

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN ENVIRONMENTAL/NATURAL RESOURCES?

NATURAL RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES



GENERAL INFORMATION AND STRATEGIES

- Environmental studies, environmental science, and natural resources differ from each other in the amount of science course work needed.
- Environmental studies provides a broad base of natural sciences as well as liberal arts or social science coursework.
- Environmental science and natural resources incorporate natural and environmental sciences.
- Your choice of major depends upon career focus (see below)
 - E.g., administration or policy-making versus technical areas or research.
- Most programs combine liberal arts skills with analytical skills to increase employability. :
 - Formally, you should obtain a double major or minor in one of the areas below.
 - Informally, you can obtain the skills outlined below 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.
 - Maintain a professional social media presence.
 - Research agencies / organizations of interest before applying for a position.
 - Learn local, state and federal government job application procedures.
 - Obtain graduate degree for job security / advancement.

AREA	EMPLOYER	INFORMATION/STRATEGIES
SOIL SCIENCE		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil and Water Conservation • Land Use Planning • Waste Disposal • Environmental Compliance • Reclamation of Contaminated Lands • Landfill Operation and Monitoring • Agrichemical Management • Fertilizer Technology • Agricultural Production • Research • Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government agencies including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US Environmental Protection Agency • Natural Resource Conservation Services • USDA • Forest Service • US Department of Health and Human Services • State farm bureaus • Environmental research laboratories • Agricultural or environmental consultant firms • Privately owned farms and ranches • Universities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain knowledge of current environmental issues including policy, conservation, & industry trends. • Develop acute observational skills. • Stay current on technology used in natural resource management including software, geographical information systems, & global positioning systems. • Seek related experience through co-ops, internships, or part-time jobs in area of interest. • Gain extensive laboratory & research experience to prepare for research positions. • Participate in related clubs, organizations, & soil judging teams to build contacts & cultivate academic interests. • Learn about certification programs offered by the Soil Science Society of America including soil science & agronomy. • Become familiar with federal job application procedures. • Obtain Ph.D. for optimal research & university teaching careers.

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AREA	EMPLOYER	INFORMATION/STRATEGIES
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemistry • Engineering • Hydrology • Logistics • Planning • Recycling • Transportation • Compliance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal, state, and local government • Private waste management firms • Consulting firms • Nonprofit organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop strong communication skills, both written & oral. • Develop decision-making & problem-solving skills, diplomacy, & the ability to work under pressure. • Gain familiarity with current technologies, regulations, & statutes. • Join community groups or service organizations that focus on environmental awareness; attend public meetings about waste management. • Become flexible & learn to look at issues from various perspectives.
HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hydrogeology • Quality Control • Risk Assessment • Environmental Engineering • Public and Environmental Health • Industrial Hygiene • Biology • Chemistry • Geology • Chemical Engineering • Planning • Compliance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal, state, and local government • Private companies that generate hazardous waste in production • Hazardous waste management firms • Consulting firms • Nonprofit organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider a double major in hard science or engineering. • Attend public meetings on hazardous waste issues. • Gain laboratory experience & computer expertise. • Complete an internship in a government office or regulatory agency. • Gain experience with technical writing. • Get involved with local chapters of citizen watch groups. • Become familiar with Superfund & its activities.
AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engineering • Planning • Analytical Chemistry • Environmental Quality Analysis • Meteorology • Risk Assessment • Safety and Health Management • Toxicology • Project Development • Compliance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal, state, and local government • Private industry • Consulting firms • Nonprofit organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay up-to-date with federal regulations & both industry & regional standards. • Additional training in economics & policy is desirable. • Develop strong oral communication & technical writing skills. • Learn to work well under pressure & develop negotiation skills. • Seek volunteer or paid positions within area environmental groups.

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WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aquatic Ecology • Aquatic Toxicology • Biology • Civil/Environmental Engineering • Hydrogeology and Hydrology • Drinking Water Supply and Treatment • Waste Water Treatment • Groundwater Protection • Surface Water Management • Estuary Management • Wetlands Protection • Compliance • Industrial Engineering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal, state, and local government • Corporations • Consulting firms • Nonprofit organizations • Treatment plants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a strong chemistry background by taking additional courses. • Obtain laboratory skills by assisting faculty with research projects. • Maintain current knowledge of industry trends and regulations. • Develop interpersonal, oral communication, and technical writing skills. • Seek advanced degree in policy for increased marketability. • Learn about certification programs offered by the American Institute of Hydrology. • Learn to use the tools and software associated with watershed modeling.
LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biology • Ecology • Planning • Law • Geographic Information Systems • Preserve Management • Natural Resource Management • Soil Conservation • Land Acquisition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal, state, and local government • Indian nations • Utilities and timber companies • Consulting firms • Nonprofit organizations • Land trust organizations such as The Nature Conservancy or Trust for Public Land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gain a solid background in the basic sciences while obtaining a broad-based education. • Obtain legal, real estate, and financial skills through coursework, internships or part-time jobs. • Volunteer through the Student Conservation Association (SCA) and hold an office. • Keep up with new funding sources. • Consider law school for careers as counsel to environmental organizations.
FISHERY AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aquaculture • Botany • Data Management • Biology • Hatchery Management • Marine Biology • Ecology • Education • Research • Planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal, state, and local government • Marine sport fisheries • Utility companies • Developers • Timber companies • Wildlife ranges • Scientific foundations • Zoological parks • Hunting and fishing clubs • Consulting firms • Nonprofit organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a broad scientific education. • Obtain skills in areas such as planning, administration, communications, and negotiation through coursework, internships, or part-time jobs. • 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.

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AREA	EMPLOYER	INFORMATION/STRATEGIES
PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration and Management • Law Enforcement • Recreation Planning • Natural Resource Management • Research • Site Operations and Maintenance • Ecotourism • Direct Mail Merchandising 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Park Service • Federal agencies • State, county, or city parks • Resorts • Marinas • Privately owned facilities • Nonprofit organizations • Tourism agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a broad-based education that will develop both technical and interpersonal skills. • Gain expertise in additional areas such as communications, writing, fund-raising, negotiation, and computer applications. • Obtain working knowledge of a foreign language such as Spanish. • Learn to work with and communicate with all types of people. • Participate in travel and recreation programs. • Join related organizations and seek leadership roles to gain experience planning trips and other programs.
FORESTRY		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consulting • Entomology • Hydrology • Natural Resource Management • Planning • Research • International Forestry • Urban Forestry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal, state, and local government • Consulting firms • Timber companies • Nonprofit organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain skills with computers, statistics, and accounting through coursework, internships or part-time jobs. • Develop good communication and public relation skills. • Get a minor or double major in a technical area (soil science, wildlife or surveying) or in an arts and science area (business, economics, political science or computer science).
Environmental Education and Communication		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching • Journalism • Tourism • Law Regulation • Compliance • Political Action / Lobbying 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal, state, and local government • Public and private elementary, middle, and high schools • Two-year community colleges • Four-year institutions • Corporations • Consulting firms • Media • Nonprofit organizations • Political Action Committees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Become active in environmental political organizations.

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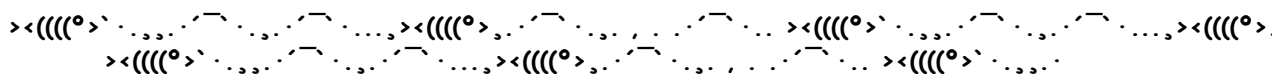
AREA	EMPLOYER	INFORMATION/STRATEGIES
PLANNING		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Quality • Aviation • Building / Zoning • Land-Use • Consulting • Recreation • Transportation • Water Resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal, state, and local government • Corporations • Consulting firms • Banks • Real estate development companies • Law firms • Architectural firms • Market research companies • Colleges and universities • Nonprofit groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 LAW		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law firms • Large corporations • Federal and State government agencies including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US Environmental Protection Agency • Department of Justice • Attorney General Office • Nonprofit organizations, e.g. Earth Justice and Natural Resources Defense Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earn a law degree. Prepare for law school by maintaining a high GPA and studying for the LSAT. • 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.

Interested in learning more?

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