DEPARTMENT OF PREVENTIVE AND SOCIAL MEDICINE

Postgraduate Diploma/Certificate in Health Sciences endorsed in Occupational Health
Course Information

For Further Information Please Contact:
Occupational Health
Course Information
POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA/CERTIFICATE IN HEALTH SCIENCES ENDORSED IN OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

The Postgraduate Certificate in Health Sciences (PGCertHealSc), the Postgraduate Diploma in Health Sciences (PGDipHealSc) and the Master of Health Sciences (MHealSc) endorsed in Occupational Health are all taught through the Dunedin School of Medicine.

These programmes are designed to offer training in occupational health and safety for health science graduates, other graduates who may wish to pursue a career in health and safety, and those people who may already be working in the field. The programme covers hazard identification, risk assessment, hazard management (including legislation), occupational diseases, rehabilitation, occupational hygiene, toxicology, and research methods.

ELIGIBILITY
Candidates for the Postgraduate Diploma must either be graduates or hold an appropriate health professional qualification requiring at least three years of full time tertiary study. Admission is always subject to the approval of the Board of the Division of Health Sciences which will require evidence of the candidate’s ability to undertake advanced academic study.

STRUCTURE OF THE PGDipHealSc (Occ Hlth)
The Diploma consists of the two occupational health and safety papers (OCCH 401 and OCCH 402), an approved research methods paper or papers to the value of 30 points, and one other paper at 400 level or higher. This equates to 120 points or the equivalent of one year of full-time study.

STRUCTURE OF THE PGCertHealSc (Occ Hlth)
The Certificate consists of the two occupational health and safety papers (OCCH 401 and OCCH 402).
PAPER DESCRIPTIONS

OCCH 401 Occupational Health (30 points) (first semester)
Introduction to occupational health with an emphasis on the prevention of diseases caused by workplace hazards.

OCCH 402 Occupational Safety (30 points) (second semester)
Introduction to workplace safety with an emphasis on managing health and safety systems and resources.

ASSESSMENT
Assessment for each occupational health and safety paper will consist of:
• Two assignments contributing 60% to the final grade
• One final 3 hour examination contributing 40% to the final grade
Students must achieve a grade of at least 50% in each paper for:
i Internal assessment (a grade of at least 50% across the two assignments) AND
ii External assessment (a grade of at least 50% in the final examination).

PROCEDURE FOR APPLYING TO STUDY OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO

For further information please contact:

Occupational Health Secretary
Department of Preventive and Social Medicine
University of Otago
PO Box 56
Dunedin 9054
Tel: (03) 479 7202
Fax: (03) 479 7298
Email: occupational.health@otago.ac.nz

Closing dates for new or transferring enrolments each year are:
• First semester and full-year papers: 10 December in the year preceding the year of intended study
• Second semester papers: 15 June in the year of study
Closing dates for returning students each year are:
• First semester and full-year papers: 15 January in the year of intended study
• Second semester papers: 15 June in the year of study
(Late enrolments may be accepted but could incur a financial penalty)
SUMMARY OF COURSE SCHEDULE
OCCH 401: OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH (Semester One)

Study weekend in Dunedin (compulsory)
The content covered during the weekend includes:
• Site visits
• Ethical issues
• Occupational health carcinogens
• Respiratory hazards
• Noise management programmes
• Pyschosocial issues

Introduction to occupational health
• Epidemiology of occupational diseases in New Zealand
• National surveillance systems
• Basic principles of workplace inspection
• Occupational health in the New Zealand context

Introduction to the workplace
• Health and safety legislation in New Zealand
• Management structures, industrial relations and the role of unions
• Occupational health services and the role of the occupational health professional

Diseases arising from exposure to physical hazards
• Noise and noise-induced hearing loss
• Thermal environment and lighting
• Ionising and non-ionising radiation (EMFs)

Diseases arising from exposure to chemical hazards I
• Heavy metals (lead, mercury)
• Skin disorders arising from occupational exposure

Diseases arising from exposure to chemical hazards II
• Organic solvents
• Pesticides
• Gases (simple and chemical asphyxiants, irritants)

Occupational respiratory diseases
• Asbestos-related diseases
• Occupational asthma
Diseases arising from exposure to biological hazards
• Bacteria (TB), viruses (HBV), zoonoses (e.g., Leptospirosis)
• Farmers and diseases arising from exposure to biological hazards
• Health care workers and diseases arising from exposure to biological hazards

Disorders arising from psychosocial factors in the workplace
• Stress
• Fatigue
• Shiftwork

Ergonomics and human factors
• Workplace and machinery design and assessment
• Lower back pain
• Occupational upper limb problems

Prevention of occupational disorders

Health promotion at work
**SUMMARY OF COURSE SCHEDULE**

**OCCH 402: OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY (Semester Two)**

**Study weekend in Dunedin (compulsory)**
The content covered during the weekend includes:
- Site visits and practicums
- Principles of occupational hygiene
- Work exposure standards
- Overview of health and safety legislation in New Zealand
- Employee participation

**Health and safety systems in New Zealand**
- Health and safety legislation
- Statutory responsibilities
- Codes of practice
- Advising on the statutory responsibilities of employers and employees

**Occupational hygiene**
- Control philosophy: hierarchy of controls
- The role of the Occupational Hygienist

**Occupational toxicology (1)**
- Introduction to toxicology: concepts and aims
- Modes of absorption
- Toxicokinetics
- Practical application of work exposure standards

**Occupational toxicology (2)**
- Toxicity testing
- Carcinogens: carcinogenicity and mutagenicity
- Biological monitoring

**The role of EPA, RMA and application of ERMA**

**Communicating health and safety messages**
- Developing the best communication for workplaces
- Effective leadership in health and safety
- Report writing

**Hazardous exposures (1)**
- Outdoor air pollution
- Oxides of nitrogen
- Sulphur dioxide
Hazardous exposures (2)
• Indoor air pollution
• Air quality
• Moulds

Incident management
• Accident / incident prevention
• Theories of accident causation
• Incident investigation
• Management of accidents / incidents at work

Emergency preparedness
• Emergency management from an occupational health and safety perspective
• Emergency preparedness for the health and safety professional
• Application of emergency management theories to operational plans

Audit and quality control in health and safety
• Health and safety auditing in workplaces
• The role of health and safety auditing for the health and safety professional
• Linking the value of the health and safety audit to quality improvement opportunities

Please note that both papers include the following components:

1. A compulsory study weekend in Dunedin at the beginning of the semester.
2. Two assignments (comprising 60% of the final mark).
3. One 3 hour final exam (comprising 40% of the final mark).
4. Three ‘Connect’ sessions (these are similar to Skype sessions).
RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS

Recommended text:

This is available to students as an ‘on line’ resource through the University of Otago Library.

RESEARCH METHODS PAPER

Distance Learning Paper:
INDH 704: Research Methods in Occupational Health (30 points)
(second semester, alternate years, available in odd numbered years)

Contact: Department of Preventive and Social Medicine (see page 3 for contact details)

RECOMMENDED OPTIONAL PAPERS (30 points needed)

Distance Learning Papers:
REHB 706: Work Rehabilitation (30 points) (second semester)

Contact: Programme Administrator, Rehabilitation Teaching and Research Unit,
University of Otago, Wellington
Tel: 04 385 5591
Email: rtru@otago.ac.nz

HAZA 401: Management of Chemical Hazards (20 points) (first semester)

HAZA 404: Environmental Risk Assessment and Management (20 points)
(second semester)

HAZA 405: Basic Toxicology (20 points) (each semester)

HAZA 406: Risk Management Law 1 (20 points) (first semester)

HAZA 408: Radiation Hazards (20 points) (second semester)

HAZA 409: New Organisms: Risk Assessment and Management (20 points)
(each semester)

For more information about HAZA papers please contact:
Dr Michelle McConnell, Course Director, Hazards Assessment and Management
Tel: 64 3 479 5729
Fax: 64 3 479 8540
Email: michelle.mcconnell@otago.ac.nz
Web: osms.otago.ac.nz/index.php/component/content/article/61-hazard-assessment-and-management

Please note that the availability of these papers is subject to change.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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