



Levi Herman

2nd year Master's candidate, Environmental Health and Occupational Safety Management, OSU

BS, Occupational Safety, OSU

Age: 24

Goal: To work as a Safety engineer, educating employees and business representatives about job hazards and compliance with safety regulations

Levi Herman will graduate this Fall with a Masters in Environmental Health and Occupational Safety Management from OSU, a full-time position awaiting him as a Safety Engineer at Hynix Semiconductor, three professional internships behind him, and the knowledge that he can apply his hard-earned knowledge in the field he enjoys. For now, however, he is fully enjoying his second degree at OSU, and credits the faculty of his department with their intense involvement with students and with the industry. In fact, it was his professors who guided him toward all his internships and his upcoming positions, which arose from one of his internships. The field is still fairly small, so former students often inform professors of their need for new employees. Levi loves the work, which requires a strong balance of technical know-how and people skills. He learns more and more all the time about EPA and OSHA regulations, and is "picking up more and more pieces" as he goes along, because knowledge in this field is credibility. Levi says he has learned that safety engineering can often be a touchy subject when he has to advise someone who has been doing a job one way for twenty-plus years. His father was a contractor, and his experience with his father's business definitely helps him to understand the people he has worked with in his internships. He notes that most of the time, people realize that keeping employees safe is necessary and also saves companies money. Levi decided to pursue his graduate degree shortly after completing his baccalaureate degree at OSU in Occupational Safety, because he knew the Masters would give him more professional opportunity and mobility. Professor Anthony Veltri of OSU confirms this fact, noting that OSU has changed the focus of the environmental health and occupational safety program to the graduate level, since the field requires specialized knowledge. OSU continues to offer an undergraduate minor in the subject that gives younger students solid exposure to the subject and the opportunities it holds. Not only are the jobs plentiful in occupational safety, but salaries start at approximately \$45-50,000 a year. Levi himself wasn't aware of this career path until a fraternity advisor told him of it as an undergraduate, his advisor noting that the field truly helped people and held plentiful job opportunities. Four years later, Levi now actually works as a residential advisor at the same fraternity while completing his graduate studies, and proudly talks of his career as an opportunity to help employees and employers alike.