

*This form is intended to be used as a “soft copy” to gather requisite information related to new degree program applications. For programs to be included on Commission agendas from March 2022 onward, applications should be submitted through the Academic Program Review Portal (apr.ache.edu).

Alabama Commission on Higher Education

**NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL (NISP)
FOR A NEW PROGRAM OF INSTRUCTION**

- 1. Institution:** University of North Alabama
- 2. Date of NISP Submission:** [insert date]
- 3. Contact Person and Title:** Dr. Ross C. Alexander, Provost and Executive VPAA
Telephone: (256) 765-4258
E-mail: ralexander3@una.edu
- 4. Program Identification:**
Award Level: Masters of Science
Title: Occupational Safety and Health Management
Degree nomenclature (e.g., MBA, BS): MS
6-digit CIP: 15.0701
- 5. Program Administration and Implementation:**
Name of College/ School: College of Arts, Sciences, and Engineering
Name of Dean: Dr. Sara Lynn Baird
Name of Department: Engineering and Industrial Professions
Name of Chairperson: Dr. Jonathan F. Sullivan

Proposed program implementation date: Fall 2024
Anticipated ACHE meeting to vote on proposal: September 8, 2023
Anticipated date of approval from institutional governing board: June 9, 2023
Other considerations for timing and approval (e.g., upcoming SACSCOC review):

SACSCOC approval required (50-100% new content) prior to implementation. Executive Council submission deadline is January 1, 2024.

6. Program Design:

Brief Description of Program and Objectives:

As Alabama's Workforce Development University, the preparation of career-ready graduates to meet the economic needs of Alabama and the surrounding region is central to the mission of the University of North Alabama (UNA).

The proposed Masters of Science in Occupational Safety and Health Management will prepare program graduates to meet the safety mission of any organization. Graduates will acquire the skills and tools necessary to make prudent management decisions related to occupational safety and health in the workplace.

The program will be designed for in-service safety professionals and other working professionals with a science-related background. In addition, the program will provide an accelerated master's option for current UNA undergraduate *Occupational Health Science* students.

The proposed MS in Occupational Safety and Health Management will focus on the following learning objectives. Upon completion of the program, students will be able to:

- a. Anticipate, recognize, evaluate, and control hazards and exposures impacting people, property and the environment
- b. Apply principles and practices of risk management and business justification
- c. Develop policies, procedures, and systems using research and evidence-based data
- d. Identify and apply legal principles relevant to the safety profession
- e. Utilize root cause analysis and incident investigation techniques to ascertain acceptable risk causation and relative risk
- f. Analyze safety data, interpret and utilize statistical and epidemiological principles, and evaluate trends of injuries, illnesses and workplace incidents
- g. Demonstrate principles and practices of continuous quality improvement and sustainable safety programs and management systems
- h. Design safety and health training programs based on adult learning theory and behavior change to safety and health
- i. Demonstrate leadership and organizational behavior
- j. Demonstrate mastery of occupational safety and health and a high level of communication skills through a culminating senior project/capstone

Proposed delivery format:

100% Online, 8-week course structure

Total Credit Hours required to complete the program:

30 credit hours

Please identify any specialized accreditation agency that may apply to this program and explain why your institution does or does not intend to seek specialized accreditation.

Accreditation for the program through the Applied and Natural Science Commission (ANSAC) of ABET, <http://www.abet.org> is available. UNA plans to seek accreditation.

Will the curriculum require work-based or experiential learning (internship, practicum, etc.)? If yes, please explain. Definitions and examples of different types of work-based learning are available at <https://www.alapprentice.org/>.

Yes. The curriculum will require a research activity or significant project implemented and evaluated in industry. The practicum will result in a report that demonstrates both mastery of the subject matter and a high level of communication skills.

Will the program be designed to meet educational requirements licensure and/or certification required for entry-level employment? If yes, please list license and/or certification(s).

The program will be designed to align with the Board of Certified Safety Professionals (BCSP) Associate Safety Professional (ASP) examination blueprint. UNA plans to seek designation as a Qualified Academic Program (QAP) through the BCSP. Graduates of QAPs are eligible to apply for the Graduate Safety Practitioner (GSP), a BCSP-approved credential necessary to apply for the Certified Safety Professional (CSP).

7. Employment Occupational Alignment

Using the federal Standard Occupational Code (SOC) System, please indicate the top three occupational codes related to post-graduation employment from the program. A full list of SOC codes can be found at <https://www.onetcodeconnector.org/find/family/title#17>. A list of Alabama's "In-Demand Occupations" is available at <https://ache.edu/Instruction.aspx>

SOC 1 (19-5011.00)	Occupational Health and Safety Specialists (Alabama In-Demand Occupation)
SOC 2 (19-5012.00)	Occupational Health and Safety Technicians
SOC 3 (17-2111.00)	Health and Safety Engineers, Except Mining Safety Engineers and Inspectors

8. Relationship to other programs within the institution:

Is the proposed program associated with any existing offerings, including options within current degree programs? If yes, please explain. If this is a graduate program, please list any existing undergraduate programs which are directly or indirectly related. If this is a doctoral program, also list related master's programs.

The proposed MS in Occupational Safety and Health Management will be supported, in-part, by the faculty and resources that are associated with our current BS in Occupational Health Science

Will this program replace any existing programs or specializations, options, or concentrations within existing programs? If yes, please explain.

No, this program will not replace any existing curricular offerings.

9. Relationship to programs at other Alabama public institutions:

List programs at the same degree level that use the same or similar CIP codes. If no similar programs exist within Alabama, please list similar programs offered within the 16 SREB states.

Although there are two existing undergraduate programs (Athens State University – BS in Occupational Health and Safety Management [CIP 51.2206]; Jacksonville State University – BS in Occupational Safety and Health Management [CIP 15.0701]), there are no programs at the same degree level with the same or similar CIP code that exist within the state of Alabama.

Similar programs offered within the 16 Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) states include:

- East Carolina University: MS in Occupational Safety (15.0701)
- Murray State University: MS Occupational Safety and Health (15.0701)
- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University: MS in Occupational Safety Management (15.0701)
- Georgia Institute of Technology: Professional Master's in Occupational Safety and Health (15.0701)
- Marshall University: MS in Safety (15.0701)
- Johns Hopkins University: MS in Occupational and Environmental Hygiene (51.2206)
- Texas A&M University: MPH in Occupational Safety and Health (51.2206)

- University of Houston-Clear Lake: MS in Occupational Safety and Health (51.2206)
- University of Oklahoma-Health Science Center: MS Industrial Hygiene & Environmental Health Science (51.2206)
- Eastern Kentucky University: MS in Safety, Security and Emergency Management with an Occupational Safety Concentration (43.9999)

If the proposed program duplicates, closely resembles, or is similar to any other offerings in the state, please provide justification for any potential duplication.

We do not anticipate any issues related to duplication.

If you plan to explore program collaboration with other institutions, please explain.

UNA is open to exploring collaborations with other post-secondary institutions in the future.

10. Projected program demand

What is the primary methodology you will use to determine the level of student demand for this program? (Survey of current or former students, enrollments in existing programs or courses)

Enrollment projections will be gathered from a survey of former students (alumni from Occupational Health Science and other science-related programs), current students, and regional employers.

What is the primary methodology you will use to determine state need for this program? (Labor market information, expert market analysis, state or regional economic development strategy)

Data related to the need for a MS in Occupational Safety and Health will be collected from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics related to positions including, but not limited to: occupational health and safety specialist, occupational health and safety technicians, and health and safety engineers. The list of in-demand occupations developed by the Alabama Committee on Credentialing and Career Pathways (ACCCP) will also be referenced.