



“The Occupational Safety program at UIC helped prepare me to hit the ground running within the chemical industry. As a Safety Engineer, I’m required to be both technically sound as well as be able to interact with all employees from Operators to Plant Managers on a daily basis. I feel the education I received within the Occupational Safety program has allowed me to jump right into my current position and also helped prepare me for a successful career as a Safety Professional.”

Matthew Hornyak, MS Graduate

Occupational Safety Overview

The concentration in Occupational Safety will provide students a solid foundation in the prevention of acute traumatic injury in the occupational setting, and will help prepare students for leadership and research positions. The selected coursework will enable students to approach safety problems from an engineering hazard control perspective while understanding how these problems fit into the broader societal spectrum of the public’s health.

Diverse Employment Opportunities

Job diversity is a major benefit to consider when choosing a career in the Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences. Those with expertise in Occupational Safety 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
- Construction

Degrees in Occupational Safety

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



Lee Friedman, PhD, MSPH
Assistant Professor

Injury is the leading cause of death and hospitalizations for people up to 45 years of age and is the leading cause of years of lost life and lost productivity. Injuries can result in substantial disabilities and impairments that affect an individual's quality of life. All injuries are preventable. Dr. Lee Friedman works with students on a variety of topics related to occupational and community injury epidemiology. Students work to analyze data and recommend interventions to prevent injuries. Recent student-led projects have covered a diverse range of topics including child maltreatment, efficacy of poison centers, trends in suicides, patterns and changes in violent injuries, ethnic disparities research, work related amputations, and safety and health issues among auto manufacturing workers. Many of the projects have not been restricted to basic research, but have involved policy recommendations and the development of interventions to reduce injuries.

Occupational Safety Coursework

- Safety Engineering
- Occupational Safety and Health Management Systems
- Injury Epidemiology and Prevention
- Quality Control and Reliability
- Occupational Diseases
- Ergonomics and Human Factors
- Environmental Calculations
- Fundamentals of Industrial Hygiene
- Industrial Hygiene Laboratory
- Evaluation and Control of Physical Agents

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 Society of Safety Engineers student section at UIC focuses on developing the careers of young professionals by participating in volunteer activities, professional networking events, mentoring programs, and annual conferences. Students are also sponsored to gain certifications in 40 hour hazardous waster operations and emergency medical response. Students fulfilling the MPH in Occupational Safety are required to complete a field practicum that provides the student with beneficial work experience.

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

Questions

Please direct admission questions to:

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