

# Environmental, Sustainability and Geographic Studies

The Environmental, Sustainability, and Geographic Studies major focuses on understanding the relationship between humans and the environment, with an emphasis on sustainable practices, environmental conservation, and geographic information systems (GIS). Students in this major explore topics like climate change, renewable energy, resource management, urban planning, and environmental policy. Graduates are prepared to address global challenges related to environmental protection, sustainability, and climate resilience. Typical industry sectors include environmental consulting, government agencies, non-profit organizations, urban planning, renewable energy, and GIS technology.

## Job Title Examples:

- Environmental Consultant
- Sustainability Coordinator
- GIS Technician
- Environmental Technician
- Urban Planner
- Renewable Energy Analyst
- Environmental Policy Analyst
- Conservation Specialist
- Climate Change Analyst
- Natural Resource Manager

## Hard and Soft Skills Needed:

### Hard Skills:

1. Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
2. Environmental Impact Assessment
3. Data Analysis and Statistical Software
4. Environmental Modeling
5. Sustainability Reporting

### Soft Skills:

1. Problem-Solving
2. Communication
3. Critical Thinking
4. Teamwork
5. Project Management

### **Further Education/Training Required and/or Suggested:**

A BS in Environmental, Sustainability, and Geographic Studies qualifies students for entry-level roles, but additional training or certifications can enhance opportunities:

#### **To Enter the Field:**

1. GIS Certification: Proficiency in Geographic Information Systems (GIS), such as ESRI's ArcGIS, is often required.
2. Field Skills: Training in environmental sampling, data analysis, or regulatory compliance (e.g., OSHA 40-hour HAZWOPER).

#### **To Advance:**

1. Professional Certifications:
  - LEED Accreditation for sustainability roles.
  - Certified Environmental Professional (CEP) or Certified Sustainability Professional (CSP) for leadership positions.
2. Graduate Studies:
  - An MS in environmental science, urban planning, or related fields for advanced research or policy roles.

#### **Summary:**

GIS certification and field-specific training (e.g., HAZWOPER) are often key for entry, while advanced certifications (e.g., LEED, CEP) support career growth.

### **Professional or Student Associations:**

- American Geophysical Union (AGU)
- The Ecological Society of America (ESA)
- The Nature Conservancy
- WKU Water Professionals