

Major Possibilities: Environmental Studies



Career Services

Southwestern University at Georgetown, Texas
McCook-Crain Building, 512.863.1346, 512.863.1270 fax
career.services@southwestern.edu
www.southwestern.edu/careers
Explore. Experience. Engage.

Summary

- Environmental scientists and hydrologists use their knowledge of the physical makeup and history of the Earth to protect the environment, study the properties of underground and surface waters, locate water and energy resources, predict water-related geologic hazards, and provide environmental site assessments and advice on indoor air quality and hazardous-waste-site remediation.
- Environmental Studies majors should be interested in applying 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) is a great way to gain experience in environmental activism.
- Although a bachelor's degree is adequate for a few entry-level environmental scientist jobs, 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 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. The program combines a broad set of courses in the natural sciences, social sciences, humanities and fine arts. Students are required to take Environmental Science, which is a biology course. Students must take at least one other science course, with the choice of two biology courses (Global Change Biology or Ecology), two chemistry courses (Chemistry of the Environment or Environmental Chemistry), or a physics course (Intro to Earth Science). 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, and it has a strong reading and discussion component. It also encourages environmental activism.

Sample job titles

Education

Environmental Education Instruction
Environmental Teaching Associate
Park Ranger
Program Leader
Science Teacher (5-12 grades)

Environmental Scientist

Geochemist
Geophysicist
Hydrogeologist
Land Steward
Southwest Regional Ecologist

Environmental Lobbyist

NEPA Environmental Regulatory Analyst
PIRG Legislative Advocate
Program Manager
Restoration Coordinator
Wastewater Disposal Specialist
Water Treatment Specialist
Watershed Leadership Program
Coordinator

Environmental Sciences

Environmental Associate
Environmental Geologist

Policy, Planning, and Management

Center for Land Recycling
Conservation Coordinator

Sample internship employers of SU students

Barton Spring Edwards Aquifer Convention District
Bastrop State Park
Canary Strategies LLC
Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge
Georgetown Animal Shelter
Homestead Healthy Foods
Island Wood Institute – Bainbridge, WA
Jackson and Walker LLP
Mustang Engineering

News 8 Austin
Save Our Springs
Sawtooth National Forest – Twin Falls, ID
Sustainable Food Center
Texas Commission of Environmental Quality
Texas Parks and Wildlife – Bastrop Park and Lockhart State Park
TXU Energy
Williamson County Extension

Possible internship sites

American Indian Science & Engineering Society
Aspen Center for Environmental Studies
Francis Beidler Forest Wildlife Sanctuary
Beaver Lake Nature Center
Brunkner Nature Center

Chicago Botanic Gardens
National Wildlife Federation
Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education
South Florida Water Management District

Sample full-time jobs of SU grads

Casa Verde Builder (AmeriCorps)
Outreach Coordinator (Southface Energy)
Environmental Fellow (Southwestern University)
Environmental Inspector (Mustang Engineering)
Environmental Scientist (SCA Environmental)
Environmental Specialist (Texas Department of Transportation)
Hilti Center Manager (Hilti)
Sustainability Intern (Southwestern University)
Teacher (Sommerschull Wurst, Germany)
Wilderness Youth Counselor (Eckerd Youth Alternative, Inc.)

Professional associations

Air & Waste Management Association: www.awma.org Association of Natural Resources Enforcement Trainers: www.anret.org
Ecological Society of America: www.esa.org
Environmental Health and Safety Management Organization: www.naem.org
GreenCorps: www.greencorps.org
Union of Concerned Scientists: www.ucsusa.org

Additional Web resources

Ecology Action of Texas: www.ecology-action.org/index
Ecology and Society: www.consecol.org/Journal/
EnviroLink Network: www.envirolink.org
Environment Career Opportunities: www.Ecojobs.com
Environment Jobs and Careers: www.ejobs.org
Environmental Careers World: www.environmentalcareer.com
Environmental Protection Agency- Student Center: www.epa.gov/students/
Texas Campaign for the Environment: www.texasenvironment.org
Wetland Scientists Jobs Board: www.sws.org/jobs

Career Services' print resources

100 Jobs in the Environment
Career Opportunities in Conservation and the Environment
Careers for Animal Lovers
Careers for Caring People & Other Sensitive Types
Careers for Environmental Types
Careers for Good Samaritans
Careers for Nature Lovers and Other Outdoor Types
Careers in the Environment Earth Work
Careers in Renewable Energy
Earthwatch Institute: 2008 Expedition Guide
Environmental Careers in the 21st Century
Great Jobs for Biology Majors
Great Jobs for Chemistry Majors
Great Jobs for Environmental Studies Majors
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
Opportunities in Research and Development Careers
Texas Parks and Wildlife brochures
The Eco Guide to Careers that Make a Difference
The Rolling Stones Environmental Reader
Top 20 Biotechnology & Pharmaceutical Firms
Vault Career Guide to Biotech
Veritas Geographical Integrity Informational Packet