



Health Careers In Alaska

www.HealthCareersInAlaska.Info

Environmental Health Specialist

Environmental Health Specialists (EHS) work to identify conditions that can make people sick or injured, and then take steps to eliminate or minimize these undesirable conditions. An EHS works with a variety of environmental media such as food, water, and air to reduce human morbidity and mortality. There is also a strong focus on hazardous materials management, vector and pest control, and communicable disease prevention. Many environmental health professionals spend their days conducting surveys, performing research, and providing education on various

environmental health related topics. Some specialized environmental health professionals work in hospitals or industrial settings to help ensure a safe environment.

Working as an EHS is a challenging and rewarding career, and working in rural Alaska offers many unique challenges. The remote arctic setting offers a variety of opportunities for one to make measurable improvements. Individuals who choose a career in environmental health science are making a decision to spend their life creating a healthier world for others to live in.

Environmental Health Specialist Facts:

Where do environmental health specialists work in Alaska?

Environmental Health Specialists work in a variety of settings including government agencies, public health departments, universities and private industry, including hospitals. In Alaska they also work for the Indian Health Service and tribal

Educational Requirements

- Graduation from a high school with strong college preparatory background, especially in math and science.
- Completion of a four-year bachelor's degree in environmental health science.
- Successful completion of the National Environmental Health Association's Registered Environmental Health Specialist exam. This is normally accomplished shortly after the individual has graduated college and has had an opportunity to gain some work experience.
- Many environmental health specialists go on to complete a master's degree in public health or environmental health.

Hourly Wage Range:

\$21.23-\$48.81 (Mean \$33.11)
**based on Alaska DOL data*

Years in School:

4 years or more (*after high school graduation*).

Academic Programs in Alaska

Currently there is not an accredited EH program Alaska. A list of accredited undergraduate and graduate programs can be obtained at:

The National Environmental Health Science and Protection Accreditation Council (EHAC)

Phone: (206) 522-5272

Email: ehacinfo@aehap.org

Web site: <http://www.ehacoffice.org/>

Note: For students interested in obtaining a position with the federal government as an Environmental Health Specialist, many positions require that students have a degree from an accredited program.

State Contact:

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Environmental Health

Web site: <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/eh/>

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

Division of Environmental Health and Engineering

Web site: <http://www.anthc.org/cs/dehe/>

National Contact:

National Environmental Health Association

Web site: <http://www.neha.org>

