

## Tox Town - Careers in Environmental Health Science (Eastern Kentucky University Media Resources)

Narrator: As a young person, perhaps you're looking for a career, one that's challenging and interesting. You want a job where you can serve your community and country and be respected as a professional. Maybe you'd like to travel and earn a good salary. If so, you might be interested in Environmental Health Science. What is Environmental Health Science? Basically, it's the protection of you and me from the environs we live in--specifically, physical, chemical, biological, and radiological hazards. For example, environmental health professionals may help investigate disease outbreaks, making sure of worldwide containment. They may help employers protect their workers from hazardous chemicals and other workplace dangers. Or they may help protect the public from chemical, nuclear, and biological terrorism. It's a field that touches everyone's lives. We manage the food you eat, the water you drink, where your waste products go-- through sewage systems, et cetera. We manage the world in which you recreate in.

Narrator: Whatever you decide you want to do in Environmental Health, you can work with it. You can work with the air you breathe. You can work with the water you drink. You can work with the food that you eat. This is a very important field, it has immediate rewards, and it's very diverse. Anything from Industrial Hygienists, Environmental Engineers, Environmental Epidemiology. This is something that you can get your hands in and you can really get in there and really make a difference in the 21st century.

Narrator: The job outlook for Environmental Health couldn't be better. Nationally, there are over 20 college and university programs offering 4-year degrees. Graduates with a 4-year degree can expect starting salaries ranging from \$30,000 to \$65,000 a year. Recently, an Internet search revealed almost 50,000 jobs available in Environmental Health. Graduates qualify for jobs in Federal, state, and local government, Army, Navy, Airforce, Coastguard, U.S. Public Health Service, consulting agencies, non-governmental health organizations, and private companies. There are opportunities out there, none better than today. It's just---any opportunity that you're interested in, somewhere out there, you can achieve that. You must have a passion for what you're doing, but most people that get into the profession, if they don't have that passion, they develop it. Yes, it's very exciting. There's a lot of opportunity for diversity and a lot of opportunity for change. We've had a lot of people come from universities. We've had a lot of people come from different parts of the world from public health and come into the cruise industry.

Narrator: It's a very fast-paced industry, and there's a lot of growth and a lot of ways to go up the ladder and move further up in the industry. I found two things now that I'm interested in, and that's Animal Disease Control and Fungus and Mold Inspection. And ever since, they got me hooked. I'm there. As an Environmental Health Professional, you'll be a member of a select and elite group, providing a service to your community

that few can match. It made me want to give back to the tribes that I worked with out there, but also to return to Oklahoma and work with the tribes that I grew up around. This is really part of the nuts and bolts of public health. It's what keeps people safe and healthy. And we would love to get some bright, talented people to actually deal with all these new challenges.

Narrator: If you're interested in science and want a career that's challenging, financially rewarding, and will allow you to be of true service to others, then you owe it to yourself to consider a career in Environmental Health Science. If you want to do many diverse things, this is the place to do it. Not one day is the same. But I don't know if there are any other professions that would give you all of the different career tracks and that would give you the sense of giving something back into the communities that we all come from. You can't go wrong. You just won't go wrong if you get interested in Environmental Health. It's very exciting to know that you're gonna make a difference and actually apply what you've learned to help someone go home safe at the end of the night. They really welcome diversity, you know, like, and the field is so broad that there is no way that you cannot be pleased by what you do in this field. Lots of things you can do. It's always changing. There's always something new that you can experience, some real good money, you get to help people.