

# ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES/SCIENCE

What can I do with this degree?

## AREAS

## EMPLOYERS

## STRATEGIES

### PLANNING

Air Quality  
Aviation  
Building/Zoning  
Land-Use  
Consulting  
Recreation  
Transportation  
Water Resources

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

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 AND COMMUNICATION

Teaching  
Journalism  
Tourism  
Law/Regulation  
Compliance  
Political Action/Lobbying

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

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.

### SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Chemistry  
Engineering  
Hydrology  
Logistics  
Planning  
Recycling  
Transportation  
Compliance

Federal, state, and local government  
Private waste management firms  
Consulting firms  
Nonprofit organizations

Take some scientific or engineering courses.  
Choose an unusual material and think of creative ways to recycle or reuse it.

| AREAS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | EMPLOYERS                                                                                                                                                                                | STRATEGIES                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
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| <b><u>HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT</u></b><br>Hydrogeology<br>Quality Control<br>Risk Assessment<br>Environmental Engineering<br>Public and Environmental Health<br>Industrial Hygiene<br>Law<br>Biology<br>Chemistry<br>Geology<br>Chemical Engineering<br>Planning<br>Compliance                                                                                              | Federal, state, and local government<br>Private companies that generate hazardous waste in production<br>Hazardous waste management firms<br>Consulting firms<br>Nonprofit organizations | Consider double major in hard science or engineering.<br>Attend public meetings on this issue.<br>Get laboratory experience.<br>Gain computer expertise.<br>Work in government office or regulatory agency.<br>Get experience with technical writing.<br>Get involved with local chapters of citizen watch groups.<br>Become familiar with Superfund and its activities. |
| <b><u>AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT</u></b><br>Engineering<br>Planning<br>Analytical Chemistry<br>Environmental Quality Analysis<br>Meteorology<br>Risk Assessment<br>Safety and Health Management<br>Toxicology<br>Project Development<br>Compliance                                                                                                                                | Federal, state, and local government<br>Private industry<br>Consulting firms<br>Nonprofit organizations                                                                                  | Develop a specific skill in the areas of engineering, chemistry or laboratory work.<br>Work at state and local agencies as a way to start an air quality career.                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b><u>WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT</u></b><br>Aquatic Ecology<br>Aquatic Toxicology<br>Law<br>Biology<br>Civil/Environmental Engineering<br>Hydrogeology and Hydrology<br>Drinking Water Supply and Treatment<br>Waste Water Treatment<br>Groundwater Protection<br>Surface Water Management<br>Estuary Management<br>Wetlands Protection<br>Compliance<br>Industrial Engineering | Federal, state, and local government<br>Corporations<br>Consulting firms<br>Nonprofit organizations<br>Treatment plants                                                                  | Get a strong chemistry background.<br>Become familiar with high-tech tools.<br>Develop computer skills.<br>Focus on a specific technical field.<br>Obtain laboratory skills.                                                                                                                                                                                             |

## AREAS

## EMPLOYERS

## STRATEGIES

### **LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION**

Biology  
Ecology  
Planning  
Geographic Information Systems  
Preserve Management  
Law  
Natural Resource Management  
Soil Conservation  
Land Acquisition

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

Get 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**

Aquaculture  
Botany  
Data Management  
Biology  
Hatchery Management  
Marine Biology  
Ecology  
Education  
Research  
Planning

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

Get 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 into federal government positions.  
Get on government agencies' job registers.

### **PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION**

Administration and Management  
Law Enforcement  
Recreation Planning  
Natural Resource Management  
Research  
Site Operations and Maintenance  
Ecotourism  
Direct Mail Merchandising

National Park Service  
Federal agencies  
State, county or city parks  
Resorts  
Marinas  
Privately owned facilities  
Nonprofit organizations

Get 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.

| AREAS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | EMPLOYERS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | STRATEGIES                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
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| <b><u>FORESTRY</u></b><br>Consulting<br>Entomology<br>Hydrology<br>Natural Resource Management<br>Planning<br>Research<br>International Forestry<br>Urban Forestry                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Federal, state, and local government<br>Consulting firms<br>Timber companies<br>Nonprofit organizations                                                                                                                                                 | Obtain skills with computers, statistics, and accounting through coursework, internships or part-time jobs.<br>Develop good communication and public relations skills.<br>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). |
| <b><u>ENVIRONMENTAL LAW</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Private firms<br>Corporations<br>Federal and State government agencies such as Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Justice and Attorney General Office<br>Nonprofit organizations such as Green Action and Natural Resources Defense Council | Law degree required.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b><u>GENERAL INFORMATION</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Environmental studies and environmental science differ from each other in the amount of science course work needed.</li><li>• Environmental studies provides a broad base of hard sciences as well as liberal arts or social science coursework.</li><li>• Environmental science incorporates hard sciences and environmental sciences.</li><li>• Choice depends upon career focus, for example, administration or policy-making versus technical areas or research.</li><li>• Combine liberal arts skills with analytical skills to increase employability. Formally, obtain a double major in these areas or minor in one of these areas. Informally, obtain these skills through internships, co-ops, volunteer work, summer jobs or independent research projects.</li><li>• Be familiar with current environmental laws and regulations. Stay up-to-date with changing environmental legislation.</li><li>• Join related professional associations; read related literature and journals to keep up with new developments.</li><li>• Attend seminars, conferences and workshops sponsored by professional associations or public interest groups.</li><li>• Network and get to know people who are working in area of interest.</li><li>• Research agencies/organizations of interest before applying for a position.</li><li>• Learn local, state and federal government job application procedures.</li><li>• Obtain graduate degree for job security/advancement.</li></ul> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |