

WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR IN

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

OVERVIEW OF MAJOR

The Department of Geography, Planning & Environment at Concordia University at the undergraduate level offers a BA Major in the Human Environment, BA Honours in the Human Environment, BA Specialization in the Human Environment, BSc Honours in Environmental Science, BSc Specialization in Environmental Science, BSc Major in Environmental Geography, Minor in the Human Environment and Minor in Environmental Geography. At the graduate level the Department offers an MSc in Geography, Urban & Environmental Studies, MSc (Environmental Impact Assessment) and a Diploma in Environmental Assessment. For the latest information on programs, go to the Department of Geography, Planning & Environment's Internet site at:

<http://www.gpe.concordia.ca/>

This multidisciplinary field helps students develop theoretical, practical, technical and social skills that prepare them for a wide variety of career options and for jobs directly and indirectly related to environmental science. The field, moreover, nurtures research, communication, critical thinking and problem solving skills which will serve students well in a multitude of workplace sectors. They finish their degrees prepared to deal with important environmental issues such as hazardous waste management, toxic materials control, wastewater management, air quality control, industrial hygiene and public health.

**EXAMPLES OF JOBS ACQUIRED BY
CONCORDIA GRADUATES**

The following job titles are representative of the types of entry-level positions for which Concordia University students are qualified upon graduation. Note that the numbers following each job title refer to Canada's National Occupational Classification (NOC) code. For details on these titles go to <http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/NOC/>.

- Conseiller de restauration de l'environnement (4161)
- Coordinator of Special Projects (4164)
- Director, Environmental Youth Initiative (0314)
- Educational Tour Guide (6441)
- Environment Education Assistant (4161)
- Environmental Analyst (4161)
- Environmental Specialist
- Environmental Waste Technician (9424, 2263)
- Field Analyst (4161)
- Field/Promotions Representative 1122)
- Garde-parc naturalist (2121)
- Junior Analyst (4161)
- Junior Environmental Consultant (4161, 4166)
- Junior Environmental Planner (2153)
- Junior Researcher, Environment (4161, 4164)
- Liaison Agent
- Market Analyst (4163)
- Outreach Assistant (4212)
- Project Assistant (4164)
- Project Organizer (4161)
- Research Assistant (4122, 4164 2223)
- Technical Assistant (1454, 2231, 2263)

CELEBRATED ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES MAJORS

John Clarke. Canadian. Mountaineer & Wilderness

Educator

Maurice Strong. 1st Executive Director UN

Environment Program

Farley Mowat. Canadian. Conservationist & Widely

Read Author

Elizabeth May. Canadian. Leader of Green Party of

Canada. Writer

Neil Young. Canadian. Singer/Songwriter.

Environmental Advocate

David Suzuki. Canadian. Environmental Activist.

Science Broadcaster

David Orr. Wrote Ecological Literacy. Advisor,

Leonardo DiCaprio film producer, actor.

Environmental activist. The 11th Hour

- Environmental Issues Lobbyist (4161)
- Environmental Planner (2153)
- Environmental Program Coordinator (4161)
- Environmental Science Manager (0212)
- Field Service Agent (2123)
- Forest Manager (0811, 0412)
- Global Warming Advocate (4112)
- Human Rights Officer (4164)
- Hydrologist (2113)
- Industrial Hygienist (4161)
- Insurance Agent (6231)
- Job Analyst (1121)
- Journalist (5123)
- Marine Biologist (2121)
- National Parks Planner
- Natural Resources Planner (4161)
- Oceanographer (2113)
- Park and Wildlife Naturalist (2121)
- Policy Analyst (4161, 4164)
- Professor (4121)
- Publisher (0016)
- Range Manager (2223)
- Recycling Coordinator (4161)
- Sanitary Engineer (2131)
- Silviculturist (2223)
- Sociologist (4169)
- Statistician (2161)
- Urban Planner (2153)
- Zoologist (2121)

MORE JOB TITLES

Environmental Studies opens the door to career paths related to environmental education, environmental sciences, environmental technology, environmental engineering and environmental policy, planning and management. The titles below are not meant to be exhaustive but are representative of fields which environmental science majors pursue. Keep in mind that some occupations require further education (e.g., a higher degree, second degree, diploma). Note that the numbers following each job title refer to Canada's National Occupational Classification (NOC) code. For details on these titles go to <http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/NOC/>.

- Agricultural Consultant/Representative (2123)
- Agricultural Soil and Crop Specialist (2123)
- Agrologist (2123)
- Biological Technologist (2221)
- Botanist (2121)
- Climatologist (2114)
- Conservation Officer (2224)
- Earth Science Teacher (4141)
- Ecologist (2121)
- Energy Policy Analyst (4161)
- Environmental Chemist (2112)
- Environmental Consultant (4161)
- Environmental Health Inspector (2263)
- Environmental Impact Assessment Officer (4161)

POTENTIAL WORK SETTINGS

Environment majors find job opportunities in the public sector as well as in private and non-profit sectors. Among the many industries which attract new graduates are ecotourism, engineering, forestry, health, publishing, mining, natural gas, media, petroleum, agriculture and organic chemicals. Graduates can be found working for environmental consulting firms, federal resource management agencies, provincial parks, water treatment plants, quality assurance laboratories, corporate health safety departments and educational institutions. To research specific employers who hire those in the field, there are many resources available in such locations as the Career Resource Centre, the Webster Library, Vanier Library and the Internet.

- Agricultural Production Companies
- Air Pollution Control Agencies
- Architectural Firms
- Bioremediation Centers
- Biotechnology Centers
- Botanical Gardens
- Chemical Companies
- Coal Mining Companies
- Colleges and Universities
- Conservation Agencies

CONT. – POTENTIAL WORK SETTINGS

- Construction Firms
- Consulting Engineering Firms
- Energy Management Services
- Engineering Firms
- Environmental Advocacy Groups
- Environmental Assessment Agencies
- Environmental Consultants
- Government Bodies
- Independent Testing
- Interest Groups
- Laboratories
- Land Use Planning Organizations
- Landfills and Dump Sites
- Law Firms
- Manufacturers
- Measuring and Monitoring Equipment Industry
- Mining Firms
- National and Provincial Parks
- Natural Gas Exploration Companies
- Non-profit Organizations
- Planning and Development Commissions
- Pulp and Paper Industries
- Quality Assurance Labs
- Radiation Protection Industry
- Recycling Services
- Research Laboratories
- Scientific Foundations
- Soil and Water Conservation Industry
- Third Nations Organizations
- Utility Companies
- Waste Disposal Facilities
- Wildlife Protection Bureau
- Wildlife Ranges
- Zoological Parks

SKILLS AND CHARACTERISTICS

Environmental Studies requires a good broad knowledge of the complex environmental factors and subjects which affect organisms and ecological communities. In addition to various specialized and technical skills and an appreciation for ethics and societal issues, majors need to possess critical thinking, research, writing, science, creativity and computer software skills. Finally, students will find the following skills, interests, values and other characteristics valuable for succeeding in the field.

- Ability to Analyze Data
- Ability to Assess
- Ability to Summarize
- Ability to Utilize Formulas
- Attention to Detail
- Autonomy
- Cause-effect Analysis Skills
- Comfort with Working Outside

- Communication
- Concepts Application
- Digital Image Processing
- Facility with GIS
- Familiarity with Basic Laboratory Procedures
- Field Data Gathering Knowledge
- Good Structure Perception
- Information Gathering
- Investigative
- Knowledge Application Skills
- Knowledge of Aerial Photography/Satellite Images
- Leadership
- Logical Mind
- Negotiation
- Organization
- Pattern Perception
- Problem Definition Skills
- Proposal Writing
- Public Speaking
- Realistic
- Research Design
- Responsibility
- Sampling Techniques
- Service Orientation
- Statistics
- Strong Background in Sciences
- Teamwork
- Technical Writing

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION AND OTHER LINKS

Making wise career decisions requires exploring your field. A multitude of Internet sites and other resources will help you do this to the best of your ability. Professional association sites, in particular, are very useful for their career descriptions and job hunting tips. Moreover, these authoritative sites frequently provide links to Internet sites which announce job openings and list potential employers. A few recommended sites are included below.

CANADIAN

Bell Business Services

<http://businessdirectory.bell.ca>

For those interested in jobs with companies that manufacture industrial products or produce services related to the environment, this site will allow you to search for them online. Enter “environmental” or another term to uncover potential employers. Worldwide in scope. Findings can be refined by geographical region.

Canadian Environmental Network (RCEN)

<http://rcen.ca>

Fosters communication among environmental groups (mainly NGOs) worldwide. Try RCEN's E-Bulletin, Environmental Volunteer Opportunities (under Resources) and ECO Jobs. Under Affiliate Networks try the Quebec regional network to stay current and network with potential employers.

Canadian Society for Environmental Biologists (CSEB)

<http://www.cseb-scbe.org/>

Nonprofit. Aiming to promote the "prudent management of Canada's natural resources", CSEB offers meetings, workshops, a quarterly newsletter, job postings and publications. Its meetings provide opportunities for networking and keeping up with trends.

ECO Canada: Environmental Careers Organization

<http://www.eco.ca>

Try Student Services to learn about environmental careers and educational options. Click on HR Services to find Internships and the ECO Business Directory. The ECO Job Board allows users to access jobs across Canada.

RÉSEAU Environnement

<http://www.reseau-environnement.com/>

Nonprofit. Aims to bring together environmental specialists, industry, business and municipalities in order to promote efforts on behalf of the environment. Explore offerings under Carrière and Étudiants. Among events held by the RESEAU is the Salon de technologies environnementales du Québec.

INTERNATIONAL

American Society for Environmental History (ASEH)

<http://www.aseh.net/>

Promotes scholarship and teaching. Offers awards to scholars and researchers, publications, a peer-reviewed journal, annual conferences and an on-line discussion group. Be sure to peruse information For Students under Additional Resources.

Ecological Society of America (ESA)

<http://www.esa.org>

Non-profit. Click on Careers & Certification to learn about careers in ecology, funding/grants and to access the Job Board. Check out the Canada Chapter's bulletin board by clicking on About, then Chapters & Sections and finally Canada Chapter.

National Association of Environmental Professionals (NAEP)

<http://www.naep.org>

Offers students structured career development and a means to post resumes. Stay current with developments in the government, academia and the private sector.

CREATE YOUR AMAZING CAREER – CAREER RESOURCE CENTRE TITLES

For those who need more help with their career and educational planning, the Career Resource Centre (CRC) offers books, pamphlets, DVDs and recommended Internet sites. It is located in the Hall Building, H-440, at 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West. The following titles are just a few of the titles available in the CRC.

- Aspiring Academics: A Resource Book for Graduate Students and Early Career Faculty
- At the Helm: A Laboratory Navigator
- Canadian Environmental Directory
- Career Opportunities in Conservation and the Environment
- Careers for Environmental Types and Others Who Respect the Earth
- Careers for Nature Lovers & Other Outdoor Types
- Careers in Renewable Energy
- Careers in the Environment
- Careers Using Geography
- 50 Carrières de l'environnement
- The ECO Guide to Careers that Make a Difference
- Environmental Careers Panel Discussion – DVD
- A Field Guide for Science Writers
- Great Jobs for Environmental Studies Majors
- Green Careers in Energy
- Green Careers Panel Discussion - DVD
- Green Jobs: A Guide to Eco-Friendly Employment
- Green Jobs for a New Economy
- Making Sense in Geography & Environmental Science
- Opportunities in Forestry Careers
- Opportunities in Environmental Careers
- Practicing Geography: Careers for Enhancing Society and the Environment
- Renewable Energy Canada Industry Guide
- Resumes for Environmental Careers
- The Scientist as Consultant

CON'T. – CREATE YOUR AMAZING CAREER
CAREER RESROUCE CENTRE TITLES

- Sustainability & Energy Efficiency Panel Discussion
- To Be a Scientist
- Working with the Environment