

Environmental Science



Environmental Science is the study of the relationships among humans, other organisms, and the non-living physical environment, with an emphasis on the impacts of human activities. Technology, when used wisely, contributes to the solution of current environmental problems and the prevention of new ones. As the population and our technological advances grow, so does our impact on the world we live in. Colorado Mesa University offers an exciting Environmental Science program where students have the opportunity to learn of new technologies and solutions to challenging environmental problems.

The goal of the [Environmental Science and Technology](#) program at Colorado Mesa University is to educate our students in the science, protection, and restoration of our air, land, water, and ecosystems. Students develop a solid foundation in biology, chemistry, mathematics, statistics, and communications then apply this knowledge to the study and solution of environmental problems. Some students are taking part in working with organizations such as the Colorado National Monument and the Colorado Division of Minerals and Geology. Students have a choice of two options within the environment science program: either the Pollution Monitoring and Control option, which focuses on pollution prevention, investigation, and clean up; or students can choose the Ecosystem Restoration option, which focuses on strategies for managing natural resources. In either case students learn from [hands-on experience](#) outdoors in our diverse Colorado environment. CMU also has many [clubs and organizations](#) that can help prepare students for advanced study in their field or build campus and community connections.

A person in this career field may:

- Collect samples of gasses, soils, water, and other substances to conduct tests on pollutant levels or identify sources of pollution.
- Record test data and prepare reports, summaries, or charts that interpret test results.
- Develop or implement programs for monitoring environmental pollution or radiation.
- Develop testing procedures or direct activities of workers in the laboratory.
- Prepare samples or photomicrographs for testing and analysis.
- Calibrates microscopes or test instruments.
- Examines and analyzes material for presence and concentration of contaminants.
- Receives, sets up, tests, or decontaminates equipment.
- Conducts pollution surveys; collecting and analyzing samples such as air and ground water.
- Performs environmental quality work in field or office settings.
- Performs laboratory work such as logging numerical and visual observations.
- Inspects facilities to monitor compliance with regulations governing substances such as asbestos, lead, or wastewater.

Major Skills & Characteristics

- Attention to detail
- Computer literacy
- Technical writing skills
- Communication skills
- Work effectively in a team or alone
- Enjoy working outdoors
- Problem solving
- Time management
- Interpersonal skills

Organizations That Commonly Employ Environmental Science Majors

- Environmental planning and consulting companies
- County, state, and federal environmental agencies
- Environmental research firms
- Environmental consulting firms
- Universities
- State or federal parks
- Environmental advocacy organizations
- Construction companies
- Oil companies
- Law firms

Related Careers

- Agricultural scientist
- Agricultural technician
- Air/Water quality mgr.
- Air pollution analyst
- Biochemist
- Biologist
- Biotechnologist
- Chemical technician
- Chemist
- Civil engineer
- Conservation agent
- Conservation systems analyst
- Consumer safety inspector
- Earth scientist
- Outdoor trip leader
- Oceanographer
- Park ranger
- Soil conservation tech
- Teacher
- Ecologist
- Environmental consultant
- Environmental lawyer
- EPA inspector
- Fisheries conservationist
- Project manager
- Water/Wastewater plant operator
- Forest ranger
- Geographer
- Geologist
- Geophysicist
- Hazardous waste manger
- Hydrologist
- Industrial hygienist
- Management consultant
- Meteorologist
- Microbiologist
- Natural Resource specialist
- Occupational safety specialist
- Ocean technician
- Range manger
- Resource economist
- Seismologist
- Wildlife manager
- Zoologist

Note: Some of the occupations listed above may require additional education, experience, or training beyond a Bachelor's Degree. Please use the Career Research Resources links below to research these occupations.

Career Research Resources:

Use these sites to research information about specific occupations such as nature of the work, training or qualifications, employment or job outlook, projections, earnings and wages.

O*NET-Online: <http://www.onetonline.org>

The U.S. Department of Labor

- In the occupational search box type in key words, job titles, or occupational codes to research various careers.

Occupational Outlook Handbook: <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>

The Bureau of Labor Statistics

- Use the A-Z index to select the occupation you are researching, such as **Environmental Scientists and Specialists** at <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/life-physical-and-social-science/environmental-scientists-and-specialists.htm>

My Future.com: <http://www.myfuture.com>

The Department of Defense

- This site compiles information from departments of [Commerce](#), [Education](#) and [Labor](#).

Organizations and Associations Links

- Air and Waste Management Association: www.awma.org
- American Water Works Association: www.awwa.org
- Association of Women in Environmental Professions: www.awep.org
- Colorado Environmental Coalition: www.ourcolorado.org
- Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety: <http://mining.state.co.us>
- Ecological Society of America: www.esa.org
- Rocky Mountain Association of Environmental Professionals: www.rmaep.org
- Society for Conservation Biology: www.conbio.org

Job Listings/Job Search Sites:

- American Water Works Association: <http://apps.awwa.org>
- Cyber-Sierra: www.cyber-sierra.com
- Eco Employ: www.ecoemploy.com
- Environmental Career Center: <http://environmentalcareer.com>
- Environmental Jobs: <http://environmentaljobs.com>
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): www.epa.gov
- Society of Wetland Scientist: www.sws.org
- Water Environment Federation: www.wef.org