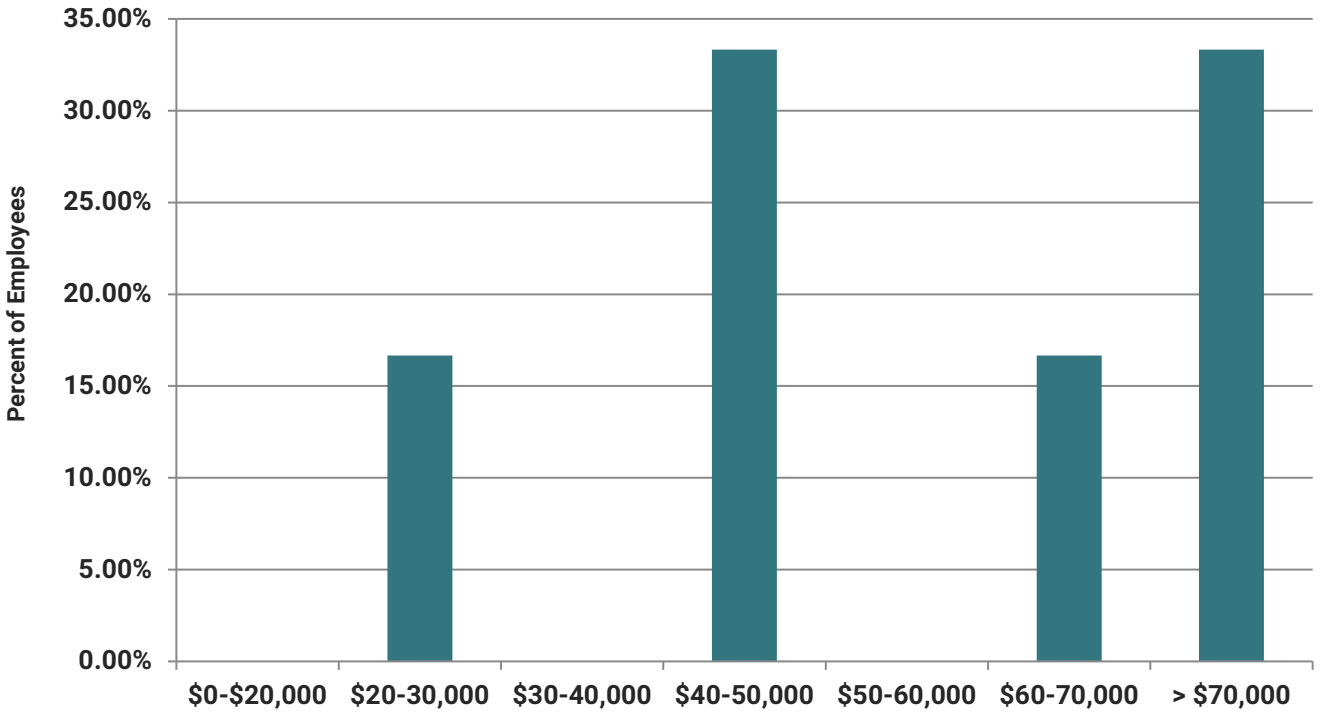


- "Other" areas listed included:
  - Hospitality
  - Public Health
  - Higher Education

Chapter 2. Graduate Employee Results

EH Employee Workplace Data

Chart 5: Salary Ranges of Employees in EH Job Sectors (N=6)



- $20-30,000 per year:
  - Private Company or Corporation
- $40-50,000 per year:
  - Local or Federal Government Agency
- $60-70,000 per year:
  - Local or Federal Government Agency
- $70,000 per year:
  - Educational Institution

Chapter 2. Graduate Employee Results

EH Employee Data on Continuing Education and Professional Development

Table 3: Continuing Education

None Reported

Table 4: Professional Recognitions

None Reported

Table 5: Certifications

	Total
Licensed Environmental Health Practitioner	1

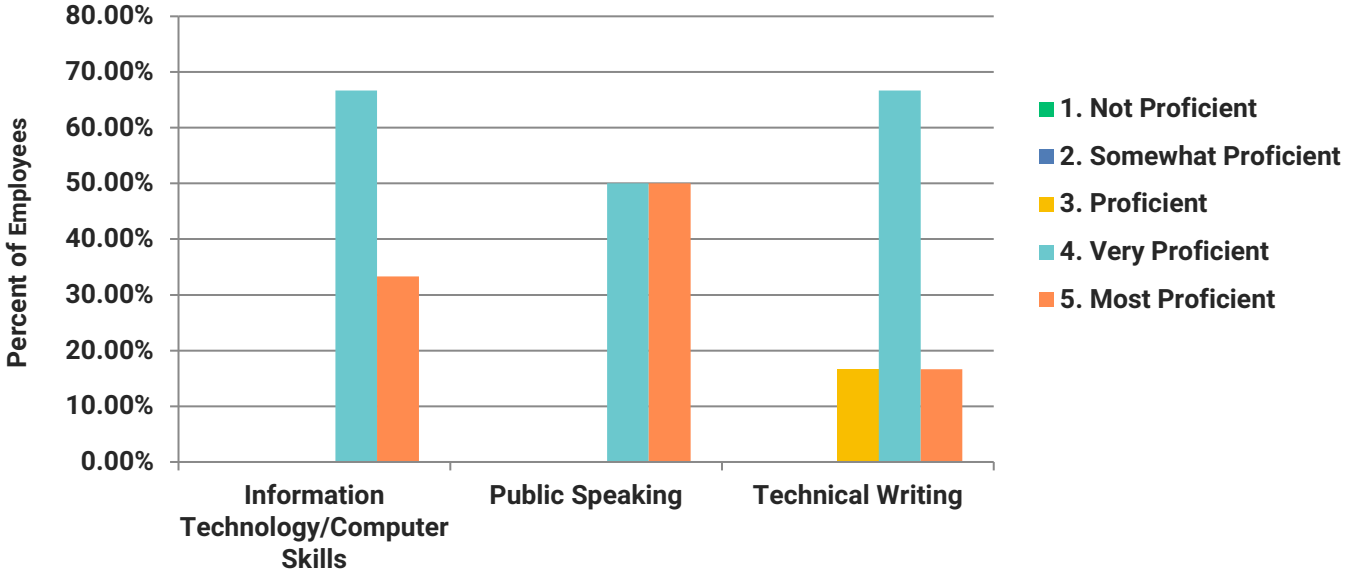
Table 6: Professional Organizations

	Total
American Public Health Association (APHA)	2
Illinois Environmental Health Organization Member	1

Chapter 2. Graduate Employee Results

Employee Skills

Chart 6: Employee Assessment of General Job Skills (N-6)

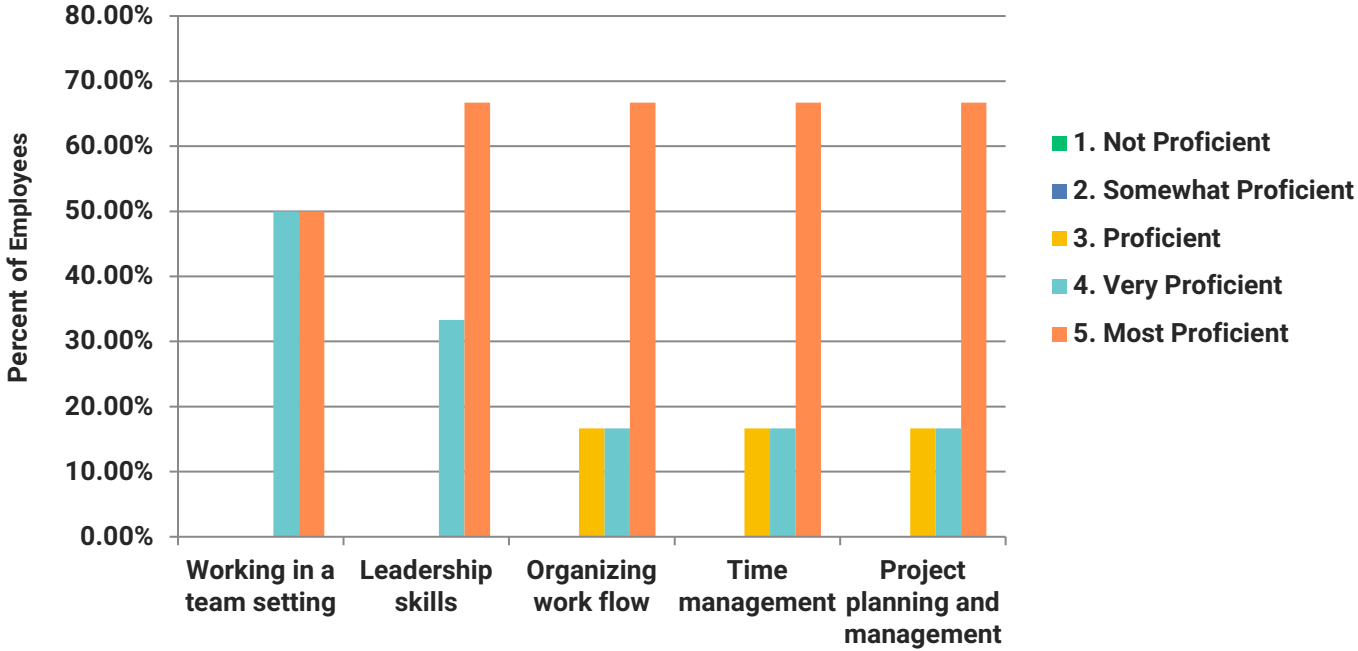


- All Employees reported being Proficient, Very, or Most Proficient in General Job skills.

Chapter 2. Graduate Employee Results

Employee Skills

Chart 7: Employee Assessment of Interpersonal Skills (N-6)

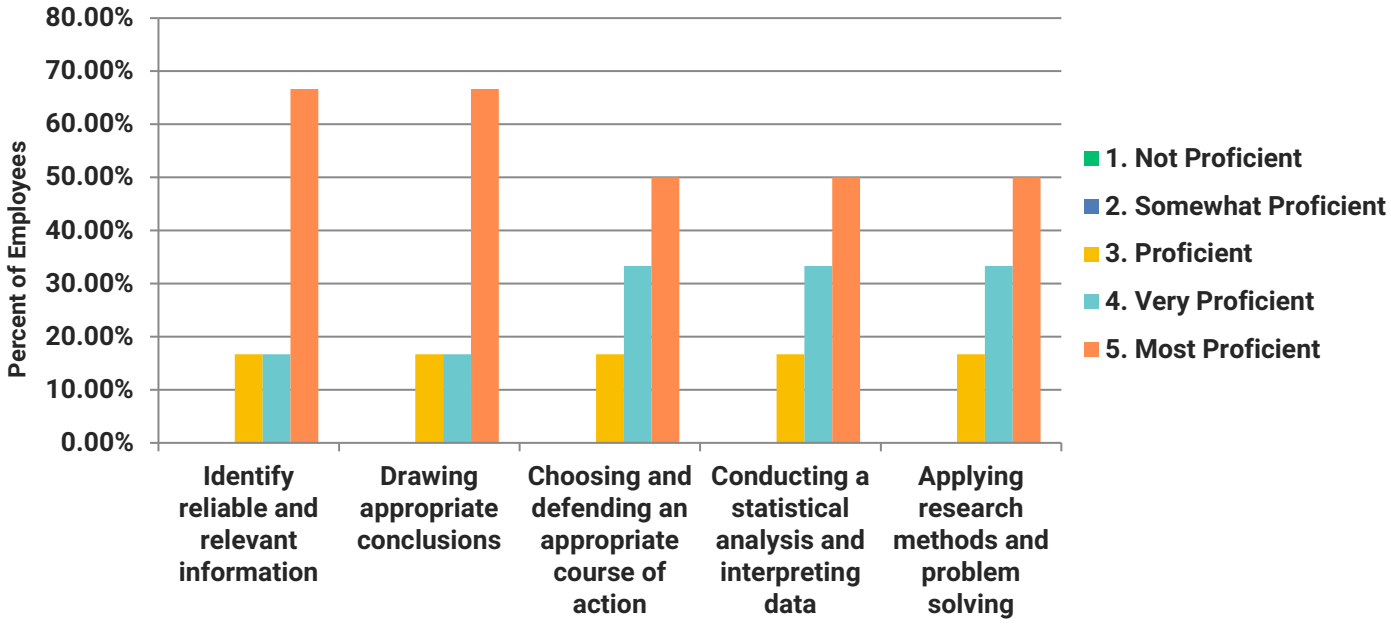


- The majority of Employees reported being Very or Most Proficient in Interpersonal Skills.

Chapter 2. Graduate Employee Results

Employee Skills

Chart 8: Employee Assessment of Ability to Interpret Data (N-6)

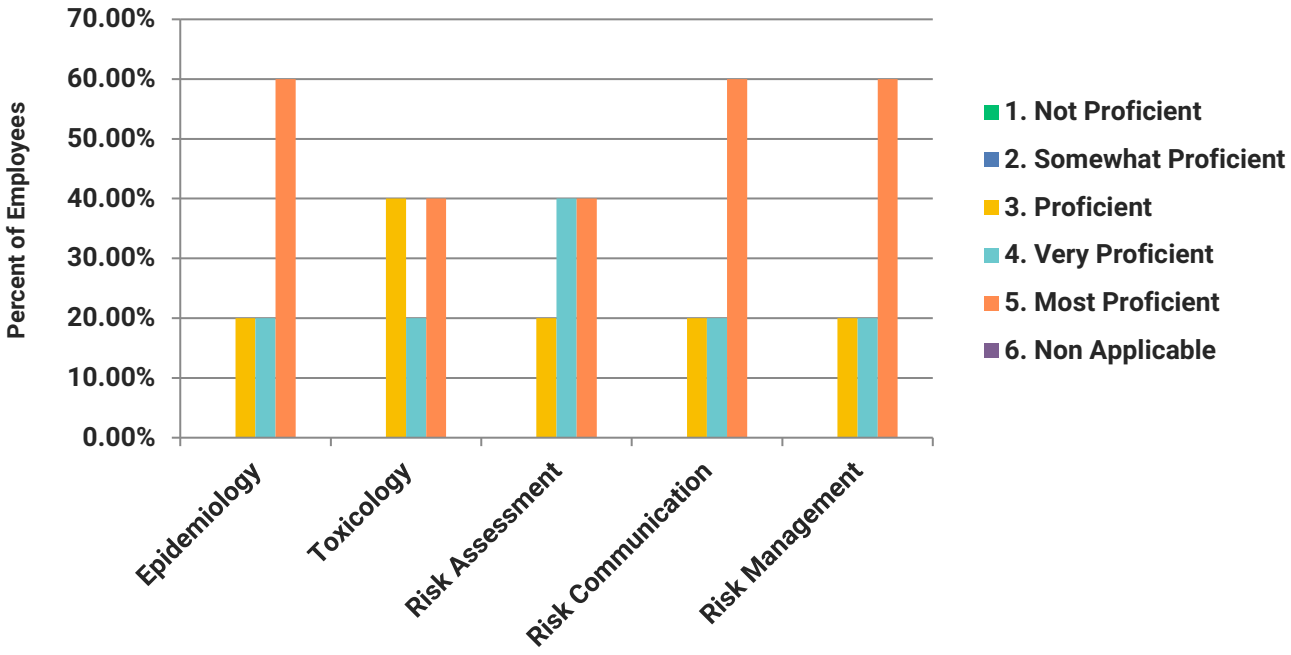


- All respondents reported their Ability to Interpret Date as Proficient, Very, or Most Proficient.

Chapter 2. Graduate Employee Results

Employee Skills

Chart 9: Employee Assessment of Competency in EH Specific Areas (N=5)

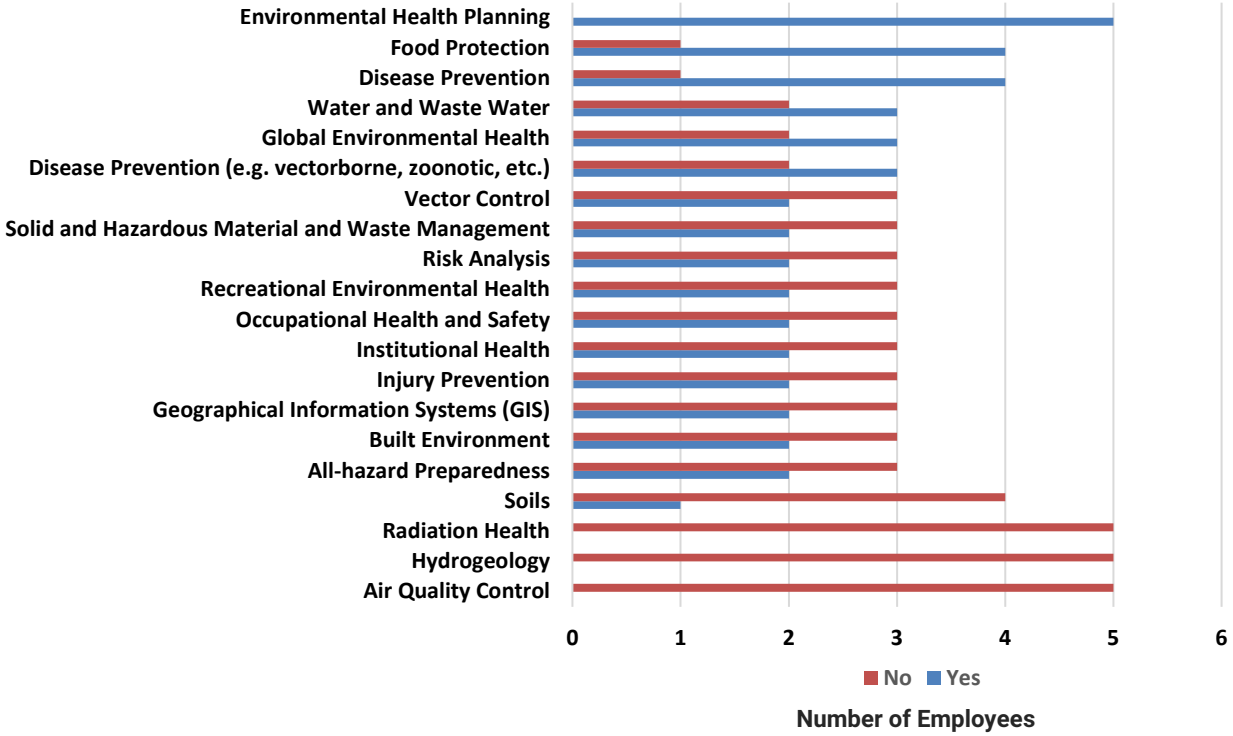


- Employees reported proficiency in all EH Specific areas, with Most Proficiency reported in the areas of Epidemiology, Risk Communication, Risk Management.

Chapter 2. Graduate Employee Results

EH Specialty Area Relevance

Chart 10: Job Requires Knowledge of the Following EH Specialty Areas – Employee Assessment (N=5)

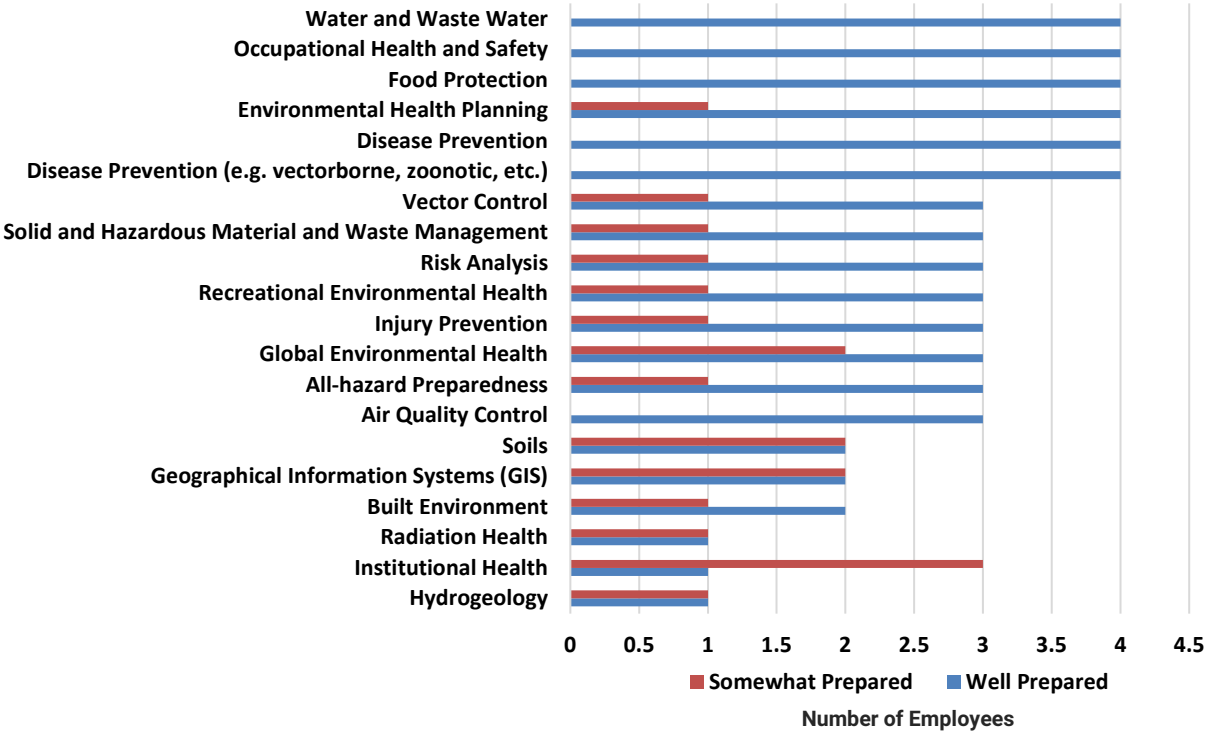


- Environmental Health Planning, Food Protection, and Disease Prevention were the EH Specialty Areas cited as required by the most Employee respondents.
- Those EH Specialty Areas cited by most respondents as not required included
  - Air Quality Control
  - Hydrogeology
  - Radiation Health
  - Soils

Chapter 2. Graduate Employee Results

EH Specialty Area Program Preparation

Chart 11: Employee Assessment of Preparedness in EH Specialty Areas (N=5)

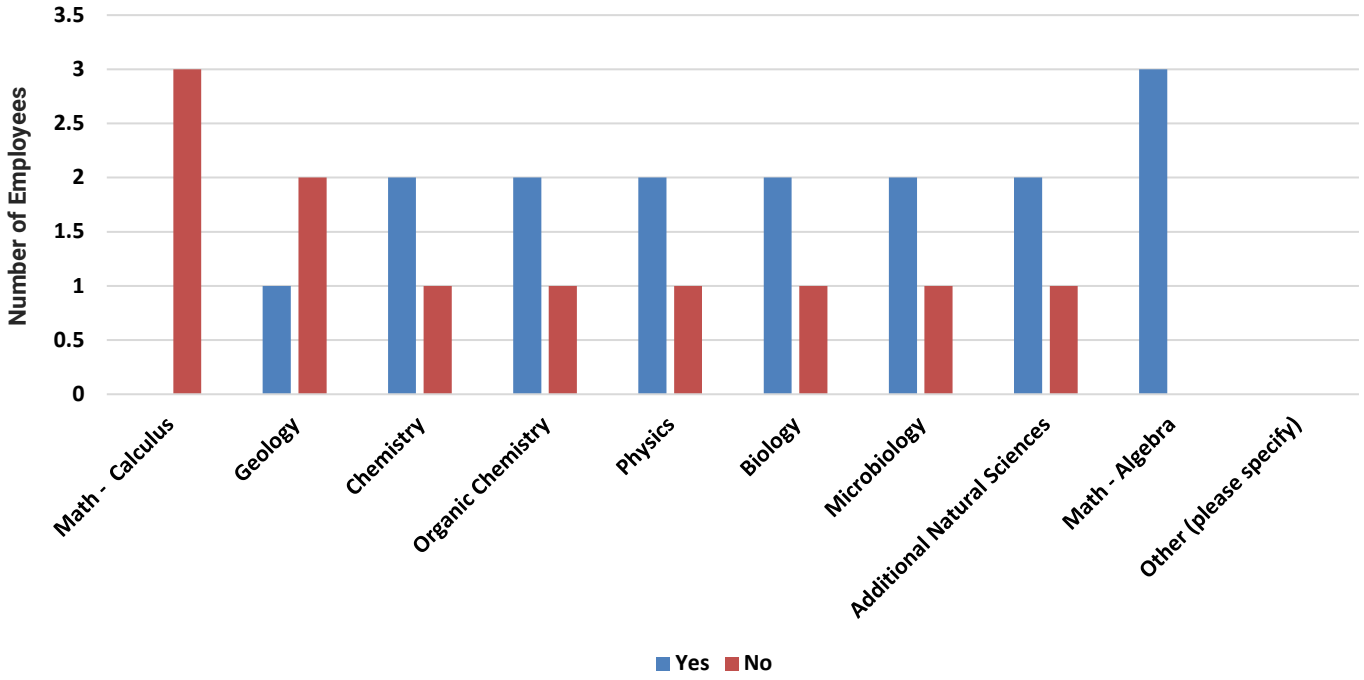


- All respondents, except one, reported being Somewhat or Well Prepared in all EH Specialty Areas.
- One respondent reported "Not Prepared" in the areas of:
  - Hydrogeology
  - Institutional Health
  - Built Environment
  - Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
    - ✓ Note that the majority of respondents reported these areas as not necessary for employment

Chapter 2. Graduate Employee Results

EH Related Science and Math Requirements

Chart 12: Job Requires Knowledge of Math and EH Related Sciences (N=3)

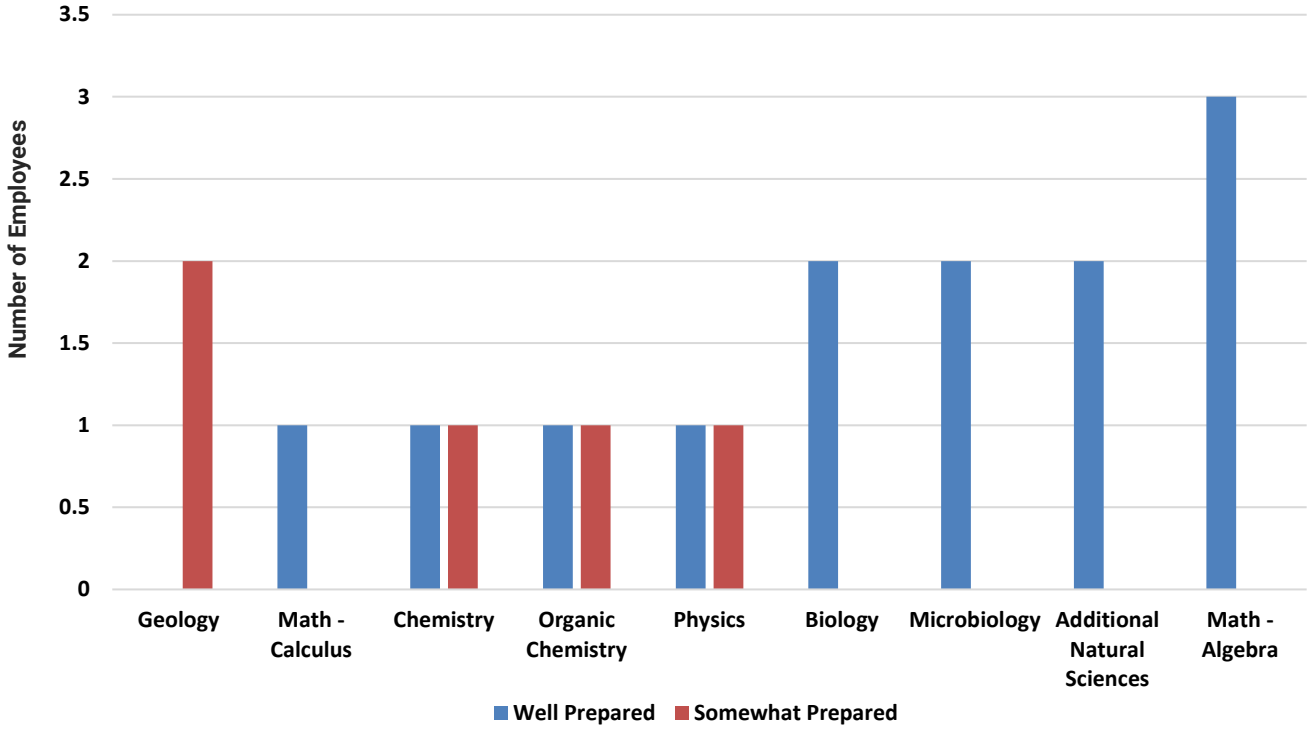


- Sciences reported as required include:
  - Math-Algebra
  - Additional Natural Sciences
  - Microbiology
  - Biology
  - Physics
  - Organic Chemistry
  - Geology
- Calculus was reported by all respondents as unnecessary for their positions.

Chapter 2. Graduate Employee Results

EH Related Science and Math Requirements

Chart 13: Employee Assessment of Preparedness in EH Related Sciences and Math



- Employee respondents reported being Somewhat or Well Prepared for all EH Related Sciences and Math.

Chapter 3. Graduate Supervisor Results

Supervisor Summary:

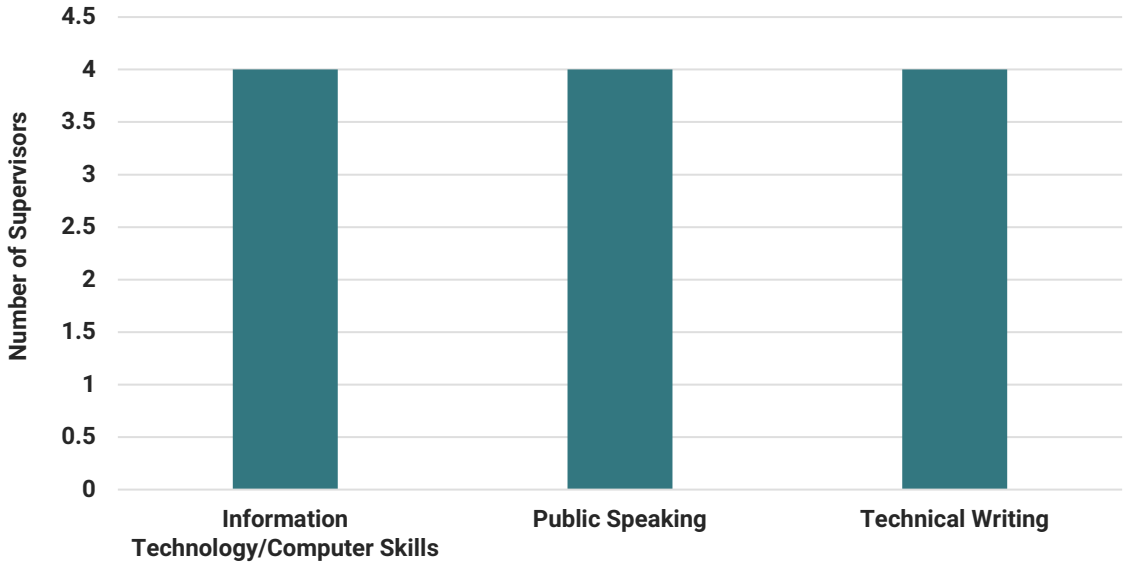
Supervisors of employees who graduated from 2024-2025 reaccrediting programs were asked to assess the skills and preparedness of their employees. Four supervisors responded to the survey. Their responses are presented below.

Respondents did not report their employment positions or job sectors.

Chapter 3. Graduate Supervisor Results

Employee Skills

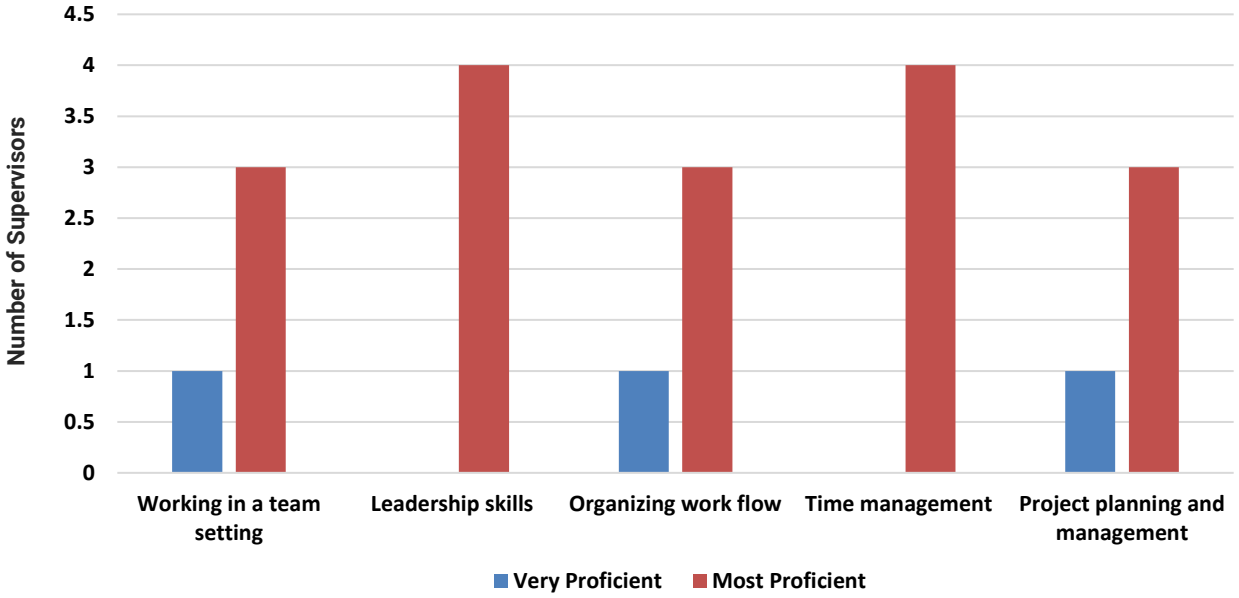
Chart 14: Supervisor Assessment of Employee General Job Skills (N=4) – Most Proficient



Chapter 3. Graduate Supervisor Results

Employee Skills

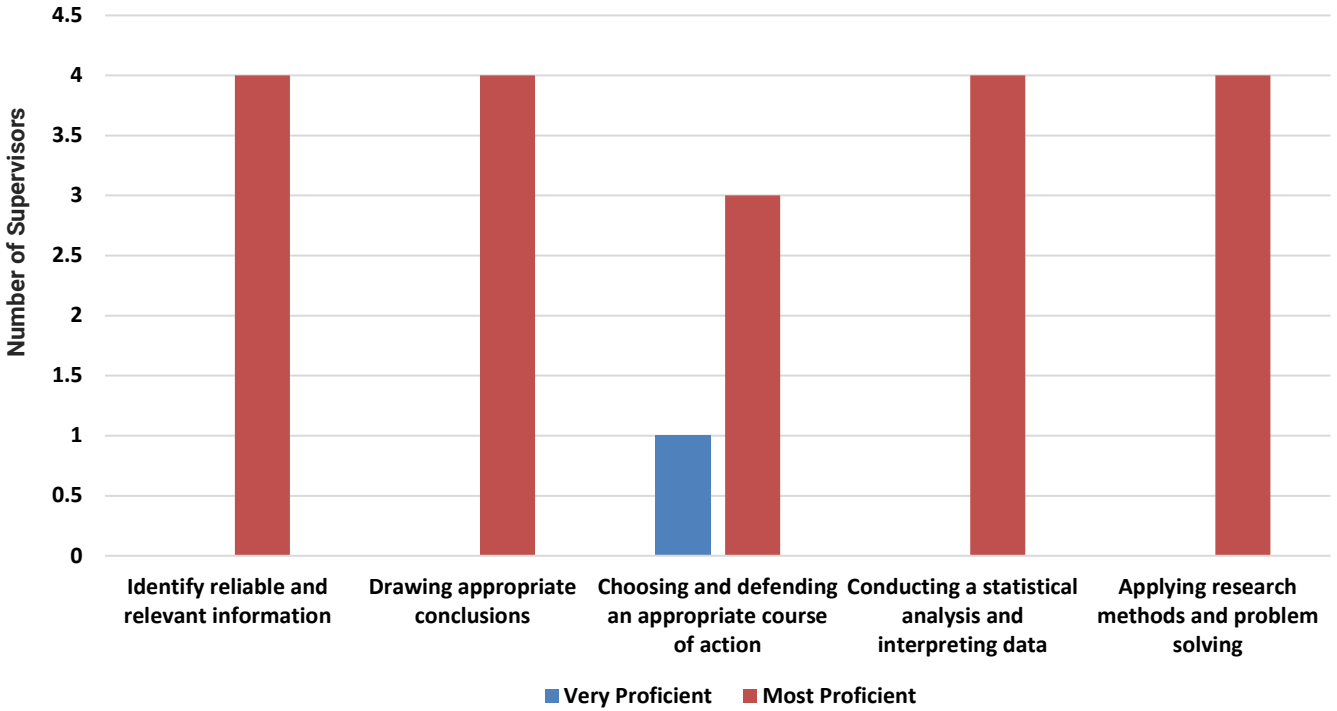
Chart 15: Supervisor Assessment of Employee Interpersonal Skills (N=4) – Very and Most Proficient



Chapter 3. Graduate Supervisor Results

Employee Skills

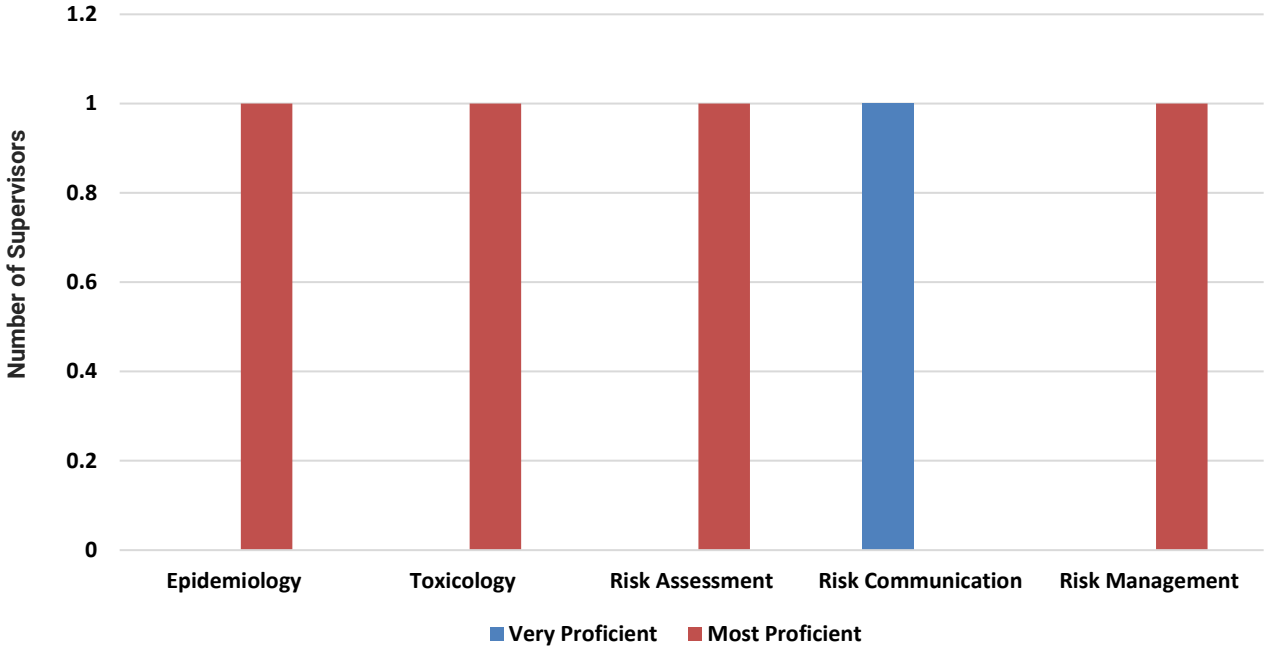
Chart 16: Supervisor Assessment of Employee Ability to Interpret Data (N=4) – Very and Most Proficient



Chapter 3. Graduate Supervisor Results

Employee Skills

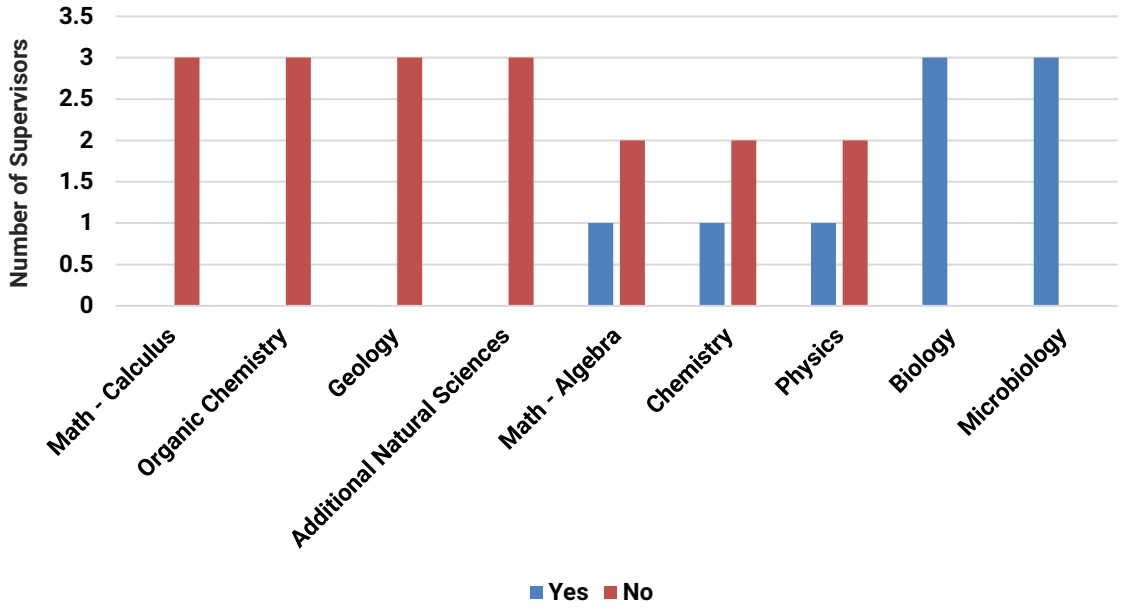
Chart 17: Supervisor Assessment of Employee Proficiency in EH Specific Areas (N=1) – Very and Most Proficient



Chapter 3. Graduate Supervisor Results

EH Related Science and Math Requirements

Chart 18: Job Requires Knowledge of Math and EH Related Science



- One to three supervisors reported the following Math and EH Related Sciences required by employee jobs:
  - Microbiology
  - Biology
  - Physics
  - Chemistry
  - Math-Algebra.
- All Supervisors agreed that the following were not required of their employees:
  - Calculus
  - Organic Chemistry
  - Geology
  - Additional Natural Sciences.

Chapter 3. Graduate Supervisor Results

EH Related Science and Math Requirements

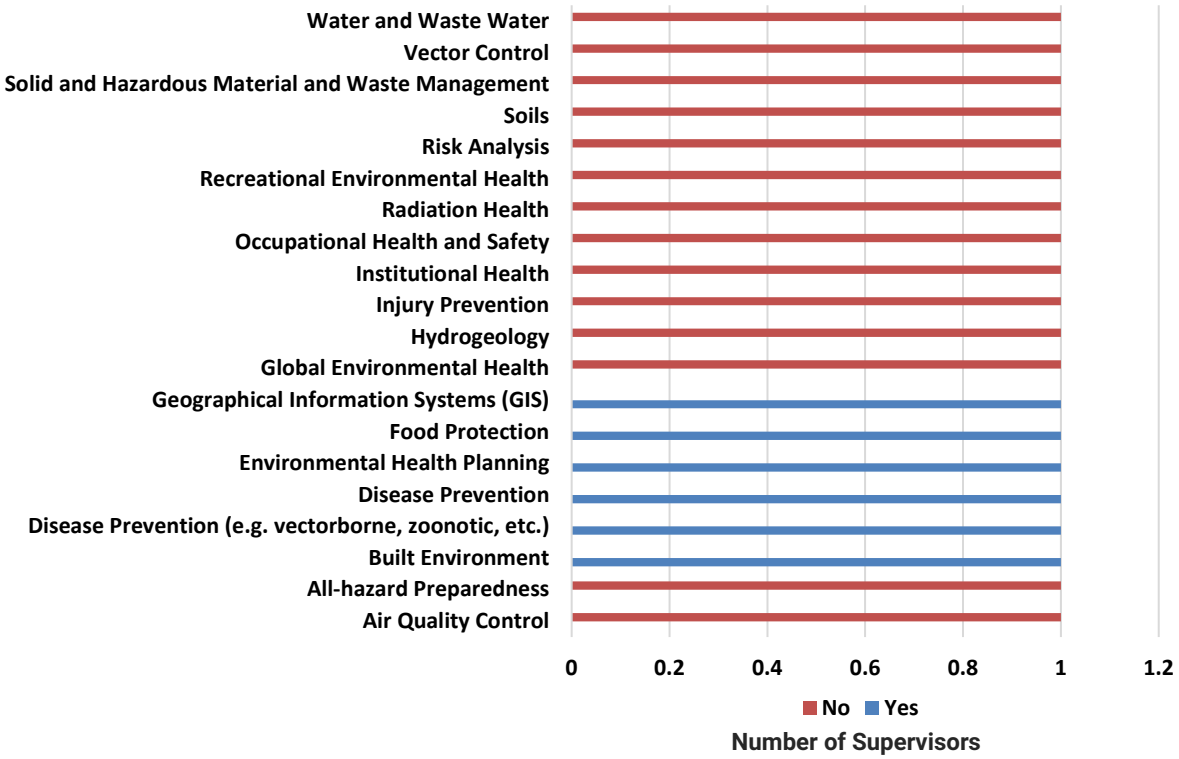
Chart 19: Supervisor Assessment of Preparedness in EH Related Sciences and Math

No Responses

Chapter 3. Graduate Supervisor Results

EH Supervisors – EH Specialty Areas

Chart 20: Does Employee's Job Require Knowledge of the following EH Specialty Areas (N=1)

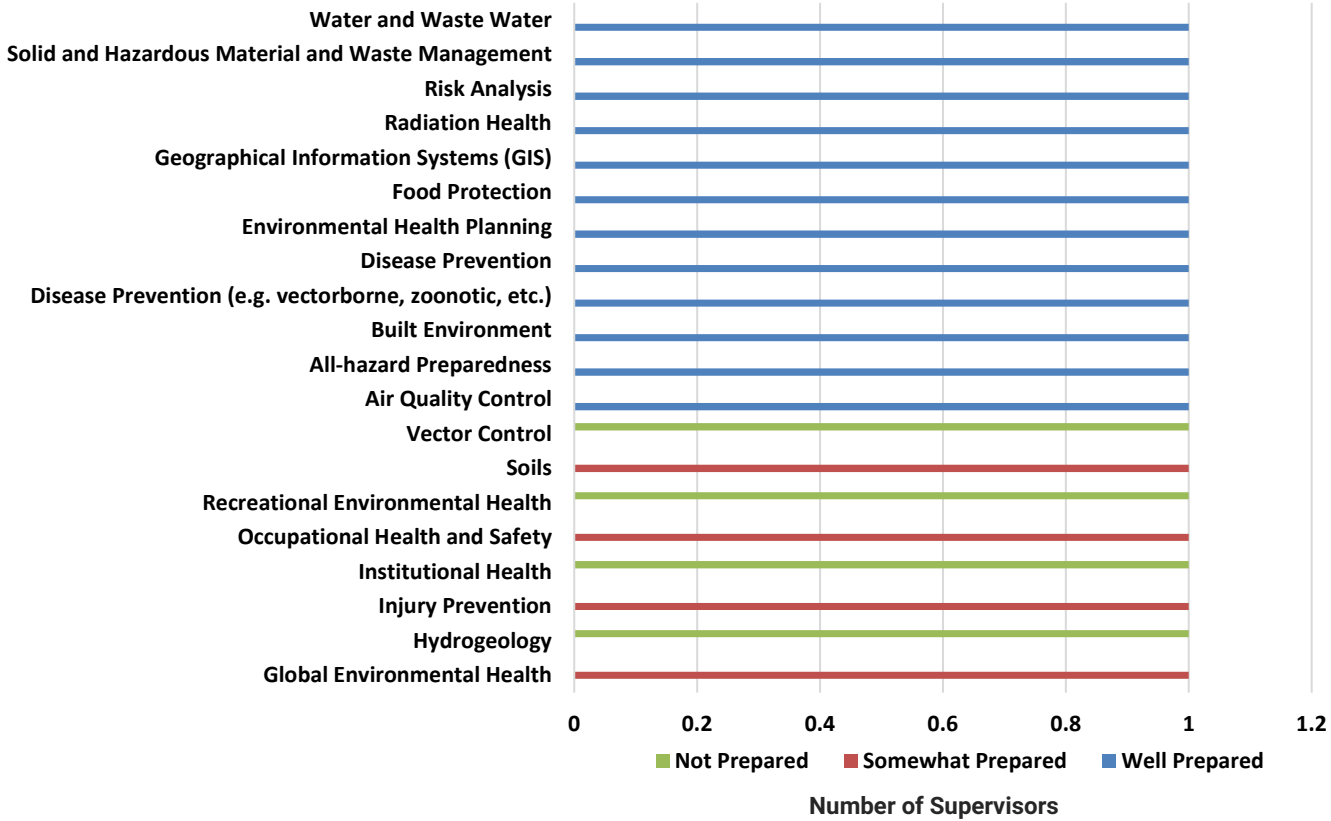


- One respondent (only respondent for this section) reported EH Specialty Areas knowledge required in:
  - Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
  - Food Protection
  - Environmental Health Planning
  - Disease Prevention
  - Disease Prevention (e.g. vectorborne, zoonotic, etc.)
  - Built Environment

Chapter 3. Graduate Supervisor Results

EH Supervisors – EH Specialty Areas

Chart 21: Supervisor Assessment of Employee Preparation (N=1)



- Supervisor reported Employee as Well Prepared in all EH Specialty Areas reported as required by their job.

Chapter 4. Graduate Narrative and Discussion

Narrative and Discussion:

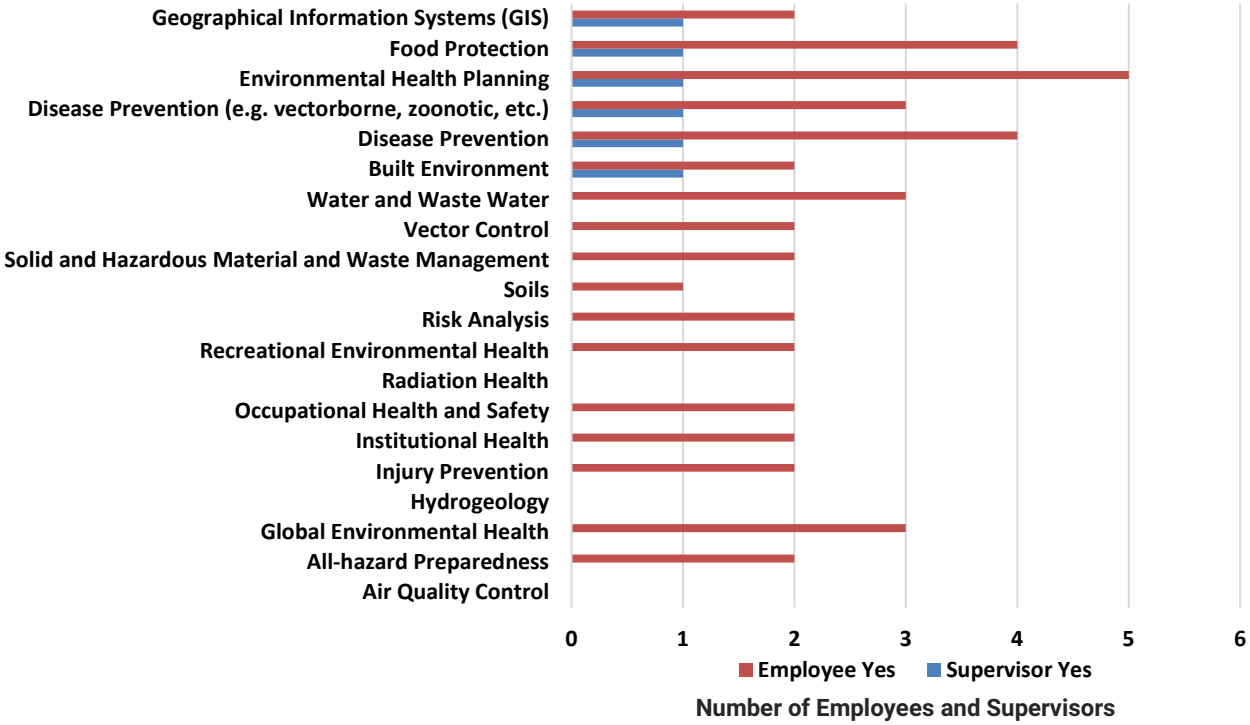
EHAC accredits EH academic programs in order to create educational degree programs that produce EH graduates who are well prepared academically and have the fundamental and practical skills to successfully thrive in the EH field. EHAC's primary mission is to enhance the education and training of students in EH science and protection by ensuring that students receive premium quality education and training from EHAC accredited degree programs.

The following slides provide a side-by-side comparison of employee and supervisor assessment of employee knowledge, skills, and preparation in EH related areas.

Chapter 4. Graduate Employees/Supervisors - Discussion

EH Specialty Knowledge Areas

Chart 22: Employee and Supervisor Assessment of Employee Need for Knowledge in EH Specialty Area (Supervisor N=1, Employees N=5)

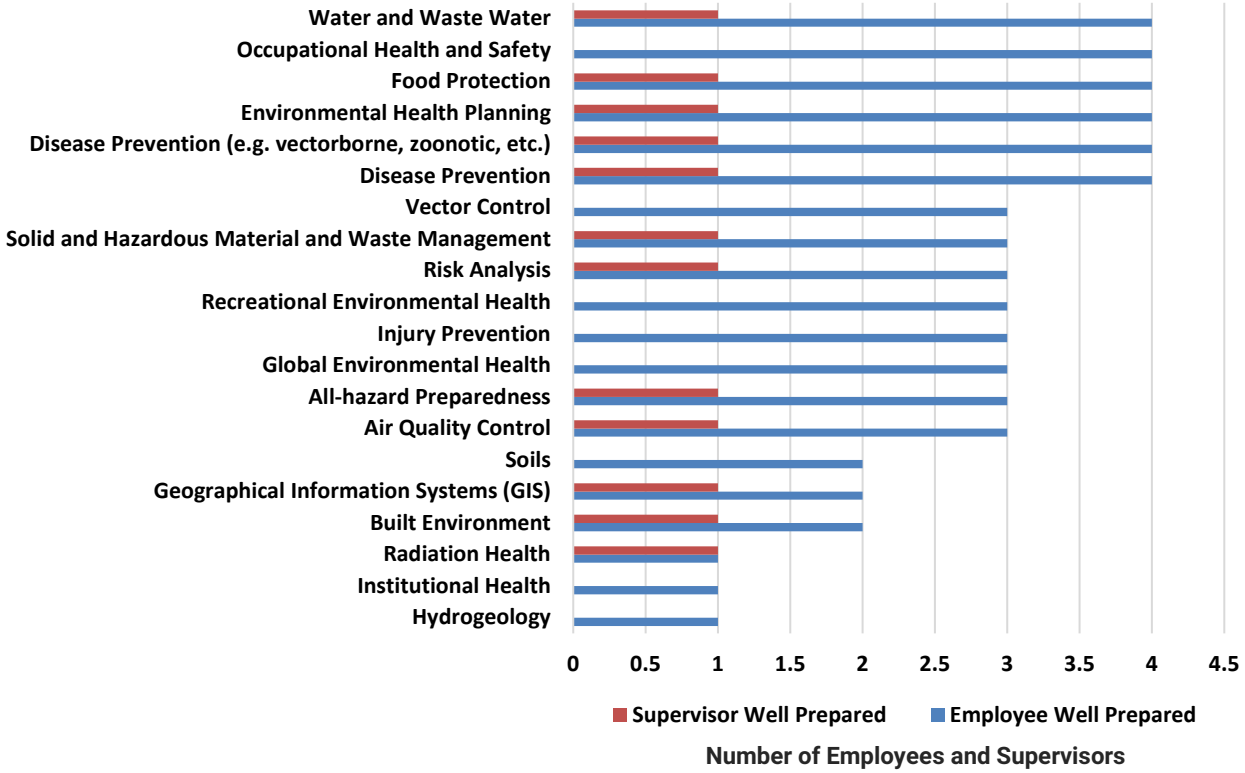


- One Supervisor and most Employees agreed that that knowledge of the following EH Specialty Areas is required for their positions:
  - GIS
  - Food Protection
  - Environmental Health Planning
    - Disease Prevention
    - Disease Prevention (e.g. vectorborne, zoonotic, etc.)
    - Built Environment

Chapter 4. Graduate Narrative and Discussion

EH Specialty Areas – Job Skills Assessments

Chart 23: Employee and Supervisor Assessment of Employee Preparedness in EH Specialty Areas (Supervisor N=1, Employees N=4)



- One Supervisor respondent and half or more of Employee respondents reported being Well Prepared in all EH Specialties reported necessary for job positions by Employees and Supervisors:
  - Water and Waste Water
  - Food Protection
  - Environmental Health Planning
  - Disease Prevention (e.g. vectorborne, zoonotic, etc.)
  - Disease Prevention
  - Solid and HAZMAT and Waste Management
  - Risk Analysis
  - All-hazard Preparedness
  - Air Quality Control

EH Specialty Areas – Job Skills Assessments

Chart 24: Employee and Supervisor Assessment of Need for EH Science and Math Areas

No Supervisor Responses Provided for Comparison

EH Specialty Areas – Job Skills Assessments

Chart 25: Employee and Supervisor Assessment of Employee Preparedness in EH Science and Math Areas

No Supervisor Responses Provided for Comparison

Thank You!

Questions? Contact Executive Director Leslie Mitchell at executive.director@nehspac.org