

Environmental Studies

Which employers have hired Montana State University Billings Environmental Studies graduates?

US Forest Service	HydroSolutions	Energy Laboratories
MT Dept of Environmental Quality	MT Bureau of Mines & Geology	ZooMontana
US Bureau of Land Management	Tetra Tech	MT Dept of Natural Resources

What are the average annual wages and potential lifetime earnings for professionals* working in the Environmental Studies field?

Occupation	Annual Mean Wage in MT**	Potential Lifetime Earnings**
GIS Technician	\$49,000 - \$52,730	\$48,940 x 39 yrs = \$1,908,660
Environmental Specialist	\$78,670 - \$87,120	\$78,980 x 39 yrs = \$3,080,220
Conservation Scientist	\$73,280 - \$78,520	\$68,750 x 39 yrs = \$2,681,250
Environmental Protection Technician	\$29,990 - \$50,170	\$50,660 x 39 yrs = \$1,975,740

* State wage data is not available for several occupations, including Conservation Technician, Park Naturalist, Sustainability Specialist, and Environmental Policy Analyst.

** Based on the 2023 state mean and national median wage of occupation per the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Lifetime earnings are based on the national median wage.

What percentage of Environmental Studies graduates report having a job after graduating?

Out of the 33% of 2023 Environmental Studies graduates that we received graduate data on, **100% reported being employed* after graduation.**

* Employment includes employment in major, employment not in major, continuing education, and military service.

Employment opportunities with advanced degrees:

- Environmental Restoration Planner, MS in Forestry, Natural Resources or Ecosystem Management
- Land Use Planner, MS in Sustainability Management or Urban Planning
- Environmental Policy Analyst, MS in Environmental Science and Policy

Not sure if Environmental Studies is for you?

1. Take an introductory class in the program, such as Introduction to Environmental Studies. Keep mental notes or a journal to track what you like and dislike!

2. Get a part-time job in the field. Check out CareerLink by scanning the QR Code for the latest job openings!



ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Overview of the Environmental Studies program:

This degree explores environmental issues as questions involving science, policies, and human values. The degree offers students many options, and our graduates have gone in various directions, including wild horse management, laboratory technical areas (water, humans, animals), environmental oversight (EPA and DEQ), and advocacy careers.

The curriculum builds students' understanding of environmental issues as reflections of societal values and behaviors, environmental technologies and sciences, and environmental policies. As an interdisciplinary program, students have course options in beginning and advanced Geographical Information Systems (GIS), advanced ecology, environmental advocacy and applied social media campaigns, historical perspectives of the environmental movement, Native American perspectives on environmental issues, environmental sociology, artistic and literary representation of the environment, and more.

What makes your program unique?

Our students benefit from living in one of the most ecologically diverse, environmentally spectacular, and managerially complex regions of North America. Yellowstone National Park, the northern Rockies, and the northern Great Plains are all within a short drive of the MSU Billings campus. Located thus, the Environmental Studies program provides a well-rounded interdisciplinary approach to understanding our natural systems and the role of humans in those systems. The program is dedicated to experiential learning opportunities and community collaboration.

As an interdisciplinary program our students can follow some of our known paths, or they can carve new career pathways!

What students like most about the Environmental Studies program:

We offer changing course titles as new opportunities arise, and the internship opportunities help students gain professional experience.



Program Webpage:

<https://www.msubillings.edu/class/nams/evst/index.htm>

