



ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

*WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES?

*WHAT CAN I DO TO MAKE MYSELF MORE MARKETABLE?

*WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

CAREER PLANNING * SUNY POTSDAM * 206 SISSON HALL

WEB SITE: www.potsdam.edu/offices/career

E-mail: career@potsdam.edu

TELEPHONE: (315) 267-2344

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES?

1. Become an advocate for the environment.
2. Mediate between humans and the environment on development issues.
3. Study the interdependence between the earth and human systems.
4. Educate the public on environmental issues through classroom teaching and journalism.
5. Persuade politicians to pass legislation that will benefit the environment.
6. Monitor construction projects to assure their compliance with environmental regulations.
7. Assess and plan the use of natural resources.
8. Protect and restore habitat.

EXAMPLES OF FIELDS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES MAJORS:

- * Environmental Consulting Firms
- * State Departments of Environmental Conservation
- * County and Urban Planning Offices
- * County Soil and Water Districts
- * Firms Marketing Green Products and processes
- * Teaching in Schools and Universities
- * Public Education through Parks and Museums
- * Nonprofit Groups such as Environmental Advocacy
- * News and Magazine Writing

SAMPLE JOB TITLES OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES MAJORS:

- * Park Naturalist
- * Environmental Planner
- * Park Administrator
- * Wildlife Control Agent
- * Researcher/Writer
- * Consultant
- * Environmental Advocate
- * Environmental Impact Analyst

SAMPLE JOB DESCRIPTIONS:

1. Environmental Planner: Evaluates the potential impact of construction projects on air, water, soil, plants and animals. Proposes alternative plans to protect the environment.
2. Environmental Educator: researching and developing educational programs and resources for schools, adults, families, community groups or visitors to sites of special environmental interest.
3. Wildlife Control Agent: Conducts surveys of forests and fields to estimate the number of animals such as deer, pheasant, fox, grouse, ducks, etc. Recommends changes in hunting seasons and relocation of animals in overpopulated areas. Conducts educational programs on wildlife.
4. Park Naturalist: Plans, develops, and conducts educational and recreational programs to inform the public regarding the history and scientific facts of the parks. Describes animals and vegetation. Uses photographs and creates exhibits; surveys park conditions and initiates restrictions as needed.

ENHANCING EMPLOYABILITY:

1. Get involved in the career development process early, freshman year.
2. Field test your job skills in our capstone experience in the NYS Forest Preserve.
3. Get career related experience: INTERNSHIPS, summer and/or part-time employment, volunteer. Join a career-related association or organization.
4. Become active with a student research project within the department.
5. Select minors/elective courses that will demonstrate interest/applicability to your career objective.
6. Develop the following job search and self-marketing skills: resume writing, cover letter writing, create a portfolio and self-marketing brochure, researching employers, interviewing, networking, and employment searching.
7. Skills to develop: field research of land use in sciences and humanities, summarizing research findings, perceiving patterns and structures, organizing, speaking, writing, leading small-task groups, combining scientific and political information for decisions, facility with ecological concepts, geographical information system software, environmental organization, collect and evaluate environmental information, and communicate environmental information to a variety of audiences.

SAMPLE HANDS-ON INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE:

- * New York State Tug Hill Commission
 - A commission that seeks to protect the natural environment and strengthen the rural economy of the 2100 square mile tug hill region between Lake Ontario and the Adirondacks.
 - Interns work on a variety of projects including land protection, historic preservation, zoning issues, and recreational planning. Interns are also exposed to government work in the conservation process.
- * DEC
 - Help develop land use master plans for the Department of Environmental Conservation.
 - Research and interpret land use history to the public in a restored Mount Arab Fire Tower /Great Camp Sagamore, a national historic landmark.
- * Healthy Schools Network, Inc.
 - Coalition of parent, environmental, educational, and public health groups dedicated to assuring that every child and school employee share an environmentally healthy school environment. They are the leading advocate for public school facilities.
 - Intern responsibilities include responding to incoming calls for assistance with information, referrals, mailings, and other general office assistance. Interns also research reports on school conditions and children's health.

PREPARING FOR THE JOB SEARCH MARKET & CAREER INFORMATION:

- * Write an employer targeted resume and cover letter
- * Learn job search strategies
- * Borrow resources from SUNY Potsdam's Career Planning Library
- * Seek advice from faculty
- * Network w/employers at Career/Job Fairs
- * Prepare for an interview
- * Design a portfolio and self-marketing brochure
- * Visit SUNY Potsdam's Career Planning Web Site at: www.potsdam.edu/offices/career
- * Develop Networking Cards

SOME EMPLOYERS OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES MAJORS:

- * NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation
- * American Museum of Natural History
- * Environmental Defense
- * Wildlife Habitat Council
- * Indiana University of Pennsylvania
- * Applied Earth Sciences, Inc.
- * Earth Tech
- * Adirondack Council
- * Adirondack Mountain Club
- * Empire State Wind Energy
- * Trust for Public Land
- * Sierra Club
- * Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- * Environmental Resources Management
- * Dept. of Environmental Conservation
- * U.S. Green Building Council

WHERE TO GET INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE:

1. **Anthropology Dept., SUNY Potsdam, 124 MacVicar**
Geology Dept., SUNY Potsdam, 220 Timmerman Hall

* Talk with Faculty * Talk with Students



Alumni

2. **CAREER PLANNING OFFICE, SUNY Potsdam, 206 Sisson Hall**

* Individual Career Assistance * Job Vacancies
* Workshops/Seminars * Summer Jobs
* Employer Literature * Reference file
* Career Assessment Programs * Career Planning Web Site
* Career and Job Fairs * Career Library
* Networking Assistance * A Major Affair
* Alumni Mentor * Free Handouts Available

WHAT IF I WANT TO GO TO GRADUATE SCHOOL?

RESOURCES AVAILABLE AT THE CAREER PLANNING OFFICE:

- * On-Campus Graduate School Fair
- * Graduate School handout
- * GRE, GMAT, MCAT, LSAT and MAT forms and bulletins (GRE computerized tests and graduate study books)
- * Graduate books - listings of schools and programs
- * Financial aid information about graduate school
- * Peterson's Graduate Programs (G7F, G7G, G7H, G7I, G7J, G7K)
- * Web Site: www.potsdam.edu/offices/career/graduate

RESOURCES FOR FINDING EMPLOYERS AND CAREERS:

RESOURCES AVAILABLE AT THE CAREER PLANNING OFFICE:

- * Dun's Employment Opportunities Directory (R8GG)
- * Job Hunter's Sourcebook (R26D)
- * Job Opportunities-Environment (R14A)
- * Directory of National Environmental Organizations (R14B)
- * Summer Jobs Worldwide (S2A)
- * Careers for Nature Lovers and Other Outdoor Types (C36B)
- * The Book of U.S. Government Jobs (C16C)
- * The Complete Guide to Environmental Careers (C14A)
- * Careers Inside the World of Environmental Science (C14B)
- * The Green Entrepreneur: Business Opportunities that can Save the Earth...(C14C)
- * The ECO Guide to Careers That Make A Difference (C14E)

OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

National Association of Environmental Professionals
P.O. Box 460
Collingwood, NJ 08108
Tel: (856) 283-7816
www.naep.org

The Ecological Society of America
1990 M Street NW Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20036
Tel: (202) 833-8773
www.esa.org

American Association for the Advancement of Science
1200 New York Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20005
Tel: 202-326-6400
www.aaas.org

Environmental Careers Organization
179 South Street
Boston, MA 02111
Tel: (480) 515-2525
www.eco.org