



APPLIED AND NATURAL SCIENCE ACCREDITATION COMMISSION

Summary of Accreditation Actions

2019–2020 Accreditation Cycle

City University of New York, Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy
New York, NY, United States

Environmental and Occupational Health Science (MS)

Accredit to September 30, 2026. A request to ABET by January 31, 2025 will be required to initiate a reaccreditation evaluation visit. In preparation for the visit, a Self-Study Report must be submitted to ABET by July 1, 2025. The reaccreditation evaluation will be a comprehensive general review.



ABET

APPLIED AND NATURAL SCIENCE ACCREDITATION
COMMISSION

**CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK,
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC
HEALTH AND HEALTH POLICY**

NEW YORK, NY, UNITED STATES

FINAL STATEMENT OF ACCREDITATION
2019-20 ACCREDITATION CYCLE

CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK, GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH POLICY

New York, NY, United States

ABET APPLIED AND NATURAL SCIENCE ACCREDITATION COMMISSION

FINAL STATEMENT

VISIT DATES: OCTOBER 27-29, 2019

ACCREDITATION CYCLE CRITERIA: 2019-2020

INTRODUCTION & DISCUSSION OF STATEMENT CONSTRUCT

The Applied and Natural Science Accreditation Commission (ANSAC) of ABET has evaluated the Environmental and Occupational Health Science (MS) program at City University of New York, Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy.

The statement that follows consists of two parts: the first addresses the institution and its overall educational unit, and the second addresses the individual programs.

A program's accreditation action is based upon the findings summarized in this statement. Actions depend on the program's range of compliance or non-compliance with the criteria. This range can be construed from the following terminology:

- **Deficiency** A deficiency indicates that a criterion, policy, or procedure is not satisfied. Therefore, the program is not in compliance with the criterion, policy, or procedure.
- **Weakness** A weakness indicates that a program lacks the strength of compliance with a criterion, policy, or procedure to ensure that the quality of the program will not be compromised. Therefore, remedial action is required to strengthen compliance with the criterion, policy, or procedure prior to the next review.
- **Concern** A concern indicates that a program currently satisfies a criterion, policy, or procedure; however, the potential exists for the situation to change such that the criterion, policy, or procedure may not be satisfied.
- **Observation** An observation is a comment or suggestion that does not relate directly to the current accreditation action but is offered to assist the institution in its continuing efforts to improve its programs.

INFORMATION RECEIVED AFTER THE REVIEW

- **Seven-Day Response** No information was received in the seven-day response period.
- **30-Day Due-Process Response** Information was received in the 30-day due-process response

period relative to the Environmental and Occupational Health Science program.

INSTITUTIONAL SUMMARY

The City University of New York (CUNY), founded in 1961, is the public university system of New York City. Today, it is comprised of 25 campuses and enrolls over 275,000 students. CUNY was created by uniting seven other municipal universities with the intent to “be an independent system of higher education governed by its own Board of Trustees responsible for the governance, maintenance and development of both senior and community college units of The City University.” (2015 New York State Laws, EDN – Education Title 7, Article 25, section 6201). A 17-member Board of Trustees governs CUNY. Members are appointed by the governor of the state of New York and the mayor of New York City.

CUNY created a school of public health in 2007, through a merger of other public health programs at Hunter College, Lehman College, Brooklyn College, and the Graduate Center. The CUNY School of Public Health was first accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) in 2011. The CUNY Board of Trustees in 2015, approved a resolution directing the former Chancellor to transition this consortial school to a single graduate school that would administer its own programs. The name of the School was changed to the Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy as a part of this consolidation.

Environmental and Occupational Health Science

MS Program

Evaluated under ANSAC Program Criteria for
Industrial Hygiene and Similarly Named Applied and Natural Science Programs

INTRODUCTION

The Master of Science program in Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences (MS-EOHS) was started in 1971, at Hunter College, a component of CUNY, and first accredited by ABET in 2001. The program has been housed in the Department of Environmental, Occupational, and Geospatial Health Sciences at the CUNY Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy (CUNY SPH) since 2016. The MS-EOHS program is part of the New York-New Jersey Occupational Safety & Health Center, a NIOSH Education and Research Center (ERC).

The MS-EOHS curriculum was revised for the 2019-2020 academic year. It consists of 39 semester credit hours, including six hours of core public health courses, 21 hours of didactic courses in the EOHS concentration, nine hours of electives, and a three-hour capstone course. The capstone experience may center around a research project or a practice-based work project and culminates in a professional-quality scientific paper and presentation. An important focus of the program is preparing working industrial hygienists to achieve professional certification.

The program has six core faculty, including one Certified Industrial Hygienist who serves as program director. Enrollment in the program is approximately 30-40 students. The program produces about ten graduates a year, most of whom are employed in the New York City metropolitan area.

PROGRAM STRENGTH

Nearly all students receive tuition support through the NIOSH ERC or the New York Community Trust. These grant funds benefit recruitment of members of under-represented groups and women into the Industrial Hygiene program by providing tuition and mentoring support. This initiative is distinctive in its commitment of tangible resources for increasing the diversity of the student body and, thereby, the professional ranks of industrial hygienists in the region.

PROGRAM CONCERNS

1. General Criteria for Master's Level Programs. Students and Curriculum

Masters- Level Criteria for Industrial Hygiene Admission Requirements state, "Admitted students must hold an earned baccalaureate that prepares them to apply the basic principles of college-level mathematics, inorganic and organic chemistry, physics, and biology. Exceptions may be admitted with an individually documented plan of study to compensate for any deficiencies." The program does not require courses in math, chemistry, physics, and biology.

As part of the admissions process, program faculty examine undergraduate coursework in other disciplines where principles of these basic sciences and math are applied. This course content may be deemed sufficient foundation for admission to the program. Program faculty reported that students in the MS program are generally well prepared in math, physics, and other basic science. However, students reported, and the department chair confirmed, that some students were challenged in curricular areas such as toxicology where a foundational knowledge of chemistry is helpful. These students have performed within acceptable standards with remedial support. There is a concern regarding this criterion because in the future the depth and breadth of basic science principles covered in undergraduate applied science, technology, and engineering courses could diminish, compromising the preparation of admitted students to apply basic sciences in the graduate industrial hygiene curriculum, which may require increased remediation.

30-Day Due-Process Response

To better align with ABET master's-level criteria for industrial hygiene programs, the School has revised its admission requirements to read: "40 credit hours in biology, chemistry, health sciences, mathematics, statistics, physics, or engineering completed prior to admission. If deficiencies exist in any of these areas, students will be required to take specific coursework after matriculating into the program." This statement has been added to the School's website. Students who are identified as having not completed undergraduate coursework in each of these areas will develop a documented individualized plan with the Program Director in which these deficiencies are addressed. To maximize flexibility, students are able to select coursework from a listing of options or propose a comparable solution.

Status

The program concern has been resolved.

2. General Criteria for Master's Level Programs. Faculty

Program criteria for Industrial Hygiene faculty state "a minimum of one core Industrial Hygiene faculty member must be a Certified Industrial Hygienist." One of the core faculty is a CIH. If this faculty member were to leave the institution, the program would be without a CIH on the faculty. This is a concern because there is the potential for the situation to change such that the requirement would not be satisfied. Another faculty plans to take the CIH exam, but this concern remains until there are at least two faculty who hold the CIH credential.

30-Day Due-Process Response

A current program faculty member plans to sit for the CIH exam in the 2020-2021 calendar year. Additionally, the program is currently conducting a faculty search for an individual with experience in industrial hygiene or a related field of study, as well as a preferred CIH credential.

Status

The program concern has been resolved.