



## REGISTERED ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST REQUIREMENTS

California Health and Safety Code, Section 106635. The requirements for registration of environmental health specialists shall be a **minimum of a bachelor's degree** from a department approved educational institution or an educational institution of collegiate grade listed in the directory of accredited institutions of postsecondary education compiled by the American Council on Education, with coursework prescribed as follows:

***NOTE: All online courses must be approved by this department before enrollment. Virtual or simulated online laboratory sessions will not meet the requirements for the REHS profession.***

| COURSEWORK REQUIREMENTS   | EXPERIENCE       | TRAINING         |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| <p><b><u>Option I:</u></b> 30 semester or 45 quarter basic science units including each of the following:<br/>           General Chemistry Lecture and Laboratory<br/>           General Physics Lecture and Laboratory <b>or</b><br/>           Organic Chemistry Lecture and Laboratory<br/>           General Microbiology Lecture and Laboratory<br/>           General Biological Science Lecture and Laboratory<br/>           Calculus or College (3rd Year) Algebra</p> | <b>18 months</b> | <b>600 hours</b> |
| <b>OR</b>   |                  |                  |
| <p><b><u>Option II:</u></b> 45 semester or 68 quarter basic science units including the following*:<br/>           General Chemistry *<br/>           Organic Chemistry *<br/>           General Physics *<br/>           General Microbiology *<br/>           General Biological Science *<br/>           Calculus or College (3<sup>rd</sup> Year) Algebra</p>   | <b>12 months</b> | <b>450 hours</b> |

***\* Three of the required courses shall include a laboratory – virtual or online laboratory sessions do not meet the requirements for the REHS profession.***

**EHS Registration Program**  
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OR

**Option III: 30 semester or 45 quarter basic science units including each of the following: 9 months 300 hours**

General Chemistry Lecture and Laboratory  
General Physics Lecture and Laboratory **or**  
Organic Chemistry Lecture and Laboratory  
General Microbiology Lecture and  
Laboratory  
General Biological Science Lecture and  
Laboratory  
Calculus or College (3<sup>rd</sup> Year) Algebra

**Plus**

Three semester or four quarter unit courses  
in each of the following:

Epidemiology  
Statistics  
Public Administration or  
Environmental Health Administration

**And**

10 semester or 15 quarter units in  
environmental health science including one  
or more of the following:

water quality, waste management,  
food and consumer protection,  
housing and institution sanitation,  
vector control, recreational health, air  
quality, milk and dairy products,  
occupational health, electromagnetic  
radiation, noise control, toxicology,  
soil science, or land use  
development.

OR

**Option IV: 45 semester or 68 quarter basic science units including the following: 6 months 200 hours**

General Chemistry \*  
Organic Chemistry \*  
General Physics \*  
General Microbiology \*  
General Biological Science \*  
Calculus or College Algebra

***\* Three of these required science courses shall include a laboratory – virtual or online laboratory sessions do not meet the requirements for the REHS profession.***

**Plus**

Three semester or four quarter unit courses in each of the following:

- Epidemiology
- Statistics
- Public Administration or
- Environmental Health Administration

**And**

10 semester or 15 quarter units in environmental health science including one or more of the following:

- water quality, waste management,
- food and consumer protection,
- housing and institution sanitation,
- vector control, recreational health, air quality, milk and dairy products,
- occupational health, electromagnetic radiation, noise control, toxicology,
- soil science, or land use development.

**OR**

**Option V:**

**Possess a minimum of a bachelor's degree in environmental health from an institution approved by the committee which includes: One year of lecture and laboratory coursework in each of the following:**

- General Chemistry
- General Physics
- General Biological Science

**And**

One semester course in each of the following:

- Calculus or College (3<sup>rd</sup> Year) Algebra
- Organic Chemistry
- General Microbiology with Laboratory
- Public Administration or
- Environmental Health Administration
- Epidemiology
- Statistics Field Orientation Course in
- Environmental Health

**And**

Fifteen semester units of environmental health science courses selected from the following:

**None  
Required**

**None  
Required**

water quality, waste management, food and consumer protection, housing and institution sanitation, vector control, recreational health, air quality, milk and dairy products, occupational health, electromagnetic radiation, noise control, toxicology, soil science, or land use development.

All basic science coursework including mathematics shall be equal to that acceptable in an approved environmental health degree program.\*

*\*NOTE: A basic science is a course that provides the student an understanding of the fundamental principles of the subject. Science courses must normally be acceptable to a science degree. **Courses designed only liberal arts, general education, or non-science degrees are not acceptable.** Remedial mathematics and science courses are not acceptable as meeting the basic science requirements. Credit will not be allowed for more than one course with essentially the same content. The general sciences must be integrative courses that include those principles essential to the overall discipline. The remaining basic science courses may be limited to one or more divisions within the discipline and may be more descriptive in their approach.*