

# MAJOR TO CAREER GUIDE

## Environmental Studies

Greenspun College of Urban Affairs

### Mission of the Greenspun College of Urban Affairs

The Greenspun College of Urban Affairs is dedicated to your personal and academic development, the advancement of our disciplines, and the improvement of public policy and professional practices.

Our programs emphasize improvement of the quality of urban life by preparing you for professional practice through interdisciplinary learning, service, and scholarship founded on active collaboration among you, our faculty, professionals, and community members.

Visit this site for more information:  
<http://urbanaffairs.unlv.edu/>

### About Environmental Studies

**As a student in our B.A. in Environmental Studies program you will receive a broad theoretical background in the natural sciences and social sciences, a practical understanding of environmental issues facing our world, and the skills needed to apply this knowledge to environmental management.**

**A bachelor's degree in environmental studies prepares you for a broad variety of careers in the field, including natural resource management and conservation, environmental education and communication, environmental policy and politics, and the mitigation of adverse human impacts on the environment.**

### UNLV Academic Advising for Environmental Studies Majors:

*Academic Advisors who are eager to meet with students about their academic goals and to assist in constructing a plan for graduation. Advisors can also help students understand how their experiences at UNLV can lead to a career in their desired field.*

Greenspun College of Urban Affairs Advising Center  
Phone: 702-895-1009  
Campus Location: GUA 4<sup>th</sup> Floor - North Wing  
<http://urbanaffairs.unlv.edu/advising/>

### Environmental Studies Career Options

- Agricultural Managers
- Conservation Scientists and Foresters
- Environmental Scientists
- Farmers and Ranchers
- Geoscientists
- Hydrologists
- Natural Resource Specialist
- Outdoor Adventure Educator
- State Park Resource Ecologist
- Forest Ranger

### Graduate Certificate Program

The School of Environmental and Public Affairs offers a Graduate Certificate in Solar and Renewable (SRE) Energy. The SRE Certificate is designed for individuals already in possession of either a baccalaureate degree or a graduate degree. More specifically, the SRE Certificate provides a specialized qualification for career professionals in the energy industry, professionals from other fields and individuals with baccalaureate degrees seeking entry into the renewable energy field, or currently enrolled graduate students seeking an additional specialization. This SRE Certificate is designed to:

- Provide an interdisciplinary approach to SRE grounded in the three critical pillars of policy and governance, technology and physical science, and the built environment.
- Develop within students the intellectual and problem-solving foundation for a successful professional career in the SRE field.
- Improve the overall effectiveness of the solar and renewable energy sector in Nevada and the Western U.S.

<http://sepa.unlv.edu/programs/solarEnergy.html>

### Professional Associations

*Major professional associations dedicated to Environmental Studies areas offer membership benefits such as news about the latest research and job offerings. Students are encouraged to get involved with these organizations early on!*

Air and Waste Management Association:

[www.awma.org/Public/](http://www.awma.org/Public/)

American Water Works Association: [www.awwa.org/](http://www.awwa.org/)

Association of Women in Environmental Professions:  
[www.awep.org/](http://www.awep.org/)

Ecological Society of America: [www.esa.org/esa/](http://www.esa.org/esa/)

# Helpful Career Information

## Employers rate candidate soft skills/qualities in order of importance

- 1 Ability to verbally communicate with persons inside and outside the organization
- 2 Ability to work in a team structure
- 3 Ability to make decisions and solve problems
- 4 Ability to plan, organize and prioritize work
- 5 Ability to obtain and process information
- 6 Ability to analyze quantitative data
- 7 Technical knowledge related to the job
- 8 Proficiency with computer software programs
- 9 Ability to create and/or edit written reports
- 10 Ability to sell or influence others

Source: Job Outlook 2013

Courtesy of the National Association of Colleges and Employers

Visit the Career Occupational Handbook to learn more about a specific occupation:

<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>

The OCH covers hundreds of occupations and describes: What They Do, Work Environment, How to Become One, Pay, and more. Each profile also includes BLS employment projections for the 2010–20 decade.

### Career Exploration/Planning

**FOCUS 2:** UNLV's computerized assessment that profiles your interests, abilities, and values and helps you find a career that's right for you.

<http://hire.unlv.edu/careerAssessment.html>

**Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI):** Assessment designed to identify how you are energized, how you take in information, how you make decisions, and how you approach life.

<http://hire.unlv.edu/careerAssessmentMBTI.html>

**Strong Interest Inventory:** Generates an in-depth assessment of your interests among a broad range of occupations, work and leisure activities, and educational subjects.

<http://hire.unlv.edu/careerAssessmentStrong.html>

### UNLV Career Services

Career Services encourages ALL UNLV students to take advantage of their services, which include:

- Assistance with developing a career plan and choosing a major
- Career counseling and guidance on building a RESUME
- Preparing for an interview, assistance with job searching and networking.

Phone: 702-895-3495

Campus Location: SSC-A 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

<http://hire.unlv.edu/>

### Internship Opportunities

UNLV CareerLink is a free, online recruiting system that helps students, alumni, and employers connect in a variety of ways.

Students can use CareerLink to search for: job and internship listings, on-campus recruiting interviews, employer information sessions, resume book database, & dates for career fairs.

<http://hire.unlv.edu/careerLink.html>

## MEDIAN SALARIES BY DISCIPLINE 2010-2012

| Career   | Salary Range       | Median Salary |
|--|--------------------|---------------|
| Conservation Scientists and Foresters              | \$26,050-\$89,440  | \$59,310      |
| Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers | \$29,280-\$106,980 | \$60,750      |
| Environmental Scientists and Specialists           | \$37,850-\$107,990 | \$61,700      |
| Hydrologists                                       | \$48,280-\$112,490 | \$75,690      |

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2012-13 Edition*, <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>

**UNLV** | ACADEMIC  
ADVISING  
*Collaborate to Graduate*