Career Outlook: Environmental Studies

Environmental Studies Programs Available at Bemidji State University:

**Majors:** Environmental Studies (B.S.); Indigenous Sustainability Studies (B.S.); Environmental Communication (B.S); Policy and Planning (B.S.) Sustainability and Resource Management (B.A.S.)

**Minors:** Environmental Science, Environmental Communication, Sustainability, Indigenous Sustainability Studies, Water Science

**Fields of Emphasis:** Environmental Health and Toxicology, Ecosystem, Geohydrology, Natural Resources Planning

**Department Website:** [https://www.bemidjistate.edu/academics/departments/css/environmental-studies/](https://www.bemidjistate.edu/academics/departments/css/environmental-studies/)

**EMPLOYMENT AREAS AND PROJECTED DEMAND:**
The “Occupational Outlook Handbook” (OOH) reports environmental scientists and specialists held about 80,000 jobs in 2021. 22% were employed in management, scientific and technical consulting services. About 40% of environmental scientists were employed in state and local governments; and 10% were employed in engineering services.

OOH reports that the nationwide demand for environmental scientists and specialists is expected to grow 5% (as fast as average) through 2031, with people established in their career earning between $46,200 and $129,070 per year. The median annual wages of environmental scientists and specialists were $76,530 in 2021. Many hold graduate degrees.

**PLACEMENT INFORMATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES GRADUATES:**
There are many career opportunities for Bemidji State University Environmental Studies graduates. Of the 13 Bemidji State University 2020-2021 Environmental Studies graduates, 90.9% reported obtaining related employment within one year of graduation, and two went on to continue their education. The two Bemidji State University 2020-2021 Indigenous Sustainability Studies graduates reported continuing their education within one year of graduation. This does not include students who were not seeking employment, unavailable, or had unknown status.

**PARTIAL LIST OF EMPLOYERS WHO HAVE REPORTED HIRING BSU ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES GRADUATES**:
(This list only includes employment within one year of graduation)

| Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Iowa | Monarch Crew Member | Des Moines, IA |
| Department of Natural Resources | Fisheries Technician | Spooner, WI |
| Environmental Protection Agency | Toxicology Researcher | Duluth, MN |
| Frontier Energy | Program Associate | Chanhassen, MN |
| Frontier Energy | Energy Analyst | Chanhassen, MN |
| PLM Lake & Land Management, Corp. | Project Manager | Brainerd, MN |
| Renville County | Environmental Technician | Olivia, MN |
| Voyageurs National Park | Fire Technician | International Falls, MN |

**COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WHERE BSU ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES GRADUATES HAVE GONE TO CONTINUE THEIR EDUCATION:**
- Bemidji State University, Bemidji, MN
- North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND
- Hazleton Betty Ford Graduate School, Minneapolis, MN

*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.

**Bibliography:**
- Annual Graduate Follow-Up Study 2020-2021, Bemidji State University, Bemidji, MN (2023)
- Bemidji State University Undergraduate Catalog 2022-2023, Bemidji State University, Bemidji, MN (2023)

For more information, contact Career Services; Decker Hall/218-755-2038/career@bemidjistate.edu

For more job listings please visit:

[https://www.bemidjistate.edu/services/career/events-guides-resources/job-listings/](https://www.bemidjistate.edu/services/career/events-guides-resources/job-listings/)