

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

What Can I do with this Major?

FOCUS AREAS

SOIL SCIENCE

Soil and Water Conservation
Wetland Delineation / Hydric Soil Assessment
Contaminated Soil Remediation and Restoration
Hydrology
Land Use Planning
Water Resources
Waste Disposal
Environmental Compliance
Reclamation of Contaminated Lands
Landfill Operation and Monitoring
Natural Resource Management
Agrichemical Management
Nutrient Management Specialist
Fertilizer Technology
Agricultural Production
Research
Education

CONSERVATION BIOLOGY

Aquaculture
Wildlife/fisheries biology
Genetics
Climate Change Impacts
Marine Biology
Ecology
Education, Research, Planning
Vegetation Management
Aquatic Nuisance Vegetation control
Habitat Restoration
Wetland Delineation
Endangered Species

EMPLOYERS

Government agencies including:

US Environmental Protection Agency
USDA Natural Resource Conservation Services
US Army Corp of Engineers
State Departments of Environmental Protection
US Geological Survey
USDA Forest Service
US Department of Health and Human Services
State farm bureaus

Private Industries including:

Environmental research laboratories
Agricultural or environmental consultant firms
Privately owned farms and ranches
Environmental Consulting Firms
Universities
Civil/Environmental Engineering Firms

Federal, state, and local government agencies
Marine sport fisheries
Utility companies
Developers
Federal land management agencies
Wildlife ranges and refuges
Scientific foundations
Zoological parks and aquariums
Hunting and fishing clubs
Consulting firms
Nonprofit organizations
National/international environmental/conservation agencies

STRATEGIES

>Maintain knowledge of current environmental issues including policy, conservation, and industry trends.
>Stay current on technology used in natural resource management including GIS and GPS
>Seek related experience through co-ops, internships, or part-time jobs in area of interest.
>Pursue minor or double major in related field (Geology, Natural Resource Conservation, Chemistry, etc.)
>Gain extensive laboratory and research experience to prepare for research positions.
>Participate in related clubs, organizations, to build contacts and cultivate academic interests
>Learn about certification programs offered by the Soil Science Society of America
>Become familiar with the federal job application procedure for government employment.
>Obtain Ph.D. for optimal research and university teaching careers.

> Gain research experience
>Develop a broad scientific education.
>Minor or double major in Biology or Nature Resources
>Get experience and skills in computers, statistics and computer modeling.
>Join the Peace Corps as a segue way into federal government positions.
>Learn about the federal job application process.
> Gain knowledge in GPS, GIS, and computer modeling
Become familiar with environmental regulations

ENVIRONMENTAL GEOLOGY

Hydrogeology
Geomorphology
Glacial Geology
Geochemistry
Contaminant Assessment & Remediation
Environmental Compliance
Watershed Management

Consulting Firms
Federal government agencies such as:
Environmental Protection Agency
Forest Service
Army Corps of Engineers
US Geological Survey
Bureau of Land Management
Department of Defense

>Maintain knowledge of current environmental issues including policy, conservation, and industry trends.
>Stay current on technology used in geological mapping including software, geographical info systems and GPS
>Seek related experience through co-ops, internships, or part-time jobs in area of interest.
>Pursue minor or double major in Geology
>Gain extensive laboratory and research experience to prepare for research positions.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Change Impacts
Invasive Species Management
Climate Change Adaptation
Impact Planning and Preparation
Climatology
Food and Water Scarcity
Cultural conflicts over resources

City, county, and regional planning agencies
Local and state government
Federal government agencies including:
Agency for International Development
World Bank
Department of Housing and Urban Development
Research organizations
Private business
Industrial firms
Public utilities

Gain expertise in additional areas such as communications, writing, fund-raising, negotiation, and computer applications.
Obtain working knowledge of a foreign language
Minor in Political Science, Geography, or related science
Obtain skills with computers, statistics, and accounting through coursework, internships or part-time jobs.

POLICY & PLANNING

Environmental Geography
Social Justice
Building/Zoning
Land-Use
Consulting
Recreation
Transportation
Water Resources
Green Energy & Green Infrastructure
Environmental Lobbying

Federal, state, regional, and local government
Corporations
Consulting firms
Banks
Real estate development companies
Law firms
Architectural firms
Market research companies
Colleges and universities
Nonprofit groups
Nongovernmental land trusts, conservation organizations

Get on planning boards, commissions, and committees.
Have a planning specialty (transportation, water resources, air quality, etc.).
Master communication, mediation and writing skills.
Network in the community and get to know "who's who" in your specialty area.
Develop a strong scientific or technical background.
Diversify your knowledge base. For example, in areas of law, economics, politics, historical preservation, or architecture.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION & COMMUNICATION

Ecotourism	Federal, state, and local government
Teaching	Public/private primary and secondary schools
Journalism	Two-year community colleges
Nature Interpretation & Visitor Services	Four-year institutions
Law Regulation	Corporations
Compliance	Consulting firms
Political Action/Lobbying	Media
	Nonprofit organizations
	Political Action Committees

Master public speaking skills.
Learn certification/licensure requirements for teaching public K-12 schools.
Develop creative hands-on strategies for teaching/learning.
Publish articles in newsletters or newspapers.
Learn environmental laws and regulations.
Join professional associations and environmental groups as ways to network.

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

Superfund	Law firms
Environmental Injustice	Large corporations
Natural Resource Damage Assessments	Federal and State government agencies including:
Pollution Liability and Damages	US Environmental Protection Agency
Environmental regulation development	Department of Justice
	Attorney General Office
	Nonprofit organizations, e.g. Green Action and
	Natural Resources Defense Council

Become active in environmental political organizations
Earn a law degree. Prepare for law school by maintaining a high g.p.a. and studying for the LSAT
Minor in Political Science
Build strong recommendations from faculty.
Work a part-time or summer job in a law firm.
Develop strong written and oral communication skills.
Participate in pre-law honor societies, debate teams, or moot court.

TOXICOLOGY

Public Health / Environmental Health	Large Corporations
Pollution Risk assessment	Independent Research Laboratories
Contaminant Assessment & Remediation	Universities
Bio/phytoremediation	Private Consulting Firms
Emerging Pollutants	Government Agencies: federal and state
Environmental Impact Assessment	
Water & Air Quality	
Environmental Chemistry	

Gain research experience
Minor or double major in Chemistry, Biochemistry and/or Environmental Health Sciences
Plan on graduate degree in related field.

NOTES
Choice depends upon career focus, for example, administration or policy-making versus technical areas or research.

- Combine liberal arts skills with analytical skills to increase employability. Formally, obtain a double major or minor in one of these areas. Informally, obtain these skills through internships, co-ops, volunteer work, summer jobs, or independent research projects.
- Become familiar with current environmental laws and regulations. Stay up-to-date with changing environmental legislation.
- Join related professional associations; read related literature and journals to keep up with new developments.
- Attend seminars, conferences and workshops sponsored by professional associations or public interest groups.
- Network and get to know people who are working in area of interest.
- Learn local, state and federal government job application procedures.
- Obtain graduate degree for job security/advancement.

