Environmental Science

Purdue School of Science

About the Major

Environmental Science is an interdisciplinary field that integrates physical and biological sciences in the study of the environment, and the solution of environmental problems. Environmental science provides an integrated, quantitative, and interdisciplinary approach to the study of environmental systems (IUPUI School of Science, 2011).

Sample Coursework

- Climate Change
- Organic Chemistry
- Mathematical Methods in Environmental Science
- Earth Materials
- Environmental Geology

Possible Career Opportunities

- Environmental Science and Protection Technicians
- Environmental Engineer
- Natural Sciences Manager
- Environmental Teacher
- Environmental Consultant

Employment Outlook

Employment of environmental scientists and specialists is expected to grow by 19 percent from 2010 to 2020, about as fast as the average for all occupations. Heightened public interest in the hazards facing the environment, as well as the increasing demands placed on the environment by population growth, is projected to spur demand for environmental scientists and specialists. Further demand is also expected as a result of new and increasingly complex environmental laws and regulations. Most employment growth for environmental scientists and specialists is projected to be in private consulting firms that help clients monitor and manage environmental concerns and comply with regulations (Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2012-13 Edition, Environmental Scientists and Specialists).

Salary Expectations

Examples of national median annual salaries of careers that can be obtained with an Environmental Science degree are (O*NET, 12/2013): Environmental Engineer $80,890, Natural Sciences Manager $115,730, Environmental Teacher $77,320, Soil & Water Conservator $61,100, Environmental Science and Protection Technicians $45,350.

(This section is intended for informational purposes, not prediction of actual salary. Salary information is based on national salary ranges which are greatly impacted by location and relative cost of living.)

Graduate/Professional School Opportunities

Environmental Science graduates may choose to pursue advanced degrees in one of the following areas: Environmental Science, Chemistry, Biology, Physics, and Geoscience.

Where Can I Get More Information?

Purdue School of Science
Office: SL 118 Phone: (317) 274-7484
earthsciences.iupui.edu

National Association of Environmental Professionals
naep.org

Center for Earth: Environmental Science
cees.iupui.edu

Where Could I Work?

- Federal and state agencies
- Industry and consulting firms
- Environmental firms
- Management, scientific and technological consulting firms
- Architectural firms

Interest Code

Investigative
Realistic
Enterprising

Find more about your interest code at: go.iupui.edu/interests