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Governor

# OREGON HEALTH LICENSING AGENCY

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## Environmental Health

### Environmental Health Specialists

Environmental health specialists promote the control of infectious disease through environmental hygiene by enforcing health and safety standards relating to food, water and consumer products. Environmental health specialists collect, analyze, interpret and disseminate information about health events through public health "surveillance" to track and anticipate possible health problems, such as outbreaks of food-borne illness or disease.



Environmental health specialists frequently work for public agencies such as county health departments, and state agencies such as Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and Oregon Department of Human Services, Public Health.

**Qualifications:** To practice in Oregon, environmental health specialists must have:

- A bachelor's degree from a university or college with at least 45-quarter hours of science background in environmental sanitation and two years of experience in environmental sanitation working under the supervision of an environmental health specialist
- Or, a bachelor's degree with at least 15 quarter hours in science courses relating to environmental health from a university or college and five years of experience in environmental health working under the supervision of a environmental health specialist
- Or, have a graduate degree in community health or public health and one year of experience in environmental health working under the supervision of a environmental health specialist.

**Continuing Education:** Twenty contact hours of continuing education every two years is required to maintain Oregon registration.

**Authorizing Laws & Rules:** This program exists under the regulatory oversight of the Oregon Health Licensing Agency (OHLA). Environmental Health Registration Board profession-specific statutes (ORS 700.005-700.240 and 700.992-700.995) and rules (OAR 338, Divisions 005-030) link to OHLA's overarching statutes (ORS 676.600-992) and rules (OAR 331, Divisions 1-30) for all OHLA-regulated professions.

For more information, visit [www.oregon.gov/OHLA/EHS](http://www.oregon.gov/OHLA/EHS)