

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY STUDIES

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

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| • 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



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.

To learn about the Environmental and Sustainability Studies program at the University of Northern Colorado, visit us at [UNCO.EDU/PROGRAMS/ENVIRONMENTAL-SUSTAINABILITY-STUDIES](https://unco.edu/programs/environmental-sustainability-studies)

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



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