Environmental and Sustainability Studies majors develop skills to implement practical solutions to environmental problems and create strategies for using the earth’s resources more responsibly for the benefit of future generations.

**INDUSTRY GROWTH IS TIED TO:**
- Increasing need for efficient water use and a clean water supply.
- Requirements for businesses to clean up contaminated sites and prevent future contamination.
- New federal and state environmental regulations.
- Developing need for alternative energy sources.

**11% JOB GROWTH THROUGH 2024**

**2016 MEDIAN SALARIES**
- Environmental engineers $84,890
- Environmental scientists $68,910
- Sustainability coordinators $45,000

**POTENTIAL CAREERS**
- Energy analyst
- Ecotourism manager
- Environmental writer
- Environmental scientist
- Permaculture designer
- Petroleum engineer
- Resource manager
- Sustainability planner and analyst
- Urban farmer
- Water resource engineer
- Wetland specialist
- Wind energy engineer

**JOB TASKS AND DUTIES**
- Prepare and review environmental investigation reports.
- Design projects that lead to environmental protection.
- Provide technical support for environmental remediation.
- Monitor the progress of environmental improvement programs.
- Inspect industrial and municipal facilities to ensure compliance.
- Develop strategies for sustainability in a variety of settings.

**WHO HIRES ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY MAJORS**
- Science and technical consulting firms
- Architecture and engineering firms
- Government
- Conservation agencies
- Colleges and universities
- Land-use organizations
- Sustainable agriculture farms and organizations

Sources: [https://www.bls.gov/ooh/architecture-and-engineering/environmental-engineers.htm](https://www.bls.gov/ooh/architecture-and-engineering/environmental-engineers.htm)
WHAT TO EXPECT IN AN ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY STUDIES PROGRAM

A degree in environmental and sustainability studies will prepare you to take a cross-disciplinary approach to solving environmental problems and seeking solutions to local and global sustainability issues.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY STUDIES MAY BE A GOOD FIT IF YOU…

• Have an interest in nature and the environment.
• Want to find solutions that benefit ecosystems, human communities and the economy.
• Enjoy hands-on learning and working in diverse academic fields.
• Learn quickly.
• Have physical stamina for fieldwork.
• Enjoy being outside.

CLASSES MAY INCLUDE:

• Business
• Public policy
• Conservation
• Applied math
• Ecology and ecosystems
• Food and agriculture
• Natural sciences
• Research methodologies
• Sociology
• Statistics
• Sustainability
• Sustainable practices and problem solving

LOOK FOR A PROGRAM THAT OFFERS:

• Opportunities to gain hands-on experience through internships and field experience.
• On-campus organizations, events and initiatives that promote sustainability and environmental stewardship.
• Opportunities to network with companies or government agencies.
• Entrepreneurial opportunities in sustainability.
• State-of-the-art labs and opportunities to conduct research as an undergraduate.

Before you declare your major in Environmental and Sustainability Studies:

• Take classes in chemistry, geology, biology, physics and geophysics in high school to ensure you like them and get a solid scientific background for your college courses.
• Interview a current environmental and sustainability professional to learn everything you can about your potential career.
• Volunteer or intern with an organization or company that focuses on sustainability efforts like agriculture, recycling and green energy as a summer job to gain industry experience.

“Sustainable development is the pathway to the future we want for all. It offers a framework to generate economic growth, achieve social justice, exercise environmental stewardship and strengthen governance.”

—Ban Ki-moon, South Korean diplomat and former Secretary-General, United Nations

To learn about the Environmental and Sustainability Studies program at the University of Northern Colorado, visit us at UNCO.EDU/PROGRAMS/ENVIRONMENTAL-SUSTAINABILITY-STUDIES