

Environmental Sciences Career Snapshot

Environmental Sciences (ES) is a joint major offered by the College of Natural Resources (B.S.) and the College of Letters and Science (B.A.) that provides broad, comprehensive education in the fundamentals of biology, chemistry, math, physics, and social sciences. The 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, and students choose a biological, physical, or social science concentration for their research area. Offered by the Environmental Sciences Program (ES): <http://environmentalsciences.berkeley.edu>

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 team work 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. Department of Agriculture to develop policies affecting agricultural resources and land use, or the Environmental Protection Agency to control 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.
- **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, an outdoor center, or an environmental organization.
- **Education and communication:** Teach environmental sciences (social, biological, or physical 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

- **CNR Newslines:** The College of Natural Resources Newslines is a moderated listserv that will keep you in the loop about research opportunities, internships, job opportunities, and more. To subscribe to *CNR Newslines*, send an email from your primary email account to majordomo@listlink.berkeley.edu. Leave the subject heading blank. In the body of the message, type the following command: **subscribe cnr_newsline**
- **CareerMail:** These Career Center mailing lists target specific career fields and topics, so you can choose whichever ones are ideal for you. <http://career.berkeley.edu/MailList/MailList.asp>
- **What Can I Do With a Major In...Environmental Sciences?**
<http://career.berkeley.edu/Major/EnvSci.stm>
- **CalJobs:** Search this comprehensive database for full-time, part-time, internship, and summer jobs, both on and off campus. <http://career.berkeley.edu/Jobs/CalJobs.stm>. Also rich source of jobs and internships: <http://career.berkeley.edu/Infolab/JobSites.stm#Env>
- **UC Berkeley Career Center:** <http://career.berkeley.edu>