

Environmental Sciences Career Snapshot

Environmental Sciences (ES) is a B.S. offered by the Rausser College of Natural Resources that provides broad, comprehensive education in the fundamentals of biology, chemistry, math, physics, and social sciences. Students choose a biological, physical, or social science concentration that shapes some of their lower division and upper division curriculum. The environmental sciences discipline involves the study of interactions between human activities and biological and physical environments, on all scales from the local to global. The ES major culminates with a senior research project, in which students work with senior thesis faculty to determine their research area. The major offered by the [Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management \(ESPM\)](#).

Key Skills

- Develop a broad understanding of contemporary environmental issues and their interconnected nature. Learn to perceive patterns and structures in the academic material you encounter, and to apply concepts creatively to solve problems. This kind of critical and analytical thinking, especially when reviewing scientific work and published documents relevant to your senior research project, is highly regarded and demonstrates you have a solid understanding of a particular research area.
- Get experience in designing and executing a research project, including data analysis and use of lab equipment. A strong grasp of basic statistics and GIS or other technical skills is valuable.
- Master software programs such as Word, Excel, PowerPoint, statistical software, and even Arcview, Photoshop, and Adobe, that help build your portfolio of key computer skills.
- Learn to communicate clearly and well, through oral presentation, scientific writing, or other written forms. This is an invaluable skill that will serve you well in any career path you choose.
- Develop the ability to work and think independently at the same time that you learn to work well in group settings, as teamwork is essential.
- Hone your skills in organization and management to help you navigate and overcome any bureaucratic challenges that may come your way in the future.

Career Pathways

Given the broad nature of the Environmental Sciences degree, our graduates are well prepared for a myriad of career options, ranging from environmental consulting, management, law, planning, or research, both in the lab and in the field. Our program also provides an excellent foundation for the pursuit of graduate or professional degrees in the social sciences, ecology, public health, law, or medicine. Employers generally like to see evidence that students have the ability to design research programs, carry them out, and produce research reports – an experience all our majors undergo as part of their senior year research.

Public and Non-Profit Sector Jobs

- **Various government agencies:** Work with agencies such as the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture to develop policies affecting land use and agricultural resources, or the Environmental Protection Agency to control air, water quality, and hazardous materials

and analyze their impact on the environment. Become a land or transportation planner at the state or local level. Develop green business incentives at the city level. Advise agencies and elected officials on environmental policy.

- **Research and public service:** Conduct research in a university setting, for an environmental organization, or for the state or federal government, focusing on topics such as sustainability, air/water quality management, land and water conservation, or fishery and wildlife management.
- **Park services and outdoor recreation:** Work with local, state, or federal agencies or non-profit organizations on natural resource management, park administration and management, recreation planning, ecotourism, or site operation. Direct programs for a conservation group, or an environmental organization.
- **Education and communication:** Teach environmental sciences in educational institutions, environmental centers, or outdoor centers. Lobby on behalf of non-profit organizations or political action committees.

Private Sector Jobs

- **Environmental consulting:** Work for environmental consulting firms or corporations to plan or manage environmental impact statements, building and zoning regulations, land use, air/water quality, natural resources, transportation or real estate development.
- **Environmental law:** Practice law for a private firm or corporation, a nonprofit such as Natural Resources Defense Council, or the US Dept of Justice, Environmental Division or US EPA.
- **Business:** Work in environmental, public relations, pharmaceutical, or other types of firms in a range of jobs including management, analysis, regulatory affairs, or engineering. Because environmental issues will impact many private industries, an educational background in this field of study will be attractive to a broad spectrum of employers.

Recent Alumni: Where Are They Now?

Courtesy of the UC Berkeley Career Center: <http://career.berkeley.edu/Major/major.stm>

- AmeriCorps, Hydrologist/Habitat Restoration Specialist
- Basics Environmental, Environmental Consultant Cal-Bay Systems Inc, Project Engineer
- California Department of Health Services, Research Associate
- California Family Health Council, Research Associate Citibank, Associate Manager
- Deloitte Consulting, Business Analyst Edwards & McCaslin, Associate Staff Writer
- Environmental Protection Agency, Environmental Protection Specialist
- Forensic Analysis, Environmental Consultant Health Industries Research Company, Research Analyst
- Kirlin Securities, Stockbroker
- National Parks Conservation Association, Campaign Organizer
- RBF Consulting, Environmental Analyst Sonoma Technology, Inc, Data Analyst
- Sonoma Technology Inc, Data Processing Technician
- Storrs Land Surveying, Survey Assistant US Geological Survey, Biological Technician US Fish & Wildlife, Wildlife Biologist
- University of California, Berkeley, Researcher Water Resources Engineering Company, Hydraulic Engineer
- Weston Solutions Inc, Project Scientist
- Environmental Sciences, PhD, Yale University

- Environmental Analysis, Masters, Duke University
- Environmental Health Sciences, Masters, University of California, Los Angeles
- Environmental Law, LLB/JD, University of California Hastings College of Law
- Environmental Sciences, Masters, University of California, Santa Barbara
- Environmental Systems Engineering, MEng, University of California, Berkeley
- Law, LLB/JD, Columbia University
- Pharmacology, PharmD, University of Pacific

Internship & Career Resources

- **[Rausser College Virtual Bulletin Board](#)**: Our constantly updated bulletin board of College announcements, job & internship opportunities, scholarships, student org events, and more!
- **[CareerMail](#)**: These Career Center mailing lists target specific career fields and topics, so you can choose whichever ones are ideal for you.
- **[Handshake](#)**: For a list of current jobs and internships, career center events and networking opportunities, visit the Handshake website Access 1000s of jobs/internships, RSVP for Career Center events, Schedule a counseling appointment *for Cal students & eligible alumni
- **[UC Berkeley Career Center](#)**: Whether you are seeking to clarify your career plans, enhance your career competitiveness or make connections with employers and alumni, the Career Center is committed to providing you the best service. Their services are free and available to all undergraduate and graduate students as well as alumni within 5 years of graduation.