

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Environmental scientists use their knowledge of the natural sciences to work on solving some of the most important problems of our day. They may clean up polluted areas, advise policymakers, work with industry to reduce pollution and waste, investigate the source of environmental or health problems and devise strategies to combat them.

INDUSTRY GROWTH IS TIED TO:

- Heightened public interest regarding environmental issues.
- Increasing demands on the environment caused by worldwide population growth.
- Need for businesses to comply with environmental regulations, reduce waste, prevent pollution and conserve resources.



11% JOB GROWTH
THROUGH 2024

FASTER THAN AVERAGE JOB GROWTH

2016 MEDIAN SALARIES

- Environmental scientists \$68,910
- Meteorologists \$63,190
- Conservationists \$60,610
- Technicians \$44,190
- Geoscientists \$89,780
- Hydrologists \$80,480
- Administrators \$119,850
- Zoologists \$60,250

JOB TASKS AND DUTIES

- Determine data collection methods.
- Identify and assess threats to the environment.
- Develop plans to prevent, control or fix environmental problems.
- Provide information and guidance on possible environmental hazards and health risks.
- Prepare technical reports and presentations to explain research and findings.

WHO HIRES ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTISTS

- Science and technical consulting firms
- Architecture and engineering firms
- Government
- Conservation agencies
- Colleges and universities
- Land-use organizations
- Oil, gas and mining companies



WHAT TO EXPECT IN AN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES PROGRAM

Pursuing a degree in environmental science will prepare you to mitigate the impact of humans on the natural environment. Through your studies, you'll learn to conduct research, identify and assess threats, and then develop plans to prevent, control or fix environmental problems.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE MAY BE A GOOD FIT IF YOU...

- Have an interest in nature and the environment.
- Take an objective approach to work and research activities.
- Learn quickly.
- Can use logic to solve complex problems.
- Have excellent oral and written communication skills.
- Can work independently and as part of a team.
- Have physical stamina for fieldwork.
- Enjoy being outside to collect samples.

CLASSES MAY INCLUDE:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Earth and atmospheric sciences
- Ecology
- Environmental policy and regulation
- Geology
- Hydrology
- Mathematics
- Oceanography
- Public administration
- Statistics
- Waste management

LOOK FOR A PROGRAM THAT OFFERS:

- Classes, internships, and fieldwork opportunities that include work in computer modeling, data analysis and geographic information systems.
- Partnerships with groups like the University Consortium of Atmospheric Research (UCAR).
- Opportunities to work with outside companies or government agencies.
- State-of-the-art labs and opportunities to conduct research as an undergraduate.

To learn about the Environmental Science program at the University of Northern Colorado, visit us at [UNCO.EDU/NHS/ESCI/ESCIENV](https://unco.edu/nhs/esci/escienv)

Before you declare your major in environmental sciences:

- Take classes in chemistry, geology, biology, physics and geophysics in high school to ensure you like them and develop a solid scientific background for your college courses.
- Interview a current environmental scientist to learn everything you can about your potential career. If possible, shadow an environmental scientist and observe what a typical day in this field might be like.

"Sustainability, ensuring the future of life on Earth, is an infinite game, the endless expression of generosity on behalf of all."

—Paul Hawken, environmentalist



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