Potential Careers

NMU’s Environmental Science Program prepares students for employment in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors in fields such as planning, management, research, assessment, technology innovation, and education. Careers include, but are not limited to:

Occupations

Air Quality Planner
Alternate Energy Specialist
Environmental Advocate
Environmental Educator
Environmental Impact Analyst
Environmental Interpreter
Environmental Lawyer
Environmental Manager
Environmental Planner
Environmental Policy Specialist
Environmental Scientist
Environmental Technician
Hazardous Materials Specialist
Natural Resources Specialist
Pollution Control Technician
Public Health Officer
Recycling Coordinator
Risk Assessment Specialist
Sustainability Analyst
Waste/Landfill Manager
Water Resources Specialist
Water Quality Manager

Additional Resources and Info

For Career Planning and Opportunities:
Academic & Career Advisement Center
3302 C.B. Hedgcock
906-227-2971
www.nmu.edu/acac

Earth, Environmental, & Geographical Sciences Dept.
3001 New Science Facility
906-227-2500
eegs@nmu.edu
www.nmu.edu/eegs

For Job Search, Resume and Career Information:
Career Services
3502 C.B. Hedgcock
906-227-2800
www.nmu.edu/careers

For Information about NMU Student Organizations Associated with this Major Contact:
Center for Student Enrichment
1206 University Center
906-227-2439
www.nmu.edu/cse

Environmental Science Organization
northerneso@gmail.com

Internet Resource Links:

www.careers.org
www.careerresource.net

For Career Information with National Organizations:

www.aess.info Association for Env. Studies & Sciences
www.eco.org Environmental Careers
www.ecoemploy.com Environmental Jobs and Careers
www.ecojobs.com Environmental Career Opportunities
www.environmentaljobs.com Env. Job Alert Bulletin
www.ncse.org National Council for Science and the Environment

Current as of Fall 2015
Provided by:
The Academic & Career Advisement Center
Environmental Science

The Environmental Science major provides students with an interdisciplinary view of environmental research, assessment, and management. The program at NMU offers students an opportunity to gain an understanding of how the physical, biological, and social sciences interact with each other to resolve complex, interdisciplinary environmental problems. The program is designed to prepare students for graduate study and a variety of professions dealing with both natural and human-made environments.

As concern for the environment grows, opportunities for Environmental Science graduates will increase in agencies and firms involved in areas such as engineering, biological control technologies, regulation and use of natural resources, and the remediation of contaminated sites.

In addition to the core courses, Environmental Science majors specialize in one of four concentrations: 1) Natural Resources, 2) Pollution Control and Remediation, 3) Water Resources, or 4) Renewable Energy Technologies.

Skills and Competencies

The Environmental Science major's course work will develop your critical thinking, problem solving, and decision-making abilities. Strong communication skills, including writing and speaking, are absolutely necessary for a career in this field. Leadership skills are also beneficial. As an Environmental Scientist, you must be proficient in technical skills that you will learn as part of your academic experience: Geographic Information Systems and other computer skills, data analysis, analytical chemical procedures, ecological principles. You will also become familiar with environmental policy and regulations. Many of these skills will be developed by hands-on learning and field research.

Course Work

This degree includes the following courses as part of the program requirements, and specific major requirements along with liberal studies and graduation requirements.

Core
- ENV 101 Introduction to Environmental Science (4 cr.)
- BI 210 Principles of Ecology (4 cr.)
- CH 111 General Chemistry I (5 cr.)
- CH 112 General Chemistry II (5 cr.)
- CH 220 Introduction to Organic Chemistry (5 cr.) or CH 321 Organic Chemistry I (4 cr.) and CH 322 Organic Chemistry II (4 cr.)
- GC 202 Soils (4 cr.)
- GC 225 Introduction to Maps (2 cr.)
- GC 235 Quantitative Methods (4 cr.)
- GC 320 Environmental Policy and Regulation (4 cr.)
- GC 335 Geographic Information Systems (4 cr.)
- GC 475 Environmental Impact Assessment or GC 489 Human Impact Upon the Env (4 cr.)
- MA 161 Calculus I (4 cr.)
- PH 201 College Physics I (5 cr.) or PH 220 Introductory Physics I (5 cr.)

Concentration
Choose 16 credits from one concentration, with no more than 12 credits from one prefix without prior approval.
1) Natural Resources
2) Pollution Control and Remediation
3) Water Resources
4) Renewable Energy Technologies

Other required courses
- BI 111 Introductory Biology: Principles (4 cr.)
- BI 112 Introductory Biology: Diversity (4 cr.)

Students select a concentration in this major, a minor is not required.

Detailed course descriptions can be found at www.nmu.edu/bulletin.

Career Development

You should begin the resume-building process as soon as you can. The Academic and Career Advisement Center can assist you with career planning, while Career Services will help you fine tune your resume and look for jobs related to your field. In the meantime, the more hands-on practice you have, the better the chances are that you will find a job. Becoming involved in an environmental related internship is a way to develop your professional skills and gain experience. Your academic course work is important as well.

Additional Considerations

Excellent analytical, communication, math and computer science and research skills are imperative along with a solid understanding of biological, chemical and physical processes. Gaining laboratory and field experience through internships is important. Although a minor is not required for this major, some minors might be helpful, depending upon the student’s career goals. Education beyond the bachelor’s degree is often desirable and may be required for some environmental fields.

Job Outlook

Starting salaries are contingent upon job title, geographic location, and the individual applicant’s work experience and initiative. Employment of environmental scientists, depending on their occupation, is expected to grow at a rate of 15 to 20%, faster than average. The field will have many openings in the coming years. Visit www.bls.gov/ooh for more information.