OSH Coordinator’s Message

The program at EKU is about leadership! The concept of safety was born from the virtue of justice over 4000 years ago. The Samarians realized that a leader had a duty to provide for the safety of their people. The first building code housed in “Hammurabi’s Code” is evidence that safety is a principle of leadership. Leaders must have legitimate concern for the well-being of those they influence. This foundational belief is what makes the EKU Occupational Safety and Health program truly unique. We recruit talent, develop your skills, and help you become safety leaders!

While many schools place their program in a business school or in an engineering school. EKU placed it in the College of Justice and Safety. Leadership is the key for successful workplace safety. Our graduates understand regulations and best management practices, but truly specialize in the leadership and management skills that create a positive safety culture.

Our goal is to help you to develop your character or talent around your leadership traits and develop the many skills that safety leaders need for success. You will explore leadership, management strategies, state and federal regulations, learn about consensus standards, learn how to identify and analyze hazards, abate the hazards, perform work station design and assessment duties, manage employee injuries, develop a comprehensive management system, train employees, and develop your investigational skills for causal analysis and pro-active auditing.

Our family of faculty is dedicated to producing a quality program that also meets the needs of our most important customer, you the student. We are committed to passing on our skills and experiences to you and helping you start or advance a successful career. We hope that learning different views and experiences from a diverse faculty experience will enhance your learning experience.

You can take pride in the EKU program! It will challenge you to become a more self-sufficient and professional safety leader. The many companies that recruit our graduates demand it! Your occupational safety and health degree from EKU is well respected and advertises leadership, professionalism, and commitment to the organizations that realize the importance of a positive safety culture.

When you graduate from EKU you become part of a family that places high importance on hard work and dedication. You will have proven yourself as a competent safety leader that can take up a tough challenge and overcome it. Your degree says that about you and separates EKU from the rest.

Educational maturity is a concept that separates undergraduate level students from the graduate levels. As a person progresses in educational level the real difference is that they become more self-reliant and independent. Master’s level students are expected to be more professional in performing self-motivated research and taking seemingly routine assignments to the next level. Doctoral students become even more self-reliant and perform original research of their own design. Your role here at EKU is to challenge yourself to become educationally mature.
This places a demand on you! You must improvise, adapt, and overcome challenges. You have a duty to put forth your best effort, manage your time, meet deadlines, work with your instructors, and participate with your classmates. You will get out of your education, what you put into it. This is the team approach we take at EKU.

While our job as a program; the student, faculty, facilitators, staff, and support personnel, is a challenging one, it is also a rewarding one in that we will impact the safety of the world’s human resource.

Enjoy your experience!

No matter when you undertake the challenge to complete your degree, sacrifices are made. Life challenges will interrupt and prove to be a barrier to your education. But challenges must be overcome. Education is a long term challenge. This might be the most important thing that your degree says about you; commitment.

Here is a quick list of common behaviors that the best online perform, based upon my own observations in online education since 2007. These behaviors are:

1. Daily participation in the online course
2. Several participation posts in the discussion boards
3. Early work or planning for weekly assignment completion
4. Sharing of experiences and views in an open and professional manner
5. Self-research and evidence presented from outside sources in assignments and course participation.

You should begin checking your student email account daily for classmate and instructor communications. Instructors will frequently send out feedback and additional materials. It is important that you read any communications. Furthermore, you should complete the discussion board participation early in the week as the DB will often help prepare you for the assignments. Any questions about assignment completion should be addressed in the virtual office early in the week rather than waiting until the end of the weekend to attempt to contact an instructor.

The discussion board participation is a very effective learning environment if everyone in the group provides their experiences, produces evidence in the form of referenced sources and outside information, and if you read and make note of all the responses. At the end of the DB postings, you truly have a comprehensive answer and discussion around relevant topics.

The sooner you begin thinking about or working on weekly assignments, the better your performance will be. Waiting until the last minute to complete assignments results in lower grades and diminishes your enjoyment of the class.

Your participation in the course is critical to your success. Participation and communications should stay positive and not diminish the experiences of other or of the learning environment.
Educational maturity has already been mentioned. You should challenge yourself to learn more about topics and lessons and include outside sources and information as much as possible. A good example is not just making a point of opinion, but providing specific cases, studies, stats, or other relevant material in your works and DB posts. If you share personal videos or pictures, or pictures and videos with identifying information of a company or person, these will not be or are not to be copied or shared outside of the class. But this is not a guarantee of its privacy.

I encourage each of you to read the Checklist for Online Student Success contained in Course Documents.