

# How to Become a Registered Environmental Health Specialist

**Registration as an Environmental Health Specialist (REHS) requires completion of three steps:**

1. **Education** - minimum; a Bachelor’s degree from a four year college including 30 semester units of basic science coursework (courses must be for “science” or “biology” majors)
2. **Training and Experience** - up to 18 months experience depending on education and training typically at a local county environmental health department
3. **Comprehensive Exam** - held three times a year in Sacramento and Los Angeles area.

Qualified college graduates must apply to the California Department of Public Health **AND** have their transcripts evaluated by CPS HR Consulting **before** applying for a trainee position. State and county environmental health agencies and private industry hire REHSs. You can find employment opportunities at the following websites [CEHA Employment Opportunities Webpage \(www.ceha.org/jobs.html\)](http://www.ceha.org/jobs.html), [CCDEH Job Postings Webpage \(www.ccdeh.com/jobs\)](http://www.ccdeh.com/jobs), and [Cal CUPA Career Opportunities Webpage \(https://calcupa.org/jobs/index.html\)](https://calcupa.org/jobs/index.html).

Four state universities currently offer Bachelor’s and/or Master’s degrees in Environmental Health: California State University (CSU) at Fresno, CSU Northridge, CSU San Bernardino, and San Diego State University.

Applicants will need their domestic college transcripts evaluated by [CPS HR Consulting \(https://ehspay.cpshr.us\)](https://ehspay.cpshr.us) by applying online and sending them official, sealed transcripts. The process generally takes 4 to 6 weeks. CPS HR Consulting will accept college transcripts in electronic form directly from the college or university using the CPS email address: [ehsmailbox@cpshr.us](mailto:ehsmailbox@cpshr.us).

Foreign students will need a “course by course” evaluation of their college transcripts from a credential evaluation service to submit with the application to CDPH -REHS a list of credential evaluation services is available at the REHS website.

Once you’ve had your transcripts evaluated, CDPH will issue a *Letter of Eligibility*. This letter will allow you to apply for any open position as an EHS Trainee and will outline the experience and training you need to qualify for the REHS examination.

Section Certified Under	Total Experience Time	Training Hours for First Three Basic Elements	Training Hours for Second Three Secondary Elements	Total Training Hours
Section 106635 I	18 Months	120 Each = 360 Total	80 Each = 240 Total	600
Section 106635 II	12 Months	90 Each = 270 Total	60 Each = 180 Total	450
Section 106635 III	9 Months	60 Each = 180 Total	40 Each = 120 Total	300
Section 106635 IV	6 Months	40 Each = 120 Total	27 Each = 81 Total	200

Visit the [REHS Program Website \(www.cdph.ca.gov/REHS\)](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/REHS) for more information on the profession. If you have other questions, call the Program at (916) 449-5662 or email at [REHSProg@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:REHSProg@cdph.ca.gov).