

ESN

EKU Safety Newsletter

News of the people and events associated with EKU's safety degree programs

ISSUE 2 | SPRING 2023

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EKU

**DEPARTMENT OF
SAFETY AND SECURITY**



Student Internship Spotlight

Brooke
Reis



Preferred Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

Hometown: Florence, KY

Program/Major/Concentration: Occupational Safety

Expected Graduation Date: December 2023

Tell us about your internship:

My internship is located in New Augusta, Mississippi at Georgia Pacific's Leaf River Cellulose Mill. I will be working with the safety department consisting of safety specialists, process safety managers, and safety engineers. Georgia Pacific is one of the lead manufacturers of pulp and paper, which my facility focuses on. Georgia Pacific Cellulose is committed to responsible supply practices, renewable energy, and social responsibility.

What led you to pursue a safety degree at ECU?

I knew I wanted to work with others in an environment where I could excel personally, while making a difference. Pursuing a safety degree opens up doors for continual improvement, constant learning, connections, job opportunities, and passion for the safety profession itself. ECU's safety degree has allowed me to challenge myself not only academically but also professionally.

Do you have a favorite class at ECU?

Just one of my favorite classes at ECU has been Environmental Management and Law, as it pertains to air and water quality, environmental legislation, and hazardous materials. This specific course is interesting and applicable to many industries or fields of work. Taking this course helped me tremendously and piqued my interest while managing safety at a ready-mix concrete plant.

What are your plans after graduation?

My plans are to enter into a safety supervisory position, eventually take my CSP, and continually learn and grow as an individual. I would like to further my understanding of safety and health wherever I go after graduation, while also creating positive connections or relationships with the individuals I will be working with.

Graduate Student Spotlight

Elaheh Siahkouhi



Preferred Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

Hometown: Tabriz, Iran

Graduate Program: Safety, Security & Emergency Management

Why did you decide to pursue a graduate degree at ECU?

I wanted to advance in my career and receive the education and knowledge to reach my goals. Most graduate degrees at ECU including SSEM are flexible and whether working full time or part time, it was possible to continue at your own pace, stay on schedule and choose between in person or online class options. SSEM's coursework covers the latest developments in the field, giving cutting edge knowledge and skills to students.

What do you like most about ECU?

I had an amazing time at ECU and learned so much about myself as a student and as a future professional and because of this, I would recommend Eastern Kentucky University to anyone interested in higher education. I met wonderful people here and made lifelong friendships. Being a graduate assistant with our department has given me the opportunity to get to know staff and faculty on a personal as well as professional level which in turn has helped me feel like a part of the ECU family.

Tell us about your favorite class in the SSEM program:

SSE 833 Legislation & Regulatory Comp. was one of the classes I took during my first semester in the program. Dr. Schneid taught us about all federal/state regulations and legislation such as OSHA, EPA, etc., which mandate compliance with OSH/EHS that helped me understand better and learn different aspects of this field. I'm confident the things I learned in this course will help me to succeed in the safety field.

Favorite professor or staff member?

My favorite professor is Dr. Spurlock. He is our faculty advisor with the ASSP student section of ECU which I am involved with. He is always patient and cares about students, school could be stressful sometimes and it is always great to reach out and receive help!



TOGETHER

we can make a difference for Eastern's students.

We are reaching out to you to request your help with an immediate need in the Occupational Safety (OSH) program.

EKU OSH faculty have identified the need to establish a new fund to create a foundation of support for their students.

Greatest needs funds across campus provide program-specific support to students, including professional development opportunities, supplies and training materials, and services that enhance the classroom experience.

**Make a
Gift**

Gift Quick QR



Our first step is to raise the \$1,000 required to start a charitable non-endowed fund at EKU.

Your gift will help us reach this goal so that we can provide exclusive support for OSH students.

Employer Spotlight

An ECU Safety
favorite for
internship &
employment
opportunities



WestRock - YOU KNOW US

All the boxes: Amazon, Chick-fil-a, Coca-Cola, Starbucks just to name a few! These products you see and use every day (including 50% of pizza boxes manufactured in the US).

From a global organization with over 58K team members and 300+ facilities, from locations spanning North America, South America, Europe, Asia and Australia.

AND: We have an awesome sustainability story!
We're one of the largest recyclers in the US!



**WestRock Safety
Rotational Program 2023**
Apply here until July 15



Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Ron Dotson Professor

School of Safety, Security &
Emergency Management



What was your highest degree earned?

Ed.D. in Educational Leadership & Policy
Analysis

How long have you been at EKU?

16 years

What's the favorite class that you teach?

Construction Safety OSH 379....or OSH
262 General Industry Safety. (On
campus versions.) In the campus
courses, we can engage students with
more hands-on projects and dive into the
subjects that give more meaning to
application.

Favorite part of your job?

Working with students; 100%

What brought you to EKU?

I was seeking employment at an
organization that had a higher level of
talent at the management level. I had
begun implementing a safety management
system of my own design and needed more
resources and executive support to take
the system to the next level.

Advice for future/current students?

Take the extra time for completing an
internship and use the application of
concepts in the work environment to
broaden your understanding of learned
materials in the classroom.

DEPARTMENT OF
SAFETY AND SECURITY

EKU Advantage and Corporate Educational Partnerships

TIME TO

break it down

Benefits of the EKU Advantage include:

MORE HOURS, LESS MONEY, FINISH FASTER

EKU will partially match your company's tuition benefit with a flat-rate tuition discount for your employees. All undergraduate and graduate students will receive free textbooks as part of the EKU Booksmart program.

Plus, get a 20% discount on EKU's Workforce Development courses.

LOCKED-IN TUITION

Students are guaranteed a fixed tuition rate from initial enrollment for up to two consecutive years of enrollment.

ENHANCED CUSTOMER SERVICE

Expedited and enhanced customer service assistance to employees to expedite and prioritize the admission processes, class registration, financial aid and scholarship applications. Dedicated academic advisors to provide individual attention to help employees move toward degree completion.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Access for student employees and dignitaries to all EKU facilities and events enjoyed by EKU students.

Investing in Employees

Employers will enhance educational opportunities for its employees and maintain a competitive advantage in employee retention.



**Benton D.
Shirey**

Director,
Corporate
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Partnerships

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corporate.eku.edu



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EKU Safety Students Receive Scholarships from the Kentucky Safety and Health Network

Five SAFE Awards totaling \$19,295 were announced at the 2023 Governor's Safety and Health Conference



Matthew Frazier, Senior OSH major
Eastern Kentucky University

Undergraduate Students

Matthew Frazier, Eastern Kentucky University

Ryan Potts, Murray State University

Brooke Reis, Eastern Kentucky University

Audrey Stafford, Eastern Kentucky University

Graduate Student

Karena O'Bryan, Murray State University

The Kentucky Safety and Health Network, Inc. invests in tomorrow's OSH professionals through the Scholastic Achievement for Education (SAFE) Awards.

SAFE Award scholarships are offered to eligible university students studying occupational safety and health, industrial hygiene, or a related field.



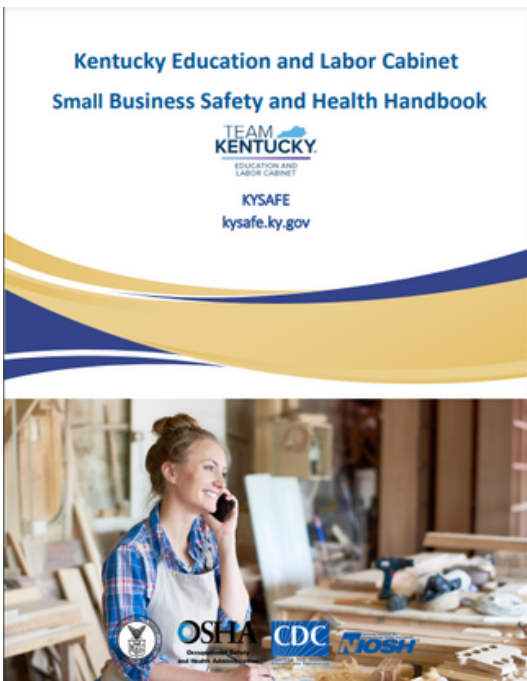
www.kshn.net

KYSAFE

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH

<https://kysafe.ky.gov/>

KYSAFE Releases New OS&H Educational Materials



Small Business Safety and Health Handbook



Chainsaw & Tree Trimming Safety Webinar



Quote Worthy

**Kevin
Hawk**

B.S.
Occupational
Safety

May, 2023

"I just had to take a second and thank you and everyone who put the graduation ceremony together.

I was able to use my degree from ECU to move into a job as the director of safety at my company, with the last few months having been spent training for the transition. I've been able to meet with industry leaders to discuss safety down to the micro level with my input being valued for the level of understanding that I was able to attain at ECU. I've been able to institute real world policies that improve the lives and the safety of my colleagues, I've gotten to travel to places I probably otherwise wouldn't have been able to travel to. It's been amazing, but it felt like something was missing. Like something just wasn't complete.

It wasn't until I walked out of the tunnel at graduation and saw all the friends, families, and faculty did it feel complete. Being an online learner allowed me to complete my degree in my own way, that allowed me to be present with my family, to give 100% to my job, to still be able to live my life while learning, but it also meant missing out on a lot of the traditional college milestones. Walking across that stage really put it into perspective for me, that I did accomplish this huge feat, that it was an accomplishment worth celebrating.

I can't thank you, the advisors, and the entire online safety program team enough for all the help I received over the years.

If you could also pass along how much I appreciated the recognition of the first gen students, it would be greatly appreciated. Being first gen comes with its own set of difficulties, sometimes in the smallest of ways, so to have someone who understands that meant a lot to me.

I also REALLY loved the hardhats that the safety department received. It's going up in my office on Monday.

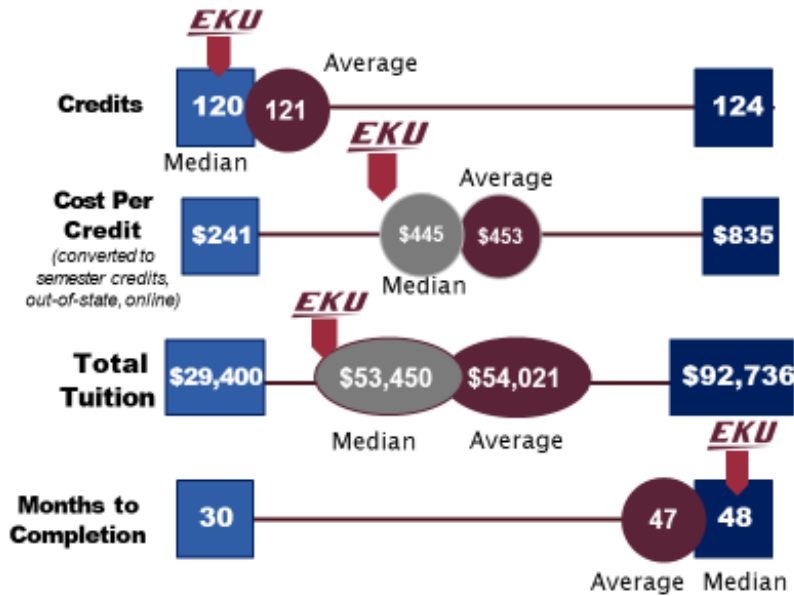
Thank you all again."



EKU OSH & SSEM Programs Shine in Comparison

Competitive Set Research

Competitive set comprised of **15 online Bachelors in Occupational Safety*** programs at both private and public universities.



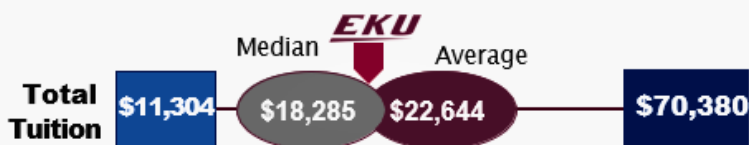

47%
Are nationally ranked by USNWR


27%
Offer competency-based courses

* These 15 combine both 15.0701 and 51.2206 CIP codes

Source: Online Degree Database

Competitive set comprised of **28 online Masters in Emergency Management** programs at both private and public universities.




52%
Are at nationally ranked institutions (USNWR)


36%
Offer competency-based courses

Source: Online Degree Database

Spring Job & Internship Fair Oct. 2, 2022

Recruiting Opportunities

In-person interviews

Virtual interviews

Day-after interviews

By the Numbers

86 employers

30 industries

265 students



Platinum Sponsor
Walsh Group
www.walshgroup.com

Make Plans !

**Fall 2024
Job/Internship Fair
October 4, 2024**



EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

Office of Advising and Career Services

(859) 622-1296
oacs@eku.edu



www.joinhandshake.com/employers



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President Elect: Madeline Ping

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Graduate VP: Elaheh Siahkouhi

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SAFETY, SECURITY & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

GRADUATE DEGREE



Program Overview

The graduate program is designed to meet the needs of today's working professionals by providing students with the flexibility to pursue their master's degree while continuing in their current job. Learn from and interact with industry experienced faculty and professional fire science, safety and security educators, who remain involved in the safety and emergency management field.

The program offers a comprehensive curriculum that increases the student's overall knowledge, develops leadership skills and prepares students to immediately apply what is learned in the real world. It also features three unique concentrations that allow students to focus their education on the specific area of safety, security and emergency management that most interests them.

Concentrations & Certificates

Corporate Security Operations

Emergency Management & Disaster Resilience

Occupational Safety

Supply Chain Safety & Security **NEW!**

Healthcare Safety **NEW!**

Construction Safety **NEW!**

Safety Leadership **NEW!**

* A multidisciplinary track is available if you do not wish to pursue a concentration.



Quick Access to
SSEM Degree

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EKU Safety Newsletter

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EKU[®]



COLLEGE OF JUSTICE, SAFETY & MILITARY SCIENCE

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH

Median Base Salary for full time OSH professional: \$97,000/yr

Source:
BCSP/ASSP 2018 Salary Survey

Top 5 Industries

- Construction
- Manufacturing
- Insurance
- Oil, Gas, and Petrochemical
- Government/ Public Sector

Source:
ASSP Database

High demand and fastest growing profession in the United States

**GREAT EARNING POTENTIAL
HIGH RATE OF EMPLOYMENT
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