



"My degree in Industrial Hygiene gave me the experience needed to manage large occupational health studies conducted in the US and Europe."

- Kathleen Kennedy, PhD Student

Industrial Hygiene Overview

Industrial Hygiene is the anticipation, recognition, evaluation, and control of workplace environmental factors that may affect the health, comfort, or productivity of the worker. The occupation is both a science and an art as it involves judgment, creativity, and human interactions.

Diverse Employment Opportunities

Job diversity is a major benefit to consider when choosing a career in the Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences. Industrial Hygienists are not limited to one particular type of industry; they are employed in a variety of organizations such as:

- Public utilities
- Labor unions
- Hospitals
- Colleges and universities
- Chemical companies
- Manufacturing companies
- Government
- Research laboratories
- Hazardous waste companies
- Insurance companies
- Consulting firms

Degrees in Industrial Hygiene

Master of Public Health

Prepares students for the development, management and evaluation of environmental and occupational health programs

Master of Science

Prepares students for research and program management in companies, laboratories, and policy-making organizations.

Doctor of Philosophy

Provides students with the conceptual and analytical skills needed to pursue research careers in academia, research institutes, consulting firms, and governmental agencies.



Faculty Spotlight



Rachael M Jones PhD, MPH

Rachael Jones, Assistant Professor in the Division of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, uses mathematical models to understand how infectious microbes are transmitted from person to person through the environment, so that infectious diseases can be prevented. Drs. Jones and Elodie Adida-Goodman of the University of California, Riverside have recently demonstrated a method by which to compare the performance of hygiene and social distancing interventions for influenza epidemics based on the number of infections prevented and total epidemic costs: Their next steps are to apply the method to a specific population and determine the optimal intervention(s). Students working with Dr. Jones are exploring the mechanism of skin infections and their transmission in sport and fitness settings; and indoor air quality features that influence the transport of microbes, chemical and particulates in air.

Industrial Hygiene Coursework

- Environmental Calculations
- Fundamentals of Industrial Hygiene
- Evaluation and Control of Physical Agents
- Evaluation and Control of Chemical and Biological Agents
- Evaluation and Control of the Psychosocial Work Environment
- Industrial Hygiene Laboratory
- Air Quality Assessment and Management
- Applied Industrial Hygiene and Safety
- Occupational Diseases
- Occupational Safety and Health Management Systems
- Environmental and Occupational Toxicology
- Aerosol Science and Technology

Student Opportunities

Research training—Research training opportunities for young investigators exist through research assistantships, targeted research training groups, and pilot projects.

Career development—The American Industrial Hygiene Association student section at UIC focuses on developing the careers of young professionals by participating in volunteer activities, professional networking events, and annual conferences. Students are also sponsored to gain certifications in 40 hour hazardous waste operations and emergency medical response.

Financial Aid Assistance—Financial support for Industrial Hygiene students come in the form of student traineeships, tuition stipends, research assistantships, and scholarships.

Questions

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