

Pathway to Adventure:

Your Guide to Careers in Environmental and Public Health Laboratory Science

There are many career paths to explore in public health laboratory science. At the State Hygienic Laboratory, our scientists work in many different areas. Some test for inherited conditions found in newborn babies and diseases found in people of all ages; others collect and monitor environmental samples from land, water and air. Some scientists test samples and products from manufacturing and industry that are related to research and new analytical procedures. Other careers in the public health laboratory can involve training, emergency preparedness, information technology, communications and finance. Combined, we form a network of professionals committed to protecting the environment and promoting the health of Iowans.

Every career starts with a first step. Follow this path and explore some of the programs the State Hygienic Laboratory offers to students and educators of all ages.



K-12 Interactive Classes



26 Student Mentorship

The State Hygienic Laboratory has mentored 26 students in their science projects since the Student Mentorship Program's inception.



"Having an internship is one of the most important experiences a student can have."




Fellowships

EID Fellows represent colleges in 12 states.




Internships/ Graduate Practicums



Externships

"I will incorporate lessons learned at the lab into my teaching, emphasizing real-world connections to what students learn."



Partnerships

ARE YOU A FUTURE SCIENTIST?



State Hygienic Laboratory

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations! You've reached the end of the path and the beginning of your career.



K-12 Interactive Classes

Build an aquifer you can eat! Meet Gerty the Germ, play games to learn about careers in laboratory science and much more. These courses are a great resource for teachers and students, and are available free on the State Hygienic Laboratory website (shl.uiowa.edu).

Student Mentorships

Where can junior high and high school students and science teachers find the support they need to do an environmental or public health science project? It happens at the State Hygienic Laboratory!

Junior high and high school students may apply to the State Hygienic Laboratory for research assistance with a science project involving environmental or public health. Scientists from the Lab may provide guidance, laboratory testing, data organization and other needed help to complete the project.

Internships/Graduate Practicums

Take your higher education to the next level. Utilize the knowledge you learned in college by applying it on the job as a State Hygienic Laboratory Intern. Students work alongside laboratory scientists and other professionals to gain experience in their fields of study. Such real world experience provides a real career advantage.

Fellowships

The State Hygienic Laboratory serves as a host for bachelor's, master's and doctoral level scientists for paid environmental, emerging infectious disease and management/leadership fellowships through collaborations with partners such as the Association of Public Health Laboratories, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Environmental Protection Agency and American Society for Microbiology. These fellowships train and prepare scientists for careers in public health laboratories, and support environmental and public health laboratory science initiatives.

Real World Externships

The State Hygienic Laboratory links the environmental and public health laboratory to the classroom by serving as a training ground for Iowa science teachers. This is made possible through a collaboration with the Iowa Math and Science Education Partnership Real World Externship Program.

Partnerships

Partnerships extend educational opportunities far beyond our facilities in Coralville, Ankeny and Lakeside Lab in northwestern Iowa. Through our Ambassador Program, we team with educators, researchers and young professionals in leadership roles to advance awareness of laboratory science and careers in the public health lab. These and many other partnerships help promote the vitally important work of the Hygienic Laboratory that protects the health and environment for all Iowans.



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