Potential Careers

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

Occupations

Ecotourism Guide
Environmental Conservation Officer
Environmental Consultant
Environmental Educator
Environmental Lawyer
Environmental Protection Specialist
Organic Farmer
Park Naturalist
Park Ranger
Environmental Policy Expert
Recreational Consultant
Resort Manager
Sustainability Coordinator
Sustainable Agriculture Practitioner
Transportation Planner
Urban Planner
Waste Management Specialist
Water Conservationist

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

EEGS Garden Club
eegsgardenclub@gmail.com

Students for Sustainability
nmusustainability@hotmail.com

Internet Resource Links:
www.careers.org
www.careerresource.net
www.aess.info
www.mymajors.com/environmental-studies-major

For Career Information with National Organizations:
www.nature.org The Nature Conservancy
www.epa.gov Environmental Protection Agency
www.aag.org Association of American Geographers

Current as of Fall 2015
Provided by:

The Academic & Career Advisement Center
Environmental Studies & Sustainability

It is widely accepted that focusing attention on “sustainability” may be our best approach to ensuring a lasting quality of life on Earth. Sustainability refers to using resources such that they will be available to future generations. That concept is part of this curriculum at Northern Michigan University.

The student who majors in Environmental Studies and Sustainability at NMU is trained and educated to observe and measure how people interact with Earth’s natural and cultural environments. Such observations and measurements yield knowledge that will help us to better understand our changing world and its parts. This environmental awareness subsequently improves the performance of business, planning, law, management, education, communication, criminal justice, public affairs, and other professions as they deal with environmental ethics and problems.

Skills and Competencies

Multiple liberal studies classes will count towards a degree in Environmental Studies and Sustainability. These classes will help you develop invaluable skills and competencies, all of which you will use in the work force. Communication skills, for example, are particularly needed in most career fields today, and Environmental Studies and Sustainability is no exception. Effective writing and speaking skills will help carry you far. In this program, you will fine-tune analytical skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, and decision making. You will acquire a number of proficiencies specifically related to the Environmental Studies and Sustainability field.

Course Work

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

Core
ENV 101 Introduction to Environmental Science (4 cr.)
GC 100 Physical Geography (4 cr.)
GC 164 Human Geography (4 cr.)
GC 205 Introduction to Geographic Research (4 cr.)
GC 220 Economic Geography (4 cr.)
GC 225 Introduction to Maps (2 cr.)
GC 235 Quantitative Methods (4 cr.)
GC 269 Introduction to Sustainability (4 cr.)
GC 310 Urban Geography (4 cr.)
GC 320 Environmental Policy and Regulation (4 cr.)
GC 335 Geographic Information Systems (4 cr.)
GC 360 Population Geography (4 cr.)
GC 489 Human Impact Upon the Environment (4 cr.)

Choose 8 credits from the following:
AN 210 People, Culture and Nature (4 cr.)
AN 320 Native Peoples of North America (4 cr.)
BC 415 Intercultural Communication (4 cr.)
EC 340 Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy (4 cr.)
EC 345 Env & Natural Resource Economics (4 cr.)
EC 410 Managerial Economics (4 cr.)
EC 425 International Economics (4 cr.)
EC 460 Economic Development (4 cr.)
GC 202 Soils (4 cr.)
*GC 300 Regional Studies: World Cultures (4 cr.)
GC 317 Geography of Food Systems (4 cr.)
GC 470 Environmental Ethics (4 cr.)
GC 475 Environmental Impact Assessment (4 cr.)
GC 491 Internship (2-6 cr.)
NAS 340 Kinomaage: Earth Shows Us the Way (4 cr.)
NAS 342 Indigenous Environmental Movements (4 cr.)
PS 206 International Relations (4 cr.)
PS 402 Political Economy (4 cr.)
PS 404 Politics of East and Southeast Asia (4 cr.)
PS 415 Politics of American Foreign Policy (4 cr.)
RE 270 Outdoor Rec Resources, Behavior & Values (3 cr.)
SO 351 Social Change (4 cr.)
SP 432 Environmental Communication (4 cr.)
*Study abroad may be substituted with Advisor approval.

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 environment-related internship is a way to develop your professional skills and gain experience. Your academic course work is important as well.

Additional Considerations

You can gain excellent experience in the environmental field by finding an internship related to your interests.

Practical work experience can increase your marketability for potential employers.

Minors in biology, outdoor recreation, criminal justice, Spanish, geomatics, or business may be helpful if pursuing work in environmental fields.

Job Outlook

The general field of Environmental Studies and Sustainability is expected to evolve and grow. Job growth is at or above average depending on the career path in the broad range of environmental occupations. Visit www.bls.gov/ooh for more information.