



INTRODUCTION TO COEH

CENTER FOR OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

The Center for Occupational and Environmental Health (COEH) is an organization that coordinates the University of California's efforts to prevent illness, injuries, and fatalities in the workplace and from community environmental exposures.

The Northern California COEH funds faculty and staff positions, and teaching, research, and service activities on the Berkeley, San Francisco, and Davis campuses. The Southern California COEH programs are based at the Los Angeles and Irvine campuses.

Educating students is primary to COEH's mission, but because of the interdisciplinary nature of workplace and community health problems, students enroll in a broad array of departments in which COEH faculty hold their appointments and then become part of a network of students with a common goal.

Thus, COEH students at UCSF include medical residents, postdoctoral fellows in lung biology and toxicology, and graduate students in nursing.

At Berkeley COEH undergraduates, graduate students, and postdoctoral scholars come from public health disciplines (environmental health sciences with specialties in areas such as industrial hygiene, exposure assessment, toxicology or international health), and epidemiology, biostatistics, or infectious diseases. They are also enrolled in engineering departments, such as mechanical or bioengineering.

At Davis COEH students enroll in epidemiology, toxicology, biostatistics, and biological & agricultural engineering.

COEH students obtain master's or doctoral degrees in many disciplines, or in the case of physicians seeking further clinical training, they receive residency training in occupational and environmental medicine. Students apply for admission to the school or department whose occupational and environmental health program most closely matches their interests. To investigate which academic degree program is best, peruse

the COEH web site thoroughly and follow links

to the individual programs, which will provide more details (<http://coeh.berkeley.edu>). Further information can be obtained by requesting application materials from the contact persons listed for each study area and by corresponding directly with the director of the program or a faculty member who has matching research interests (see faculty on the web for contact information).

As an example, to become an industrial hygienist, prospective students apply to the School of Public Health at Berkeley and select the Environmental Health Sciences Division on the application form. The personal statement about educational and career goals would demonstrate an interest in industrial hygiene. On the web site click on the Academic Programs button to find out what degrees are offered in each discipline and who to contact for admissions information.

For those seeking a research education, the kinds of research opportunities that exist within a given department and through the broad network of occupational and environmental health collaborations facilitated by COEH will be of great interest. COEH brings the expertise of the basic and applied researchers together with the clinical specialties to solve real world problems. Click on the Research button for details on collaborative research directed by COEH faculty.

COEH also supports a broad range of service activities (professional continuing education courses, labor assistance, clinical services, and consulting), which are described under the Community Services and Continuing Education web buttons. Most students have an opportunity to rotate through one of COEH's clinics and work with a team of residents, nurses, and public health students and faculty to identify potential causes of disease symptoms and develop strategies to prevent further exposure to an adverse condition.

*** Find out more at <http://coeh.berkeley.edu>**