

Assessment procedures

The Environmental Health Program utilizes a variety of assessment approaches including the Department of Health Sciences assessment program, professional accreditations, program faculty meetings, strategic planning, various professional practice & student teaching assessments, certification exams, advisory meetings, and faculty evaluations.

Table 1: Summary of EH Program Assessment Activities

Evaluation Programs	Responsible Authority	Evaluators	Evaluation Techniques	Frequency
ISU Assessment Program	Department Chairperson	Students Graduates Employers	Survey Questionnaires	Annually
Program Accreditation	Program faculty	National Environmental Health Accreditation Council	Accreditation	Every six years
Program Faculty Meeting	Program Faculty	Faculty	Open Discussion	Weekly
Strategic Planning	Program Faculty	Faculty	Planning	Annually
Professional Practice Assessments	PP coordinator	Cooperating site supervisors and students	Performance & program evaluations	Every semester
REHS (national) and LEHP (state) Examinations	National Environmental Health Association and state assessment	National Environmental Health Association and state assessment	Professional Certification Examination	As available information (information not formally accessible)
CIH (international)	American Board of Industrial Hygiene	American Board of Industrial Hygiene	Professional Certification Examination	As available information (information
Advisory guests	EH Program Director	Employers Graduates Students	Discussions	annually
Faculty Evaluations	Department Chairperson	Students	Performance evaluations	Every Semester

What follows are more details on each of these assessment processes and how they have informed and affected practice within the program.

Department of Health Sciences (HSC) Assessment Program

In 1996, the Department of Health Sciences (HSC) Assessment Program was created to implement uniform department-wide quality management program. The department chairperson formed the HSC Assessment Committee, a multidisciplinary committee with faculty representatives from each of the five programs in the Health Sciences Department. The goal of the HSC Assessment

Committee was to develop assessment tools to capture feedback from groups with a vested interest in the program graduate performance. Targeted groups included students, graduates, employers, and the institution itself.

In 1998, the Program began using the assessment tools to collect program performance data. The data is collected annually and includes data from:

- o Graduating Seniors
- o 1st Year Graduates
- o 5th Year Graduates
- o Employers

In 2011, the University Assessment Office took over the graduate assessment program. In 2012, 10 of 46 EH alumni from classes of 2007 and 2011 responded to questions from the assessment office. We received assessment data from the Environmental Health Accreditation Council. There were 26 alumni responses but we have not analyzed the data as of this writing.

Program faculty and the department chairperson review the program performance data regularly. Additionally, intradepartmental comparative analyses of each program's assessment data are performed at the departmental chair level to identify opportunities for improvement across the five programs in the department.

Professional Accreditations

Accreditations by professional organizations are a stringent review of the program's merit.

As part of the ongoing EHAC accreditation review, the Environmental Health Program received notice from EHAC of being in compliance with guidelines in 2007. The ISU Environmental Health Program was granted full approval, a six year designation, in 2007. Our most recent program evaluation occurred in December 2012. We received a 2-year conditional accreditation do to an apparent change in interpretation of curricular requirements for basic sciences courses. We are currently preparing curricular changes to address the deficiency.

Copies of the accreditation/approval reports are posted in our departmental shared drive.

Program Faculty Meetings

The Program faculty meets weekly to discuss ongoing Program management and curricular issues. Issues are identified and recommendations are presented for modification or correction. Most of the issues discussed in these meeting are addressed at the Program level.

Strategic Planning

Each year the program faculty reviews our programmatic vision, mission and goal statements and selects and prioritizes objectives for the coming year(s) into discernible action items. As with typical strategic planning, we consider the strengths and weaknesses of our own program and the opportunities and threats external to the program.

The current strategic plan for the program posted on the departmental shared drive.

Professional Practice Assessments

Every student who graduates with a degree in Environmental Health completes either a 9-12 credit hour professional practice experience. As part of this experience students are assessed in a variety of ways and they assess their preparation for PP, the university supervisor, site supervisor and practice site.

Environmental Health faculty identify areas and trends where student performance is unsatisfactory or has potential for improvement. The faculty reviews provide an ongoing opportunity to evaluate the current curricular content through student performance in the “real world.” It also provides the faculty with the opportunity to develop new instructional strategies to improve student performance.

A copy of the professional practice assessment instruments appears in departmental shared drive.

National Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS) Certification Examination

Two major organizations have typically provided examinations for students in the Environmental Health Program at the state and national level. The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA), the primary professionally organization for Environmental Health Professionals in the U.S., designs and administers the Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS) certification exam. Graduates of the Environmental Health Program at ISU are immediately eligible to take this exam, while graduates from other disciplines must demonstrate their commitment to the profession for two years before being eligible to take these certification exams.

State Licensed Environmental Health Professional (LEHP) Certification Examination

The State of Illinois also designs and administers the Licensed Environmental Health Professional exam. Graduates of the Environmental Health Program at ISU are immediately eligible to take this exam, while graduates from other disciplines must demonstrate their commitment to the profession for two years before being eligible to take these certification exams.

Other Professional Certification Examinations

A wide variety of other certifications are available for specialization areas in the field of Environmental Health, including the Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP), Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH), Hazardous Materials (CHMM), and many others. Pass rates serve as one indicator for how well prepared graduates are on the professionally defined responsibilities and competencies. Graduates may not sit for the CIH exam until they have completed at least 4 years of experience in industrial hygiene.

Student/alumni certification rates

Unfortunately, due to concerns about the distribution of sensitive information, certification rates for students or alumni in the Environmental Health Program are not currently available. However, informal feedback from alumni indicates that ISU EH graduates do very well on these professional exams, which is supported by other assessment techniques implemented.

EH Advisory Committee

During past years the program has hosted advisory committee meetings on an ad hoc basis. As part of the curriculum revision since the last program review meetings were held with a panel of alumni and another with students. We have also solicited feedback from alumni during state professional association meetings.

This is an area of our assessment program that could be improved. We could more proactively involve an advisory in the ongoing assessment of the program. The Environmental Health Program had its first Advisory Committee Meeting in 2011. Minutes from this meeting are available on the departmental shared drive.

Faculty Evaluations

The program faculty are evaluated on through student, peer, and self-assessment.

Student Evaluations

Students complete faculty evaluations at the completion of every course. CAST uses a nationally normed evaluation system called IDEA. An individual who is not associated with the course administers the evaluations to the students. This assessment process is “blind” to promote student honesty on the evaluation. Individual faculty data are compared to aggregate faculty data from other departmental faculty. From these data, faculty then identify opportunities for improvement in their individual courses and instructional approaches. Faculty then respond to potential areas for improvement in their annual DFSC documents.

Peer and self-assessment Evaluations

Annually, each faculty member is required to develop a self-assessment document or portfolio for review by the department chairperson and the Department Faculty Status Committee. Faculty are also encourage to have an annual external peer review of their teaching. The portfolio includes the reflections on the student, peer, and self-assessment. The three areas of evaluations include scholarship, teaching and service activities. These evaluations can have an impact on the

faculty member's retention, salary, promotion and tenure status.

Curricular/objective consistency and currency

The current EH curriculum is consistent with the program objective and up-to-date with current professional standards and expectations. The current EH Program curriculum is fully approved by the National Environmental Health Accreditation Council (EHAC).

The last major program revision was in conducted during the 2011 academic year when we added a new course on Renewable energy which is taught by EH faculty, but offered through the Department of Agriculture as AGR 225. A summary of some of the major changes is included in the table below.

Table 1: Curriculum changes since last program review

<p>1. Deleted an Environmental Health elective and moved the content to two other courses to reduce over-lap</p> <p>Old Catalog Copy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>HSC 247: Waste Management Practices</u> <p>2. HSC 156: Environmental Health in the 21st Century added as requirement for all EH majors to provide a better background in general environmental health.</p> <p>3. AGR 225 was added as a new group I elective for EH, AGR, and renewable energy students.</p>	<p>1. Deleted an Environmental Health elective and moved the content to two other courses to reduce over-lap</p> <p>New/Current Catalog Copy</p> <p><u>HSC 145 and HSC 252</u> Note: Solid waste is covered in 145 and liquid waste is covered in 252.</p>
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Table 1.1: Environmental Health Program IBHE student outcomes

Outcomes	Courses	Activities (internal)	Application (external)
<i>Anticipate hazards</i>	All required and elective EH courses	Exams, term project, group work, etc.	Professional Practice and Advisory Council evaluation, etc.
<i>Recognize hazards</i>	All required and elective EH courses	Exams, term project, group work, etc.	Professional Practice and Advisory Council evaluation
<i>Evaluate hazards</i>	All required and elective EH courses	Exams, term project, group work, etc.	Professional Practice and Advisory Council evaluation
<i>Identify interventions</i>	All required and elective EH courses	Exams, term project, group work, etc.	Professional Practice and Advisory Council evaluation
<i>Implement interventions</i>	All required and elective EH courses	Exams, term project, group work, etc.	Professional Practice and Advisory Council evaluation
<i>Evaluate interventions</i>	All required and elective EH courses	Exams, term project, group work, etc.	Professional Practice and Advisory Council evaluation
<i>Professional attributes</i>	All required and elective EH courses	Exams, term project, group work, etc.	Professional Practice and Advisory Council evaluation
<i>Professional communication</i>	All required and elective EH courses	Exams, term project, group work, etc.	Professional Practice and Advisory Council evaluation