Occupational and Environmental Health Nursing (OEHN)
PhD/DrPH Tracks in Exposure Sciences and Environmental Epidemiology

Nurses who wish to establish core competencies in the area of occupational and environmental health can receive a PhD in the Exposure Sciences and Environmental Epidemiology Track in the Department of Environmental Health Sciences. Supported since 1977 by an Education and Research Center (ERC) Grant from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), this program has graduated nurses with Master of Public Health (MPH), joint Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)/MPH, and doctoral degrees. The program resides in the Department of Environmental Health Sciences. Funding for program participants is available through the ERC training grant.

Our doctoral program was the first in the world to offer doctoral preparation in occupational and environmental health to nurses. This program fulfills a special need for nurses prepared to develop policy, teach in university programs, and manage occupational and environmental health programs in a variety of settings, conduct research and design appropriate interventions for health problems related to workplace and environmental exposures.

There are many seminar experiences which deal with current developments in occupational and environmental health and we strongly encourage interaction between students of all disciplines. Doctoral students present their research at seminars attended by EHS Department students and faculty.

The department also offers a Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) training program which emphasizes the skills necessary to assess the needs for occupational and environmental health services at regional, national and international levels, the development of policy and the regulatory framework. The School has established minimum requirements for completion of the DrPH degree, which are in addition to those set by the Department of Environmental Health Sciences for doctoral programs.

Educational Resources

- The interdisciplinary focus of the ERC creates opportunities to learn and work with industrial hygienists, occupational medicine physicians and occupational injury epidemiologists.

- Doctoral students have access to faculty members from all departments of the School and are encouraged to take elective courses in their specific areas of interest.

- Various optional field experiences are available for students, including participation in work-site evaluations as part of interdisciplinary teams, and residencies with government agencies or private sector organizations.

- Students frequently elect to participate in faculty research projects.
Faculty

Jacqueline Agnew, MPH, PhD, COHN-S, FAAN
Professor

Sheila T. Fitzgerald, MSN, PhD
Associate Professor

Maureen Cadorette, MPH, PhD, RN, COHN-S
Assistant Scientist

Mary L. Doyle, MPH, RN, COHN-S/CM
Research Associate

Admission to the PhD and DrPH Programs

- Applications are reviewed at the Departmental level for:
  - Evidence of exceptional academic ability, especially in the sciences and quantitative subjects.
  - Academic potential as indicated by the applicant’s academic record and GRE scores.
  - References and work history.

- Prospective students are encouraged to apply one year in advance.

- New doctoral students generally begin in September and continue through the summer terms.

- Students enrolled in the MPH program may apply for the doctoral program at the end of the second quarter.

Financial Aid

Some financial assistance is available from sources within the School. Doctoral students who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents are eligible for support from the NIOSH training grant, depending on the level of grant funding in any given year. Nurse doctoral students also are eligible to apply to the National Center for Nursing Research for a pre-doctoral fellowship award.

Program Requirements

- Not less than four consecutive terms must be spent as a full-time student (16 credit units per term) at the School.

- The student, in consultation with the academic advisor, is expected to select courses needed to develop required areas of competence and meet School, Department, and Division requirements.
Occupational and Environmental Health Seminars

- **ERC Seminars.** A monthly seminar sponsored by the NIOSH ERC.

- **Journal Club.** Presented by doctoral students and occupational medicine residents bimonthly.

Written Comprehensive Examination and Preliminary Oral Exam

The comprehensive written examination has two parts. The DrPH examination is administered by the School and Department. The PhD examination is administered by the Exposure Sciences and Environmental Epidemiology Track. These focus on public health, environmental health and occupational health competencies, including those of the student’s specific areas of developing expertise. Please see the EHS Student Handbook for more information.

The preliminary oral examination also has Departmental and School-wide sections. The Departmental oral examination provides an opportunity for the student to demonstrate effective verbal communication skills and the ability to engage in scientific exchange. It also serves to prepare the student for the School-wide preliminary oral examination, which follows only after successful completion of the Departmental oral examination requirement.

Thesis Requirements

- Completion of the doctoral degree requires a satisfactory investigation in occupational or environmental health and its presentation in the form of a thesis, approved by a committee of the faculty.

- The work should be worthy of publication in a scientific journal in the field of occupational and environmental health.

- The candidate presents an oral defense of the thesis before a committee of the faculty.
The following represent selected examples of dissertation topics of doctoral graduates of the Occupational and Environmental Health Nursing Program:

- The Association Between Elevated Blood Lead Levels and Reading Readiness in Kindergarten Children
- Occupational Allergies and Asthma Among Laboratory Animal Workers: The Role of Respiratory Protection
- Occupational Health and Safety Practices of Vietnamese American Nail Salon Workers

Further Information

A prospectus and application form are available from:

Admissions Office  
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health  
615 North Wolfe Street, Suite E1002  
Baltimore, Maryland 21205  
(410) 955-3543, Email: jhsph.admiss@jhu.edu

For more information please contact:

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