

Environmental Health Specialist Registration in Ohio

The Practice of Environmental Health is defined in the [Ohio Revised Code](#) as the consultation, instruction, investigation, inspection, or evaluation by an employee of a city health district, a general health district, the environmental protection agency, the department of health, or the department of agriculture requiring specialized knowledge, training, and experience in the field of environmental health science.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION:

The field of Environmental Public Health in Ohio consists of a variety of programming, including but not limited to drinking and recreational water quality, food safety, waste treatment and management and health prevention and assessment administered through the Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Department of Agriculture, and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. The field of environmental health is also administered locally through local health districts in Ohio and through employment in the private sector in various industries.

To work as an Environmental Health Specialist in Ohio, registration with the Ohio Department of Health is required. To become registered with the Ohio Department of Health, the following criteria must be met:

- Must have a bachelor's degree.
- Must have 30 semester hours or 45 quarter hours of math and science.
- Must apply online and submit the application fee.
- Must work for two years as an Environmental Health Specialist in Training.
- Must work for only one year as an Environmental Health Specialist if applicant has a master's degree and has completed the required math and science coursework.
- Must take and pass the National Environmental Health Association REHS/RS (Registered Environmental Health Specialist/Registered Sanitarian) exam.

MATH AND SCIENCE COURSEWORK: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Geology, Math, Statistics, and Epidemiology.

The Ohio Department of Health Environmental Health Specialist Program works with colleges and universities to ensure that they understand the minimum educational requirements for registration. Colleges and universities wanting to better understand the program can contact program staff at stephanie.youst@odh.ohio.gov or (614) 466-1772.

APPLICATION: The application process is a short online application that only takes a few minutes to complete. Applications are reviewed and responses provided within 30 days of submission of a completed application. To submit your completed application, please visit: https://elicense.ohio.gov/oh_homepage.

Once registered, an applicant can work as a Registered Environmental Health Specialist in Training (EHSIT) in one of the required fields of practice and must be supervised by a Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS). After two years of working as an EHSIT, an applicant can apply for advancement to REHS. An EHSIT who holds a master's degree can apply for advancement after one year of work experience.

Registrations are required to be renewed every two years, and completion of 24 hours of continuing education is required.

For more information about the Environmental Health Specialist Program, please visit www.ODH.ohio.gov and navigate to the [Environmental Health Specialist webpage](#).