Environmental Science

What makes this program special?
This program is uniquely interdisciplinary at WCU in that it requires students to gain a strong foundation in the sciences to understand the environment and its interactions with society. Students take environmentally focused courses in chemistry, biology, natural resources management, geology, environmental health, policy and social science. The program is very flexible, allowing students to focus their course selection on the aspect(s) of the environment that especially interest them. Students graduate with a solid science background and an understanding of how environmental problems and solutions relate to society.

Are there any additional admission requirements?
There are no additional admission requirements beyond being accepted to WCU.

What scholarship monies are available?
All students are considered for merit-based scholarships at the time of admission. Additional scholarships are available based on FAFSA information.

What will I be able to do with this degree when I graduate?
Environmental scientists use their knowledge to protect the environment, including identifying and abating, or eliminating, sources of pollutants that affect people, wildlife and their environments. They analyze and report measurements and observations of air, water, soils, plants and animals, and make recommendations on how best to clean and preserve the environment. Environmental scientists may use their skills and knowledge to design and monitor disposal sites, preserve water supplies and restore or reclaim degraded or contaminated land and water to comply with federal environmental regulations. You can choose to work indoors or outdoors or a combination of both. About 65,000 environmental scientists were on the job in the year 2002. Nearly half of these were governmental jobs and 25 percent were private consulting positions. Projected demand for environmental scientists is expected to be above average and varies with occupational specialty. Demand is particularly high for environmental scientists skilled with environmental quality monitoring, ecological restoration, water conservation and waste remediation. Median annual earnings were $47,600 in 2002, with the middle 50 percent earning between $36,820 and $62,400.

Careers with this degree:
Potential employers:
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Environmental consulting firms
- Manufacturing businesses
- Conservation organizations
- Energy organizations
- Watershed associations and conservancies
- State and federal land management agencies
- City and state governments

Potential jobs:
- Environmental monitor
- Sustainability planner
- Environmental regulator
- Compliance officer
- Environmental consultant
- Green program manager
- Environmental conservationist
- Environmental educator
- Energy auditor/planner

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Visit us online at gotowestern.com or call 877.WCU.4YOU to apply to WCU.
**Western Carolina University**

**Environmental Science**

*What are the professors like?*

Although the professors in this program come from many different departments, including biology, chemistry, environmental health, geology, and natural resources management, they share a passion for understanding the environment. Their research programs reflect a commitment to sustainable environments and helping society interact with the environment in a responsible way.

*What are the students in the program doing?*

The Environmental Science major began at WCU in the fall of 2004, so we don’t have any alumni yet. However, ES majors worked last summer for environmental consulting firms, environmental education camps, conservation organizations and governmental agencies, including the Department of Energy.

*Will I be able to participate in internships, clubs and other extracurricular opportunities?*

The Environmental Stewardship Club meets twice per month during the school year. The purpose of this service club is to promote environmental awareness on campus and in the surrounding community. The club organizes an annual Earth Day Celebration on campus and is working on organizing a recycling competition on campus. There also are opportunities to work with faculty research projects, and students are encouraged to apply for internships for summer work.

*The University*

A campus of the University of North Carolina system, WCU is located in a beautiful valley between the Blue Ridge and Great Smoky mountains, with convenient access to a region that offers tremendous opportunities for outdoor research and recreation. Western is an hour’s drive west of Asheville, N.C., and 2.5 hours northeast of Atlanta.

About 9,000 students are enrolled at Western, including about 1,700 graduate students. Some classes are available online for distance education, but most are offered in person on the main campus in Cullowhee, in Asheville, and at other locations throughout Western North Carolina. A combination of service learning and engagement in the community by faculty and students is a critical part of Western’s tradition of academic excellence.