# Lesson from Professionals in the Field:

## Suggestions for Gaining Employment in Environmental Public Health

Environmental health is an interdisciplinary field In addition to having expertise in a specific area of environmental health, students and recent graduates should consider taking additional courses to assist them in securing a job.

### Other Skills Needed to Work in Public Health

Public health students and graduates, especially those wanting to work in the non-profit sector, should consider enrolling in:

- grant writing,
- creative writing,
- public speaking, and
- program evaluation courses.

As an employee, you may be tasked with helping your colleagues in developing grant proposals. Non-profits depend on grant funds to support and sustain their programs.

### Why Should I Enroll in Grant Writing, Creative Writing and Other Writing Courses?

Connecting with your audiences is essential to increasing awareness and changing attitudes and behaviors. Good writing skills and an understanding of your audiences' beliefs, culture, interests and needs will help you to communicate with residents, health care providers, other public health professionals, potential funders, researchers and other audiences.

### Why Should I Enroll in Public Speaking Courses?

Taking a public speaking course will help you to feel more confident and comfortable speaking during meetings, conducting presentations, answering phone calls and performing other tasks that require you to talk.

### Why Should I Enroll in Evaluation Courses?

Evaluations are an important component of public health programs. They assist us in measuring our program's success and in determining what needs to be changed to improve our programs. Public health graduates who are skilled evaluators are in demand because most funders require their grantees to conduct evaluations for the duration of their program.

### Standing Out

By enrolling in writing, public speaking or evaluation courses while you are in school, you will stand out as a candidate.

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