



CENTER FOR CAREER & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Major Possibilities: Environmental Studies

Quick Facts

- A bachelor’s degree in environmental studies can help pave the way for roles in environmental policy, environmental advocacy, and environmental compliance.
- Students can complement an environmental studies major with additional science coursework to pursue environmental science fields. For such fields, employers prefer a master’s degree in environmental science, hydrology, or a related natural science; a Ph.D. degree generally is required for research or college teaching positions.
- Environmental studies majors can apply what they learn in the classroom to environmental activism within their communities. Involvement in the on-campus group SEAK (Students for Environmental Activism and Knowledge), HEAT (Human-Environmental-Animal Team), and the Garden Club are great ways to gain experience in environmental activism.
- Internships (including research experiences) help shape professional identities, develop 21st century career-readiness skills, and make meaning of the academic experience.

Environmental Studies Major Synopsis

The Environmental Studies major is an interdisciplinary program that examines the many connections between humans and nature from a wide variety of perspectives. Environmental studies considers the physical and biological properties of the environment; concepts of the environment from a range of social, religious, artistic, and philosophical perspectives; and public policy approaches to understanding and grappling with environmental problems. The program introduces students to the viewpoints of both environmental thinkers and their critics and encourages students to engage in environmental activism. One math course, Introduction to Statistics, is also required. The Capstone seminar requires students to analyze a local or regional environmental issue from multiple perspectives.

Sample Job Titles

Agroecologist	Environmental Lobbyist	Geophysicist	Restoration Coordinator
Architect	Environmental Regulator	Hydrologist	Science Teacher
Conservation Coordinator	Environmental Inspector	Land Steward	Wastewater Treatment/ Disposal Specialist
Ecologist	Game Warden	Legislative Advocate	Watershed Manager
Environmental Educator	Geochemist	Park Ranger	Wildlife Protection Agent
Environmental Scientist	Geologist	Regional Ecologist	

Sample Internship Employers of SU Students

Austin Nature & Science Center - Austin, TX	Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge - Chincoteague, VA
Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District - Austin, TX	City of Austin / City of Georgetown - Austin/Georgetown, TX
Bastrop State Park - Bastrop, TX	Critical Eye - London, England
Battleground Texas - Austin, TX	Colorado River Foundation - Austin, TX
Bike Texas - Austin, TX	Georgetown Animal Shelter - Georgetown, TX
Boggy Creek Farm - Austin, TX	Green Gate Farms - Bastrop, TX
Boys and Girls Club - Georgetown, TX	Island Wood Institute - Seattle, WA
Canary Strategies LLC - Austin, TX	Las Olas Travel - Costa Rica
Chester Zoo - Chester, England	Lockhart State Park - Lockhart, TX

Mustang Engineering - Houston, TX
Sam Houston National Forest - New Waverly, TX
San Antonio Water System - San Antonio, TX
Save Our Springs - Austin, TX
Sawtooth National Forest - Stanley, ID
SEED Coalition - Austin, TX
Sierra Club - Austin, TX
Sustainable Food Center - Austin, TX
Texas Natural Diversity Database - Austin, TX

Texas Parks and Wildlife - Austin, TX
Williamson Co. Agrilife Extension - Georgetown, TX
Texas Campaign for the Environment - Austin, TX
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality - Austin, TX
The Senior Source - Dallas, TX
TXU Energy - Irving, TX
Urban Roots - Austin, TX
Williamson Co. Regional Animal Shelter - Georgetown, TX

Possible Internship Employers

American Indian Science & Engineering Society
Aspen Center for Environmental Studies
Austin Youth River Watch
Beaver Lake Nature Center
Brokner Nature Center
Chicago Botanic Gardens
Cox | McLain Environmental Consulting
Environment Texas
Francis Beidler Forest Wildlife Sanctuary
National Park Service
National Wildlife Federation

Schuykill Center for Environmental Education
South Florida Water Management District
State of Texas Alliance for Recycling (STAR)
Texas A&M Institute of Renewable Natural Resources
Texas League of Conservation Voters
Texas Nature Conservancy
Texas Solar Energy Society
Texas Water Resources Institute
US Environmental Protection Agency
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Weston Solutions

Sample Full-Time Jobs of SU Grads

Activity Specialist (City of Austin Parks and Recreation)
Administrator of Special Projects (City of Chicago Dept. of Environment)
Air Quality Investigator (TCEQ)
Casa Verde Builder (AmeriCorps)
Conservation Economics and Ecosystem Intern (Bureau of Land Mgmt.)
Development Associate (Habitat for Humanity)
Environmental Chemist (Phillips 66)
Environmental Fellow (Southwestern University)
Environmental Inspector (Mustang Engineering)
Environmental Investigator (TCEQ)
Environmental Scientist (SCA Environmental)
Environmental Specialist (TxDOT)

GIS Analyst (San Antonio Water System)
Hilti Center Manager (Hilti)
Hydrological Technician (US Geological Survey)
Invasive Control (Lochow Ranch)
Outreach Coordinator (Southface Energy)
Park Ranger (Brazos Bend State Park)
Produce Manager (Vitamin Cottage Natural Grocers)
Program Assistant (Sierra Club)
Project Coordinator (City of Austin Music Division)
Solar Panel Installer (NexGen Construction)
Strategic Initiatives Planner (City of Austin)
Wilderness Youth Counselor (Eckerd Youth Alternative, Inc.)

Professional Associations

Air & Waste Management Association
North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association
Earth System Governance
Ecological Society of America
Global Environment Facility

National Association for Environmental Management
The Society of Environmental Journalists
Union of Concerned Scientists
United Nations Environment Programme