

Oakland University
School of Health Sciences
Occupational Safety and Health Program

Experiential Learning

Experiential Learning is a key component in the Oakland University EHS program. This hands on learning occurs in three different ways; Internships, Cooperative Education, and the EHS 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 **EHS Capstone Course Internship**, EHS 499, involves a structured internship that must address the fifteen ABET established accreditation outcome areas which are as follows:

1. environmental, health, and safety fundamentals;
2. physiological and/or toxicological interactions of physical, chemical, biological, and ergonomic agents, factors, and/or stressors with the human body;
3. anticipation, identification, and evaluation of potentially hazardous agents, conditions and practices;
4. fundamental exposure assessment techniques (both qualitative and quantitative);
5. environmental, health, and safety data interpretation including statistical and epidemiological principles;
6. development of hazard control designs, methods, procedures and programs;
7. accident/incident investigation and analysis;
8. industrial and construction safety;
9. legal aspects of environmental, health, and safety practices;
10. environmental, health and safety program management;
11. hazardous materials/waste recognition, control, and remediation;
12. air pollution fundamentals and control technologies;
13. water pollution fundamentals and control technologies;
14. environmental regulations and permitting processes;
15. environmental sampling and measurement methodologies.

The EHS 499 student must be allowed to upload actual samples of student work to demonstrate exposure and participation in these fifteen areas expected of a graduate of an ABET accredited EHS- related program. In addition, EHS 499 requires the student to provide weekly progress reports relative to work in these areas to the internship site coordinator and the EHS program director. The final requirement in EHS 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 EHS program director must approve the EHS 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.