Environmental Studies
Career Outlook 2014-2015

Environmental Studies Programs Available at Bemidji State University:

**Major:** Environmental Studies (B.S.)

**Field of Emphasis:** Environmental Engineering Science, Environmental Management, Ecosystem Studies, Environmental Chemistry, Environmental Policy and Planning, Environmental Toxicology, Geohydrology, Outdoor Education

**Minor:** Environmental Studies

**Department Website:**
http://www.bemidjistate.edu/academics/departments/ceesse/environmental_earth_space/

**MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS:**
Environmental scientists work toward defining and solving environmental problems caused by the actions of human beings. Their interdisciplinary training is broad-based and encompasses the natural sciences, mathematics, economics, and the social sciences. Their primary ethical concern is human stewardship of the earth. Students in the Environmental Studies program are concerned with both the technological problems and social aspects of environmental issues. Working in cooperation with the Center for Environmental, Earth and Space Studies, Economics, and Sociology, they may participate in applied research. Their interdisciplinary course work includes the study of scientific principles used in environmental problem solving, and the study of the impact of economics, politics, and other social systems on environmental policies and practices. Because of the breadth of study necessary to prepare for upper division Environmental Studies courses, students are urged to declare in the major during their freshman or sophomore year. At least 50 percent of credits in the major should be 3000/4000 levels.

**EMPLOYMENT AREAS:**
The "Occupational Outlook Handbook" reports Environmental scientists and specialists held about 90,000 jobs in 2012. An additional 6,200 jobs were held by environmental science faculty. About 36 percent of environmental scientists were employed in state and local governments; 21 percent in management, scientific, and technical consulting services; 10 percent in engineering and related services; and 7 percent in the Federal Government, primarily in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Defense.

**PROJECTED DEMAND FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES IN MINNESOTA:**
iseek.org reports that environmental engineering technicians have an above average statewide growth rate of 14.2%, and the outlook is dependent on the Environmental Protection projects and government budgets. The median income is about $24.18 per hour for the 180 environmental engineering technicians currently employed in Minnesota.

**PROJECTED DEMAND FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES MAJORS NATIONWIDE:**
Focus™2 reports that the nationwide demand for environmental engineers is expected to grow faster than average through 2022, with people established in their career generally earning between $59,820 and $96,680 per year. The "Occupational Outlook Handbook" reports that the median annual wages of environmental scientists and specialists were $62,920 in May 2011. The National Association of Colleges and Employers reported the average starting salary of biological technicians is $29,500 a year and $37,500 for chemical technicians in 2012.

**PLACEMENT INFORMATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES GRADUATES:**
There are many career opportunities for Bemidji State University Environmental Studies graduates. Of the Bemidji State University 2012-2013 Environmental Studies graduates, 68.8% reported obtaining related employment within one year of graduation. This does not include students who were not seeking employment, unavailable, or had unknown status.
LIST OF EMPLOYERS WHO HAVE REPORTED HIRING BSU ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES GRADUATES: (This list only includes employment within one year of graduation.)

AmeriCorps
BKS Environmental Association
Braun Intertec
Cabela's
Countryside Health Department
Crow Wing Soil & Water District
Deep Portage Conservation Reserve
Deep Portage Conservation Reserve
Department of Natural Resources
Dodge Nature Center
Ecolab Engineering Center
First Nations Government
Fitz Consulting, Inc.
Grain Millers, Inc.
Great Lakes Analytical, Inc.
Halosource
HWH Architects
Institute for Environmental Assessment
International Water Institute
Interpoll Labs
Kadram's, Lee, Jackson, Inc.
Koch Pipeline
Lahaina Family Farms DBA Lahaina Coffee
Land Stewardship Project
Laurentian Environmental Center
Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management Grp
Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources
Minnesota DNR
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Minnesota State University, Mankato
MN Department of Agriculture
MN Department of Natural Resources
MN Department of Natural Resources
MN DNR
Nicollet Soil & Water Conservation Dist.
Northland Fishing Tackle
Northwoods Bait and Tackle
Osakis High School
Pace Analytical
Pace Analytical, Inc.
Peak 7 Adventures
Pepper-Lawson Waterworks
Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.
Presto X
SHE, Inc.
Sherburne County FSA Office
St. Joseph's Medical Center
State EPA
Treadlight Companies
TX Parks & Wildlife Department
U of MN-Epidemiology Clinic Research Ctr
U.S. Forest Service

VISTA
Soil & Vegetation Technician
Engineering Technician
Customer Service
Health Inspector
Technician
Environmental Educator
Team Leader
Assistant Park Naturalist Intern
Seasonal Naturalist
Lab Technician
Project Officer
Owner
Safety Sanitation Technician
Environmental Chemist
Lab Technician
Environmental Professional
Environmental Technician
Monitoring Technician
Air Quality Field Technician
Engineering Technician
Gauge
Aquaponics Technician
Community Organizer
Environmental Education Instructor
Watershed Coordinator
Board Conservationist
Aquatic Biologist
Pollution Control Specialist
Teaching Assistant
Pesticide & Fertilizer Mgmt. Division
Law Compliance Representative
MinnAqua Education
Aquatics Invasive Program
District Technician
Spinner Bait Department
Manager
Science Teacher
Lab Technician II
Client Services Technician
Lab Technician
Lead Climbing Guide
Project Engineer
Research Associate
Pest Control Technician
Graduate Scientist
GIS Digitizer
Environmental Services Aide
Water Quality Specialist
Environmental Scientist
Owner
Human Dimensions Analyst
Senior Office Assistant
Wilderness Ranger

Helena, MT
Gillette, WY
St. Paul, MN
East Grand Forks, MN
Benson, MN
Brainerd, MN
Hackensack, MN
Hackensack, MN
Lake Itasca, MN
West St. Paul, MN
Eagan, MN
Emo, ON
Bemidji, MN
St. Ansgar, IA
Buffalo Grove, IL
Seattle, WA
Cleveland, OH
Brooklyn Park, MN
Fargo, ND
Circle Pines, MN
Moorhead, MN
Clearbrook, MN
Lahaina, HI
Minneapolis, MN
Britt, MN
Milaca, MN
Bemidji, MN
Sauk Rapids, MN
Willmar, MN
Mankato, MN
Detroit Lakes, MN
Sauk Rapids, MN
Detroit Lakes, MN
Brainerd, MN
St. Peter, MN
Bemidji, MN
Bemidji, MN
Osakis, MN
Virginia, MN
St. Paul, MN
Minneapolis, MN
Kirkland, WA
San Antonio, TX
Johnston, IA
Mason City, IA
St. Paul, MN
Elk River, MN
Brainerd, MN
St. Paul, MN
White Bear Lake, MN
Brainerd, MN
Austin, TX
Minneapolis, MN
Ely, MN
U.S. Geological Survey  
Hydrologic Technician  
Mounds View, MN

U.S.D.A. Farm Service Agency  
GIS Technician  
Bemidji, MN

U.S.D.A. Forest Service  
Hydrologic Technician  
Craig, AK

University of Minnesota Duluth  
Graduate Teaching Assistant  
Duluth, MN

University of Wisconsin  
Field/Lab Technician  
Madison, WI

United States Forestry Service  
Biological Science Tech  
Aurora, MN

Wadena Soil & Water Conservation District  
Farm Bill Technician  
Wadena, MN

Western Plains Consulting, Inc.  
Natural Resources Specialist  
Bismarck, ND

Widseth Smith Nolting  
Environmental Technician  
Brainerd, MN

**COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WHERE BSU ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES GRADUATES HAVE GONE TO CONTINUE THEIR EDUCATION:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aalborg University</td>
<td>Aalborg, Denmark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bemidji State University</td>
<td>Bemidji, MN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado State University</td>
<td>Fort Collins, CO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cornell University</td>
<td>Ithaca, NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamline University</td>
<td>St. Paul, MN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Itasca Community College</td>
<td>Grand Rapids, MN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yale University</td>
<td>New Haven, CT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Alberta</td>
<td>Canada, AB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of California, Riverside</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Minnesota, Duluth</td>
<td>MN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Minnesota, Minneapolis</td>
<td>MN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Washington</td>
<td>Seattle, WA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota State University</td>
<td>Mankato, MN</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note 1:** Some of the above job/career titles require advanced degrees or specialized training.

**Note 2:** Degrees alone do not get students jobs. Internships, summer jobs, volunteer work, part-time jobs, work-study positions, and active participation in student organizations on campus are all ways to become more competitive in a tight job market.

**Note 3:** Personal Competencies: it is also recommended that individuals be competent in a variety of communication methods, and computer skills are a must.

**Bibliography:**

- FOCUS II. Career Dimensions Incorporated, Manchester, NH (2015)

For more information, please contact the Career Services Office in 207 Sattgast Hall or call us at 218-755-2038 or toll free at 800-657-3726

For more job listings please visit:

http://www.bemidjistate.edu/students/services/career/job_search/jobs/