Environmental Science B.S.

Major

Bachelor of Science

Earth and Environmental Sciences

Swenson College of Science and Engineering

The BS in environmental science is designed for students who want a multidisciplinary science education focusing on aspects of the environment. This environmental science program requires a broad base of knowledge in the basic sciences and mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, Earth sciences, and statistics. In addition, prudent study of environmental science requires understanding of economic, political, and ethical considerations.

Environmental science features an intense grounding in resource issues (including courses in renewable and non-renewable resources) and builds on the strength of UMD in freshwater issues. In addition, the capstone course deals with sources, distribution, and ultimate fate of air, water, and solid waste pollution. Elective courses from areas such as habitats, climate processes, environmental chemistry, quantitative methods, and global resources are also required.

Why UMD

- Active learning environment
- Access to state-of-the-art instrumentation
- Focus on undergraduate teaching and research

Acquired Skills

- Firm background in physical and life sciences
- Basic understanding of existing environmental policies and regulations and the legislative process of their formation
- An understanding of the major environmental issues including water, global climate, energy, pollution, and population
- Techniques of environmental monitoring and prediction
- Economics and business organization

Career Possibilities

Geologists work to understand the history of our planet. By better understanding Earth’s history, they are able to foresee how events and processes of the past might influence the future. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, Environmental Science is one of the fastest growing professions in the U.S. with an average salary of $60,000.

Geologists work in a variety of settings:

- Natural resource companies
- Environmental consulting companies
- Government agencies
- Non-profit organizations
- Universities

Scholarships

In addition to the SCSE scholarships provided our department also offers many others including the Kenneth E. Differt Scholarship, the James R. Frantes Graduate Fellowship, the Estwing Award, the Ralph and Ellen Marsden Scholarship, the Robert C. Bright Field Camp Scholarship, the Robert L. Heller Field Camp Scholarship, the Lempi M. & John W. Pagnucco Scholarship, the Rip Rapp Geology Field Camp Scholarship, the Randy Seeling Graduate Student Award, the Roderick Syck Field Camp Scholarship, and the Richard Patelke Scholarship.
Student Clubs

We have 2 main clubs on campus. The Geology club is an academic organization with the goal of sharing our passion for geology and helping students make connections in the department and throughout the field. We want to show students what geology is really about.

The Environmental Science club is a club for those interested in activities involving science, environmental issues, and conservation. The club takes part in outdoor recreation events as well as restoration projects and trash pick ups.

Graduate Report

Recent UMD Graduates Job Placement Data & Employers

Here's a sampling of positions Environmental Science B.S. grads have attained six months to one year after graduation.

- Environmental Compliance Specialist - ALLETE Minnesota Power, Duluth, MN
- Environmental Scientist - Environmental Troubleshooters, Inc., Duluth, MN
- Environmental Technician - Institute of Environmental Assessment, Brooklyn Park, MN
- Reforestation Forestry Technician - United States Forest Service, Blackduck, MN
- Environmental Specialist - Veolia Environmental Services, Blaine, MN

For more data see the Environmental Science B.S. Graduate Follow-Up Report [5].

For ideas about Environmental Science B.S. and other majors visit Career & Internship Services [6].

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