



I completed my Environmental Health internship in the Regulatory Affairs department at Ecolab, located in downtown St. Paul, Minnesota. Ecolab is a large company that makes many institutional and industrial cleaning chemicals, including general sanitizers, disinfectants and hand soaps, as well as pesticides and drug products. An Environmental Health related career in this area has a strong focus on compliance with laws regarding chemical usage, importation, and exportation (yes, all those acronyms from EH 220 are applicable in the real world!)

My internship taught me a lot about working on the corporate side of Environmental Health. The majority of my projects revolved doing product and chemical usage audits to ensure that Ecolab avoided legal trouble from having something mislabeled or improperly tracked/ documented. To do most of my work I had to use the company's product spec system called Matrix (which I always thought was funny because of the movie – I had to be granted access to it and using it was also referred to as going into the Matrix). I also learned a lot about Canadian laws and regulations and how they compare to the laws in the US because Ecolab does a large amount of business there.

Ecolab was a really great company to intern for. All of the people that I worked with were very helpful and friendly. The company has a pretty involved college internship program and organized seminars, lunch/networking events and other outside activities for interns to participate in. All in all it was an excellent experience and the office on the 9th floor of a high-rise building was pretty cool too!