

# Major Possibilities: Environmental Studies



## Summary

- A bachelor's degree in environmental studies can help pave the way for roles in environmental policy, environmental advocacy and environmental compliance.
- Students can complement an environmental studies major with additional science coursework to pursue environmental science fields. For such fields, employers prefer a master's degree in environmental science, hydrology, or a related natural science; a Ph.D. degree generally is required for research or college teaching positions.
- Environmental studies majors can apply what they learn in the classroom to environmental activism within their communities. Involvement in the on-campus group S.E.A.K. (Students for Environmental Activism and Knowledge), HEAT (Human-Environmental-Animal Team), the Garden Club are great ways to gain experience in environmental activism.

## Environmental Studies major synopsis

The Environmental Studies major is an interdisciplinary program which examines the many connections between humans and nature from a wide variety of perspectives. Environmental studies considers the physical and biological properties of the environment; concepts of the environment from a range of social, religious, artistic and philosophical perspectives; and public policy approaches to understanding and grappling with environmental problems. The program introduces students to the viewpoints of both environmental thinkers and their critics and encourages students to engage in environmental activism. One math course, Introduction to Statistics, is also required. The Capstone seminar requires students to analyze a local or regional environmental issue from multiple perspectives.

## Sample job titles

Archaeologist	Game Warden	Program Manager
Architect	Geochemist	Regional Ecologist
Conservation coordinator	Geologist	Researcher
Ecologist	Geophysicist	Restoration Coordinator
Environmental Educator	Hydrologist	Science Teacher
Environmental Scientist	Land Steward	Wastewater Treatment/Disposal Specialist
Environmental Lobbyist	Legislative Advocate	Watershed Manager
Environmental Regulator/Inspector	Park Ranger	Wildlife Protection Agent

## Sample internship employers of SU students

Austin Nature and Science Center	Mustang Engineering
Barton Spring Edwards Aquifer Convention District	National Outdoor Leadership School
Battleground Texas	News 8 Austin
Bastrop State Park	Chester Zoo Reptile and Invertebrates Department
Bike Texas	Sam Houston National Forest
Boggy Creek Farm	Save Our Springs
Canary Strategies LLC	Sawtooth National Forest
Chinoteague National Wildlife Refuge	SEED Coalition
City of Georgetown	Sierra Club (Austin Office)
Colorado River Foundation	Southwestern University Student Activities
Georgetown Animal Shelter	Sustainable Food Center
Green Gate Farms	Texas Commission of Environmental Quality
Homestead Healthy Foods	Texas Parks and Wildlife
Island Wood Institute	TXU Energy
Jackson and Walker LLP	Urban Roots
Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club	Williamson County Extension

## Possible internship sites

American Indian Science & Engineering Society	Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education
Aspen Center for Environmental Studies	South Florida Water Management District
Austin Youth River Watch	State of Texas Alliance for Recycling (STAR)
Francis Beidler Forest Wildlife Sanctuary	Texas Campaign for the Environment
Beaver Lake Nature Center	Texas A&M Institute of Renewable Natural Resources
Brunkner Nature Center	Texas Water Resources Institute
Chicago Botanic Gardens	Texas League of Conservation Voters
Cox-Mclain Consulting	Texas Nature Conservancy
Environment Texas	Texas Solar Energy Society
National Wildlife Federation	Weston Solutions

## **Sample full-time jobs of SU grads**

Activity Specialist (City of Austin Department of Parks and Rec)  
Administrator of Special Projects (City of Chicago Department of Environment)  
Air Quality Investigator (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality)  
Casa Verde Builder (AmeriCorps)  
Outreach Coordinator (Southface Energy)  
Development Associate (Habitat for Humanity)  
Environmental Chemist (Phillips 66)  
Environmental Fellow (Southwestern University)  
Environmental Inspector (Mustang Engineering)  
Environmental Investigator (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality)  
Environmental Scientist (SCA Environmental)  
Environmental Specialist (Texas Department of Transportation)  
GIS Analyst (San Antonio Water System)  
Hilti Center Manager (Hilti)  
Produce Manager (Vitamin Cottage Natural Grocers)  
Program Assistant (Sierra Club)  
Project Coordinator (City of Austin – Music Division)  
Student Support Specialist/VISTA (English at Work via AmeriCorps)  
Teacher (Sommerschull Wurst, Germany)  
Wilderness Youth Counselor (Eckerd Youth Alternative, Inc.)

## **Professional associations**

Air & Waste Management Association: [www.awma.org](http://www.awma.org)  
Association of Natural Resources Enforcement Trainers: <http://www.anret.org/>  
Earth System Governance: [www.earthsystemgovernance.org/](http://www.earthsystemgovernance.org/)  
Ecological Society of America: [www.esa.org](http://www.esa.org)  
Environmental Health and Safety Management Organization: [www.naem.org](http://www.naem.org)  
Global Environment Facility: [www.thegef.org/gef/](http://www.thegef.org/gef/)  
GreenCorps: [www.greencorps.org](http://www.greencorps.org)  
National Park Service: [www.nps.gov/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/index.htm)  
Union of Concerned Scientists: [www.ucsusa.org](http://www.ucsusa.org)  
United Nations Environment Programme: [www.unep.org/](http://www.unep.org/)  
United State Environmental Protection Agency: [www.epa.gov/](http://www.epa.gov/)  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: [www.fws.gov/](http://www.fws.gov/)

## **Additional Web resources**

Ecology Action of Texas: [www.ecology-action.org/](http://www.ecology-action.org/)  
Ecology and Society: [www.consecol.org/Journal/](http://www.consecol.org/Journal/)  
Envirolink Network: [www.envirolink.org](http://www.envirolink.org)  
Environment Career Opportunities: [www.Ecojobs.com](http://www.Ecojobs.com)  
Environment Jobs and Careers: [www.ejobs.org](http://www.ejobs.org)  
Environmental Careers Center: [www.environmentalcareer.com](http://www.environmentalcareer.com)  
Environmental Protection Agency- Student Center: [www.epa.gov/students/](http://www.epa.gov/students/)  
Texas Campaign for the Environment: [www.texasenvironment.org](http://www.texasenvironment.org)  
Society of Wetland Scientists Jobs Board - <http://www.sws.org/Resources/the-sws-wetland-jobs-board.html>

## **Career Services' print resources**

100 Jobs in the Environment  
Alternative Careers in Science  
Careers for Animal Lovers and Other Zoological Types  
Careers for Plant Lovers and Other Green Thumb Types  
Careers in Food Science  
Careers in Nonprofit and Government Agencies  
Careers in Renewable Energy  
Careers in the Environment  
Career Opportunities in Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources  
Career Opportunities in Conservation and the Environment  
Career Opportunities in the Energy Industry  
Career Opportunities in the Nonprofit Sector  
Career Opportunities in Politics, Government, and Activism  
Career Opportunities Working with Animals  
Eco Guide to Careers that Make a Difference: Environmental  
Work for a Sustainable World  
Great Jobs for Environmental Studies Majors

Green Careers  
Green Jobs for a New Economy  
Idealist Guide to Non-Profit Careers  
Making a Living While Making a Difference: Conscious Careers  
In an Era of Interdependence  
Opportunities in Animal and Pet Care Careers  
Opportunities in Biological Science Careers  
Opportunities in Chemistry Careers  
Opportunities in Forensic Science Careers  
Opportunities in Forestry Careers  
Opportunities in Pharmacy Careers  
Scientific Research as a Career  
Start Your Own Green Business  
The Nonprofit Career Guide: How to Land a Job that Makes a  
Difference  
WetFeet Insider Guide to Careers in Non-Profit and Government  
Agencies