This summer I spent nine weeks working at the AECOM Freeport office as an environmental scientist intern. The AECOM Freeport location does a lot of work with Dow chemical in regard to health and safety compliance. This internship really allowed me to get some hands on experience in the environmental health field. The topics covered during my internship were sampling, waste management, air, water, and safety.

My internship was very unique in that it not only allowed me to gain some experience sampling water and solids, but I was also able to do most of the sampling on a chemical plant. Working at a chemical plant is unlike anything else I’ve ever done. It forces you to be immersed in the safety culture and really pay attention to what is going on around you at all times. I also participated in a lab pack cleanout at the plant, which allowed me to understand many aspects of CSU’s Waste Management class better.

One of the best parts of my summer with AECOM was being able to help with a findings report for an environmental and safety audit. My job in this project was to take the observations from the audit and find the specific OSHA and/or EPA regulations that applied. I enjoyed this project so much that it has me considering a path in environmental law.

Unlike many internships, I was also able to participate in helping my boss with some business administration work. I really enjoyed this because I was able to learn more about how the consulting industry works and learn about many of the larger petrochemical companies in the world.

This internship was a great experience and I’m so glad AECOM gave me the opportunity. The people that I worked with were amazing and so willing to help me throughout the entire process. I feel so lucky that I was able to participate in sampling, audits, waste management, business administration and a little air permitting. I am also pleased to say that I was offered a job with AECOM after graduation.