Masters of Science in Environmental Health (MSEH)  
Degree Program Guidance  
Matriculation Process

1. Once students are admitted and are assigned a Banner ID# and student e-mail address, they may then enroll in appropriate coursework based on the course catalog and/or guidance from their assigned academic (curriculum) advisor, based on whether they have chosen the Research Option or Applied Option.

2. It is very important to recognize that it is the primary responsibility of the student to make sure that they meet the requirements of the ECU Graduate School and MSEH Program to complete all required coursework and research requirements for completion of a Thesis or Professional Paper (with the guidance of their academic advisor, Thesis/Professional Paper Committee members and Chair and MSEH Graduate Director).

3. MSEH students must complete a minimum total of 35 semester hours (s.h.) of course credit in order to graduate. 26 of these hours are required and 9 are elective (http://catalog.ecu.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=6&poid=1300&returnto=380). MSEH faculty recommend that EHST 6210: Topics in Environmental Health and Safety be taken three times for one credit hour each – the first time to identify a Thesis/Professional Paper topic, Committee and Committee Chair; the second time to complete a comprehensive literature review of the topic; and the third time to complete a Committee-approved Thesis/Professional Paper proposal (study objectives and methods). This would then adjust the available elective hours up to 12, allowing the student more flexibility in their course choices.

4. Alternative electives to those listed in the catalog may be approved by the student’s Academic Advisor, Committee, and other MSEH faculty based upon the student’s interests and career goals. All elective courses should be related and applicable to the field of environmental health.

5. Thesis/Professional Paper Committees must consist of two MSEH faculty members and one appropriate member external to the MSEH Program (inside or outside the University).

6. ECU Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval must be sought and obtained for any Thesis/Professional Paper topic that includes human or animal subjects prior to beginning the study. Expedited IRB approval may be obtained relatively quickly if necessary.

7. Remaining credit hours required for graduation may be chosen from the catalog elective course list or electives may be proposed by the student (with an appropriate explanation).

8. All students must complete an open-source Comprehensive Exam, typically during the last year of coursework. The structure of the Comprehensive Exam is six questions covering many, although not all, of the “programmatic” or “competency” areas of environmental health, including, but not limited to; epidemiology, toxicology, occupational health/industrial hygiene, program management and law, vector control, waste management, drinking water/recreational water/wastewater management, food protection and sanitation, etc. Up to six hours is provided to complete this exam (about one hour per question) and is usually completed during one day (three hours in the morning and three in the afternoon with a one hour lunch break). While conciseness is an important writing skill, acceptable answers covering all of the parts of one question are rarely less than two pages long.

9. All students should complete and orally defend a Thesis or Professional Paper (either in person or via teleconferencing), which must be approved by their Committee Chair, Committee members and Department Chair. Theses are also reviewed by the ECU Graduate School.

10. MSEH students may progress through the Program as quickly or slowly as they prefer, although faculty recommend that students take at least one course during spring and fall semesters to avoid the potential of students having to apply for readmission. Following six years, course credits earned begin to expire (expired required courses may need to be retaken). More information can be found here: http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/acadprograms/upload/grcat1112.pdf (page 39).