



# LEHS

## Licensed Environmental Health Specialist

PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

### WHAT IS A LEHS?

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A trained individual that is licensed by the Board of Environmental Health Specialists.

In practice this means to apply academic principles, methods and procedures of the environmental, physical, biological, and health sciences with delegated federal, state and local health and environmental laws and regulations to help control and improve public health aspects of the environment.

### WHAT ARE THE EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS?

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Graduation from an accredited college or university with a baccalaureate degree in the biological, chemical, physical or environmental sciences including:

1. A minimum of 30 semester credits or the equivalent quarter credits of biological, chemical, physical and environmental sciences acceptable to the Board. This includes at least one laboratory course in **two** of the following fields: biology, chemistry, physics, geographic information systems and soil science;
2. A course in mathematics; and
3. A minimum of 12-24 months of experience (depending upon the overall number of approved credits) in an approved environmental health specialist-in-training program; or

Graduation from an accredited college or university with a master's degree in public or environmental health science including:

1. Items 1 and 2 above; and
2. Completed an internship.

### HOW DO I APPLY?

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1. Complete and submit an application to the Board (the application is available on the Board's website at [health.maryland.gov/behs](http://health.maryland.gov/behs) Click on the Applications Tab on the left, and then under Forms/Applications on the right tab, click on the **Certificate of Eligibility** application;
2. Submit an official transcript from an accredited college or university, either mailed in a sealed envelope to: Board of Environmental Health Specialists

4201 Patterson Avenue  
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

or electronically directly from the college or university to: [Donna.Zickefoose@maryland.gov](mailto:Donna.Zickefoose@maryland.gov); and

3. Pay the required fee (currently \$100) to the "Board of Environmental Health Specialists"

Please note that the transcript must contain the type of degree (i.e., B.A. or B.S) and the date conferred.

## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

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If your application is approved by the Board, you will be issued a **Certificate of Eligibility** which is required to be hired as an Environmental Health Specialist (EHS). This certificate is good for one year and can be renewed by completing a request for renewal and paying the required renewal fee.

Once hired, you notify the Board of your hiring and will then be issued an Environmental Health Specialist **In-training Certificate**. This certificate is good for three years from the date of hire (unless an approved extension is granted by the Board) and is designed to enable a new hire under the guidance of a sponsor, to receive the requisite training and experience necessary to sit for the national licensing exam offered by the **National Environmental Health Association (NEHA)**. As noted under the educational requirements above, all EHS's In-training are required to complete a minimum of 12 months, and up to 24 months of relevant EHS training experience, to qualify and sit for the exam. The sponsor will sign off and you will submit to the Board, the EHS In-training certificate confirming that you have met these requirements. Upon notification, the Board will then send you the approval letter and instructions on how to sit for the NEHA exam.

## BECOMING A LEHS

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Once you pass the NEHA exam, NEHA will notify the Board of the exam results and passing grade. The Board will notify you of the results along with the steps needed to receive your new license as a LEHS.

The initial license is valid for up to 2 years and can be renewed for an additional 2-year term at the designated renewal periods if the licensee:

1. Remains entitled to be licensed;
2. Pays to the Board the renewal fee (currently \$200);
3. Submits to the Board within the designated time frame, a renewal application on a form that the Board requires; and
4. Submits to the Board proof that during the previous 2-year period, that you have acquired a minimum of 20 hours of approved training in environmental health or other equivalent education as approved by the Board.

## THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF AN LEHS

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As a LEHS professional, you are on the front lines and play a key role in protecting the public health and safety of the citizens of your community (and by extension all of Maryland) and helping to maintain a safe and sustainable environment by administering and applying a variety of delegated federal, state and local laws and regulations. Areas from food safety and security, maintaining safe public and groundwater supplies, recreational oversight of public pools and spas, providing an integral part in the safe development of properties served by individual wells and on-site sewage disposal systems are some of the many key areas of our profession.

If you have further questions or need any additional information, feel free to contact the Board at (410) 764-3512.

