



**Cost:** Fees are \$7110 USD for the 2009/2010 program if the participant enrolls for all three courses at the beginning. Information on fees for separate courses as well as discount options up to 20% is available on the course website.

**Dates:** The 2009/2010 program will start on 31<sup>st</sup>. August 2009. The start and end dates for the courses are:

Course I: Foundations of Occupational Health Practice	31. Aug 2009 - 8. Nov 2009
Course II: Clinical Occupational Medicine and Medical Surveillance	18. Jan 2010 - 14. Mar 2010
Course III: Management in Occupational Health Practice	5. Apr 2010 - 30. May 2010

The deadline for applications for each of the courses is six weeks prior to the start date. For Course I *Foundations of Occupational Health Practice*, the deadline is 15. July 2009.

**Visit the official course website at <http://www.uic.edu/sph/glakes/ce/IntPrgOHP.html>**

For questions, sponsorship or help please contact:

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## International Program in Occupational Health Practice

31. August 2009 - 30. May 2010

An internet-based, 100% instructor-led distance-learning program for professionals in occupational health services by the University of Illinois at Chicago USA



A World Health Organization  
Collaborating Centre in Occupational Health

## Who will profit from this course?

The *International Program in Occupational Health Practice* is specifically designed for health care providers such as physicians and nurses who provide occupational health services to employees in companies or governments around the world. This program also benefits health care professionals who provide occupational health services in other settings such as occupational health clinics, unions, or governmental agencies. Professionals who are engaged in management of occupational health services, such as technicians, engineers and managers, occupational hygienists, occupational safety professionals, and health technicians can join the program but need to be aware of its health focus. The program provides professional training for an international group of participants. It does not focus on the situation in a particular country.

The program builds on medical skills and specifically aims at improving leadership competencies for effective occupational health programs within a business environment. Often, management skills, system thinking, risk management, reporting skills, teamwork and contribution to management processes such as certifications or accident investigations are required in addition to medical skills. This program specifically addresses these company-level managerial skills and competencies so that health professionals will effectively contribute to the protection of employees and the goals of companies by preventing occupational injuries and diseases and increasing good health and human capacity.

This program is offered by the School of Public Health of the University of Illinois at Chicago. Its *Great Lakes Centers for Occupational and Environmental Safety and Health* is a Collaborating Centre in Occupational Health of the World Health Organization (WHO).

## What will be taught and how?

The program is completely online, instructor-led and asynchronous. No visits on campus or out-of-country travels are required. The program consists of three courses. These courses may be taken individually. However, the courses follow and build on each other. We strongly recommend taking the Foundation course first. The course modules will provide detailed reading assignments, point to resources on the internet, and give practical assignments to strengthen competencies and skills. Practical exercises with instructor feedback, group discussions on the course website, wikis and blogs for the exchange of experiences and optional live chats will provide a creative environment for interactive and challenging learning.

Extensive resource pages with links to documents, standards, guidelines, professional organizations and legislation will be part of the professional course platform.

**The Foundation Course in Occupational Health Practice** (10 weeks) will teach concepts, skills and competencies for preventive occupational health services in a company environment:

- Module 1: Internet resources for occupational health
- Module 2: Hazards identification, risk assessment and principles risk control
- Module 3: Exposures, effects and control of chemical, biological, physical exposures
- Module 4: Toxicology: pathways and metabolism, threshold limit values and MSDS
- Module 5: Medical occupational history, concept of risk factors and causes
- Module 6: Ergonomic workplace design, illumination, temperature, workload
- Module 7: Psychosocial factors and work organization
- Module 8: Injury and accident investigations and preventive programs

**The Advanced Course: Clinical Occupational Medicine and Medical Surveillance** (8 weeks) will focus on medical issues such as diseases, diagnostic criteria and prevention:

- Module 1: Occupational diseases: causes, diagnosis and treatment options
- Module 2: Occupational medical surveillance and personnel & workplace selection
- Module 3: Travel medicine: resources, guidelines, vaccinations
- Module 4: International codes of conduct and standards of professional ethics

**The Advanced Course: Management in Occupational Health Practice** (8 weeks) will teach managerial skills and competencies of the occupational health professional:

- Module 1: Management of occupational health services: prevention and promotion programs, certification processes (OHSAS 18001, future ISO 26000)
- Module 2: Epidemiology & biostatistics for decision making
- Module 3: Outbreak investigation: data collection & analysis, food and water safety
- Module 4: Emergency preparedness: requirements, treatment guidelines
- Module 5: Industrial hygiene programs: exposure evaluation and control
- Module 6: Personal protective equipment (PPE): selection and use

**Course faculty:** The faculty has been selected for their experience in practical occupational health and their excellence in teaching. Most of the faculty has worked and taught abroad, often in developing countries and in a variety of industrial settings. Many of them are active consultants and auditors for occupational health programs. An international advisory board will oversee the quality of this program.

**Assessment and evaluation:** The assessment will use a portfolio technique using a variety of tools such as contributions in online discussions, postings on the website, written assignments, filled-out checklists, reports, short online tests, and completion of practical exercises. A final project paper is not required for the completion of this program. If a participant wants to work on a practical project under faculty supervision, he/she will receive individual coaching at an additional fee. Please visit the course website for more details!

**Certification:** Participants will receive a continuing education certificate for each course. After successful completion of all three courses, participants will receive a continuing education certificate for the "*International Program on Occupational Health Practice*" from the Great Lakes Centers at the School of Public Health, University of Illinois at Chicago. Participants who submit an accepted project paper will get the addition of "*Passed with Distinction*" on his/her final certificate.

**Books:** We consider books an essential part of teaching, learning and professional work. Participants are therefore required to purchase books for each of the three courses. We selected books as teaching material but also as references for an institutional library. Participants can opt to have the course secretariat purchase and send all course books to them directly. More information for this support can be found on the course website.

## How can I participate?

**Technical requirements:** The course is completely online and no visits on campus are required. The course uses a web-based content and teaching platform. Participants need to access the internet weekly. The internet is used intensively to find information for solving practical problems. Efforts will be made to provide course material and assignments in a suitable way for slower connections. For practical exercises, participants have to submit checklists and photos of workplaces with permission from their supervisor, e.g. from loading/unloading operations, gardening, kitchen work, or workshops. Participants need to be able to scan, email, take and send digital photos.

**Required time:** The average workload will be about 15 hours per week. It might be necessary for fully employed participants to request permission to do course work during working hours. With practical exercises, the total amount of time required for taking the entire program is approximately 390 hours. This is approximately equivalent to a residential, three-month course.

**Languages:** Teaching, all course assignments and communications, is conducted in English. However, in addition to English, participants can return completed assignments and communicate with faculty in French, Spanish, German and Italian (limited) for most of the modules.

**Eligibility of participants:** This program is a post-graduate level program ending with a certificate. Participants are eligible when they possess a university degree.

**Scholarships:** The University of Illinois at Chicago will make every effort to generate scholarships for participants. These will be available for persons from developing countries. To check the status of available scholarships please visit our course website.

**Enrolment:** Enrolment will open April 2009 via the official course website at <http://www.uic.edu/sph/glakes/ce/IntPrgOHP.html>. The application process is entirely online. A class size of 15 is required to offer each class, and class size is limited to 25 participants. Early registration is recommended. Payment is conducted online with a credit card at time of enrolment.