Experiential Learning

Experiential Learning is a key component in the Oakland University OSH program. This hands on learning occurs in three different ways; Internships, Cooperative Education, and the OSH Capstone Course Internship. These safety-related work experiences can be paid or unpaid although most are paid. Following are highlights of each type of experiential learning.

**Internships** are experiential learning experiences designed by the employer to address special projects or other routine safety-related work assigned to the intern. The internship requirements are between the employer and the student. Oakland University does not have any approval in this arrangement.

**Cooperative Education** is an expansion of the internship usually over two to four years with increasingly more challenging assignments as the student matures in the workplace. Like the internship, Oakland University does not have any approval in this arrangement.

The **OSH Capstone Course Internship**, OSH 499, involves a structured internship that must address the eight ABET established accreditation outcome areas which are as follows:

1. Anticipate, recognize, evaluate, and develop control strategies for hazardous conditions and work practices;
2. Demonstrate the application of business and risk management concepts;
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the fundamental aspects of safety, industrial hygiene, environmental science, fire science, hazardous materials, emergency management, ergonomics and/or human factors;
4. Design and evaluate safety, health, and/or environmental programs;
5. Apply adult learning theory to safety training methodology;
6. Identify and apply applicable standards, regulations, and codes;
7. Conduct accident investigations and analyses;
8. Apply principles of safety and health in a non-academic setting through an intern, cooperative, or supervised experience.

The OSH 499 student must be allow to upload actual samples of student work to demonstrated exposure and participation in these eight areas expected of a graduate of an ABET accredited safety-related program. In addition, OSH 499 requires the student to provide weekly progress reports relative to work in these areas to the internship site coordinator and the OSH program director. The final requirement in OSH 499 is development of at least a 20 page reflective paper comparing the Oakland University general education and major course requirements to the entry level job the student is experiencing at the internship site. The Oakland University OSH program director must approve the OSH 499 internship site and be assured by the student that the employer will allow work in the eight ABET defined areas and will allow samples of work to be provided to the program director as a direct measure of student performance in these areas. To effectively accomplish these requirements the student must work under direction of a competent safety professional. This internship site coordinator will assign a weighted portion of the grade in this course.