

What can I do with a major in...

Environmental Science

Career Advisor: Michael Bass, Jepson 441, 540-654-1424, email: mbass@umw.edu

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Environmental Science major studies the inter-relationship between people and their environment, either emphasizing the natural or the social sciences. Students in this interdisciplinary major inquire into the impact of modern people on our earth's environment and biological and physical parameters that are critically involved.

Recently, there has been a dramatic increase in the demand for Environmental Scientists to work as industrial safety and hygiene specialists, water pollution control technicians, and environmental chemists. Environmental consulting firms and large industrial concerns often hire undergraduate degree recipients in technical positions; government agencies (DPA, USDA, NIH) also do work related to environmental impact assessment. New government regulations have stimulated this demand and positions in this area should be lucrative for some time to come.

The job titles and hiring institutions which follow are meant to give you an idea of the careers available to environmental science majors, however many other possibilities also exist. You are encouraged to explore all career paths that interest you.

POTENTIAL JOB TITLES

| | |
|---|----------------------------|
| Administrator | Lobbyist |
| Biological photographer | Nature photojournalist |
| Biologist (botanist, ecologist, zoologist) | Oceanographer |
| Biophysicist | Project associate |
| Editor, technical & scientific publications | Soil scientist |
| Environmental analyst/associate/specialist | Recycling products manager |
| Environmental health technician | Research ecologist |
| Environmental geologist | Research entomologist |
| Environmental lawyer | Teacher |
| Environmental protection specialist/assistant | Technician |
| Forester | Toxicologist |
| Fundraiser | Veterinarian |
| GAO evaluator | Water quality specialist |
| Hazmat specialist | Weed scientist |
| Hydrologist | Wetlands ecologist |

REPRESENTATIVE HIRING INSTITUTIONS

| | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Colleges, schools and educ. institutions | Environmental Protection Agency |
| Ecotourism companies | National Institutes of Health |
| <i>Government agencies:</i> | Law firms |
| Department of Agriculture | Lobbying groups |
| Department of the Interior | Museums |
| | National and state parks |

Nature preserves
Non-Profit organizations
Nurseries (plants)
Outdoor education facilities
Professional and technical journals

Research and development firms
Wildlife preservation organizations
Zoological/botanical gardens

WHERE DO UMW ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE MAJORS GO?

EMPLOYERS/INTERNSHIP SITES

- Booz Allen Hamilton
- Marstel-Day LLC
- The Rappahannock Group Sierra Club
- The Booth Company, Inc.
- Westmoreland County Land Use
- Virginia DEQ, Piedmont Regional Office
- Rappahannock Friends & Lovers of our Watersheds
- Minerals Management Service

GRADUATE SCHOOLS

- Arizona State University's polytechnic campus, Master's degree in Alternative Energy
- California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo, Master of Science in Soil Science
- Columbia University- School of International and Public Affairs
- Duke University, Master of Environmental Management in Ecosystem Conservation and Science
- Old Dominion University, Master of Science in Biology, Aquatic Ecology
- Tulane University- A.B. Freeman School of Business, MBA in Strategy and Marketing
- Virginia Commonwealth University, Master of Environmental Science

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

1. American Institute of Biological Science: www.aibs.org
2. Institute of Environmental Sciences & Technology: www.iest.org
3. Society for the Study of Social Biology: www.usc.edu/dept/gero/sssb/
4. Ecological Society of America: www.esa.org/

**The Office of Career Services also maintains a resource library with a variety of books and other printed material where students can access additional information about their major or field of interest. Visit us in Lee Hall, Room 308 to learn more.*