

Registered Environmental Health Specialist
Cook College, Rutgers University
Office of Professional and Continuing Education

<http://www.cpe.rutgers.edu/courses/current/ep0501ca.html>

What does a Registered Environmental Health Specialist do?

Registered Environmental Health Specialists work as health inspectors, environmental compliance managers and environmental consultants in both the public and private sectors. They work around the state, country and world:

- Developing bioterrorism preparedness plans
- Scouting for early signs of disease outbreaks and food poisoning
- Detection and monitoring of the West Nile virus
- Computerized mapping of rabies and Lyme disease outbreaks
- Troubleshooting environmental problems associated with famine in Africa
- Investigating environmental carcinogens for The World Health Organization
- Investigating “Cancer Clusters” in New Jersey
- Organizing and leading regional watershed planning efforts

Becoming a Registered Environmental Health Specialist

The Environment & Public Health (EPH) Program at Rutgers Cook College is a 7-week course followed by a 5-week field training internship that provides expertise, experience leading to the Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS) credential.

Graduates of the EPH program are eligible to take the New Jersey licensing exam to become a Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS).

The Environment and Public Health Program

The EPH course includes nine separate modules covering a wide range of topics in environmental health and management including:

Emerging Issues in Public Health - updates from the cutting edge of public health in topics ranging from bioterrorism to West Nile virus to risk communication

Public Health Sanitation - food safety and inspection techniques, new topics on food security, and a wide variety of other public health topics

Epidemiology , Communicable Diseases and Outbreak Investigations - this is a core skill in the war on bioterrorism

Public Health Microbiology - microbes and the symptoms, transmission and prevention of diseases they cause

Water and Wastewater - stream pollution investigation and water treatment systems

Environmental and Public Health Law - case preparation and court trial simulation

Public Health Administration - management and structure of health departments

Soils, Septics and the Environment - soil logs and septic system design

Environmental Pollution - hazardous materials and pollution control strategies for air and water

After the seven-week classroom session concludes, we'll place you in a five-week internship with a local health department to further develop the skills that employers value. You'll gain a wide range of on-the-job skills including:

- Conducting epidemiological investigations
- Inspecting wholesale and retail food establishments
- Monitoring streams, lakes and groundwater
- Investigating air and noise pollution
- Investigating reports of disease outbreaks
- Addressing public health concerns such as West Nile Virus and mosquito spraying techniques

This course meets five days a week for seven weeks on the Cook Campus in New Brunswick. Typical class times run from 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Pre-requisites

Applicants must have at least 32 credits in biological, physical, environmental or health sciences and a minimum of 90 credits overall to be accepted into EPH. Courses in biology and chemistry are strongly recommended. If you lack 32 science credits, you may be possible to register for up to nine credits from Rutgers University that can be earned by completing this program and additional course work. You'll need to pay for these credits and you may qualify to take EPH for less than nine credits.

Here's how you meet the pre-requisites for the EHS program while completing your BS in Community Health at WPU in the Department of Community Health:

BIO 112 Anatomy and Physiology I
BIO 113 Anatomy and Physiology II
BIO 170 Microbiology
MATH 130 Elementary Statistics
CMHL 304 Health Research Methods
CMHL 375 Human Disease
CMHL 400 Epidemiology
CHEM 131 College Chemistry Lecture
CHEM 031 College Chemistry Lab

And either

ENV 110 Environmental Foundations

or

CMHL 221 - Nutrition **and**

CMHL 340 Environmental Health.

In order to sit for the REHS Licensing Exam you must have your Bachelors Degree and successfully complete the EPH program, or complete equivalent courses at the college level. Our office helps EPH graduates with the application process for the REHS exam.