



Internship and Career Services Industry Guide: Environmental Studies/Sciences

OVERVIEW

Environmental studies is the field that examines the relationship between people and the environment. Additionally environmental studies is an interdisciplinary subject examining the interplay between the social, legal, management, and scientific aspects of environmental issues. More specifically environmental science is the study of the effects of natural and unnatural processes, and of interactions of the physical components of the planet on the environment. Environmental science focuses mainly on the scientific component of these environmental issues and is only a slight difference between environmental studies, which investigates both the scientific and the humanitarian aspects.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A DEGREE IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES/SCIENCE?

With a bachelor's degree in environmental studies, students often pursue careers in education, business, government, political organizations, nonprofit associations, or private consulting firms. Many students also combine a degree in environmental science with a career in journalism, communications, environmental law, or health professions. The degree also prepares many graduates to enter graduate-degree programs in most sciences, such as environmental planning, resource management, engineering, law, or public policy. Environmental studies/science is a very broad field with many potential professional roles for you to play. Your ultimate career path will depend on the unique configuration of skills, interests, and values which you bring to the table.

TOP JOBS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES/SCIENCE MAJORS

Environmental Scientist	Conducting research and assessments for governmental, consulting, and non-profit firms as an environmental scientist is a logical and viable option. Environmental studies majors are taught to gather data and interpret it with statistical tools. They have mastered the scientific writing skills required to produce research reports and the presentation skills vital to sharing information with colleagues.
Environmental Consultant	Organizations of all kinds need to prepare environmental impact studies when they are planning to develop virgin land or use currently developed land for an alternative purpose. Environmental consultants use analytical tools developed by environmental studies majors to assess how development projects might impact the water, soil, air, or wildlife in the area.
Environmental Educator	Environmental studies majors gain a broad-based perspective about environmental issues which will serve them well as an environmental educator. Educators must be able to digest available information to learn about the environment surrounding their geographic area of practice.
Public Relations Specialist	Environmental organizations need to influence public perceptions to gain political and financial support for their initiatives. Public relations specialists or communications staff use the knowledge acquired as environmental studies majors when generating press releases about programs and activities at their employer or client organizations.

Environmental Engineer	When technical solutions are required to resolve problems with environmental contamination or pollution, environmental engineers are often called upon to propose and implement those systems. Environmental engineers draw upon knowledge of environmental science when designing environmental technology.
Sustainability Specialist	Sustainability specialists assess the environmental practices and impact of an organization. They recommend and implement strategies to conserve resources and limit environmental damage.
Policy Analyst	Environmental Science majors have the research skills necessary to uncover information related to public policy recommendations. Generating realistic proposals for environmental policy requires an in-depth knowledge of scientific concepts.
Fundraiser	To effectively target prospective donors for contributions to environmental causes, fundraisers must have a solid understanding of their organizations' goals and operations. Environmental science majors are well positioned to gain this knowledge and convey the benefits of supporting environmental initiatives.

WHAT CAN I DO NOW?

Get involved: Exploring internships, volunteer opportunities, and attending networking events are great next steps to widen your environmental science experience and knowledge.

Access some associations: Although you may already have joined a environmental sciences club at your school, a professional association or society can put you in touch with many more resources – including professional connections – in your field or interest of choice (i.e. The Student Conservation Association, ACORE, USGBC, NREL, The Sierra Club, Indiana Environmental Health Association, IDEM Indiana, etc.).

Online Resources:

[Butler University Center for Urban Ecology](#)

[Butler University Volunteer Center](#)

[Butler University Environmental Studies Internships](#)

[Internship & Career Services: Guide to Professional Success PDF](#)

[Green Jobs in Indiana \(jobs.environmentalscience.org\)](http://jobs.environmentalscience.org)

[Indiana Jobs – Environmental & Natural Sciences \(in.gov\)](http://in.gov)

[Environmental Jobs Listed by State \(ecojobs.com\)](http://ecojobs.com)

[Environmental Careers Job Postings \(environmentalcareer.com\)](http://environmentalcareer.com)

[Conservation Indiana Jobs \(conservationjobboard.com\)](http://conservationjobboard.com)

[Top Environmental Science Careers \(environmentalsciencedegree.org\)](http://environmentalsciencedegree.org)

[What Can I do With a Degree in Environmental Studies/Environmental Science? \(pdx.edu\)](http://pdx.edu)

[Environmental Science Majors and Potential Jobs \(collegeexpress.com\)](http://collegeexpress.com)

[Environmental Internships Near Indianapolis \(internships.com\)](http://internships.com)

[Choosing an Internship in Environmental Science \(environmentalscience.org\)](http://environmentalscience.org)

[Entry Level Conservation and Environmental Scientists Resume Tips \(resume-now.com\)](http://resume-now.com)

[Indiana Environmental Organizations List \(eco-usa.net\)](http://eco-usa.net)

[Indiana Internships \(indianaintern.net\)](http://indianaintern.net)