

Conservation and Resource Studies Career Snapshot

Conservation and Resource Studies (CRS) is an interdisciplinary program designed for students interested in environmental issues and areas of interaction among natural resources, population, energy, technology, societal institutions, and cultural values. Because students draw on the course offerings of the entire campus, they have the flexibility to incorporate any combination of the social sciences, biological sciences, physical sciences, or humanities to address complex environmental problems. Students may also draw upon appropriate community resources in the development of individual programs of study. Sample topics from past students include environmental justice and education; conservation and culture; energy and environmental policy. Offered by the Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management (ESPM): <http://espm.berkeley.edu>

Key Skills

- Foster a strong intellectual focus that is reflective of the depth and breadth of study in your self-designed academic area of interest within the major.
- Develop a comprehensive knowledge base in environmental studies that can be applied to a wide range of real-world social or environmental issues and concerns.
- Enhance critical thinking skills and analytical approaches by integrating the various disciplinary lenses through which you assess environmental problems.
- Develop proficiency in all forms of communication, including public speaking and writing.
- Strengthen leadership, problem-solving, and team-building skills by taking part in student organizations, public service, or internship opportunities.

Career Pathways

A clear benefit of the interdisciplinary Conservation and Resource Studies degree is that graduates are very well prepared for graduate school or a range of career opportunities in public agencies, non-profit organizations, or private companies. Students may pursue careers in fields such as environmental consulting, education, health, or law; conservation and environmental studies; community, urban, or regional planning; and other related areas of environmentalism. Employers often are impressed by undergraduates who can demonstrate a clear focus and strong organizational skills, which the individualized CRS program fosters in our graduates.

Public and Non-Profit Sector Jobs

- **Environmental conservation organizations and other non-profits:** Partner with communities, private landowners, local land trusts, or public land agencies to develop effective conservation solutions for land, water, and other resources. Provide information about environmental quality, protection of natural resources, and promotion of environmental health for the general public. Assist in the creation of environmental policies and proposed legislation affecting the environment.
- **Park and recreation departments and districts:** Work with public agencies or non-profit organizations to help develop open space, conservation, and recreation plans.
- **Various federal, state, and local agencies:** Work with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, California Department of Transportation, or other government agencies or districts that address issues such as water supply and control, air quality, ecosystem planning and conservation, or environmental regulation. Positions at various agencies include responsibilities ranging from environmental impact assessments, to public facilitation and mediation on important community concerns about the environment and quality of life issues.
- **Education, public outreach, and training:** Provide environmental education services to the public by teaching courses that address environmental planning and conservation, or presenting customized environmental training workshops to clients. Through various environmental education channels, deliver recommendations for compliance strategies and practical implementation, and advance public understanding of environmental issues.

Private Sector Jobs

- **Environmental consulting or law firms:** Provide services in environmental planning and natural resources management to assist clients with strategic planning, situation assessment, public outreach and facilitation, federal and state or local environmental compliance, and educational training.
- **Utility or telecommunications companies:** Monitor compliance with environmental regulatory requirements of existing facilities and conduct assessments to determine new facility sites.
- **Private landowners, developers, and agriculturalists:** Help monitor construction or development plans to accommodate affected stakeholders in projects. Manage clients' natural and cultural resources.

Recent Alumni: Where Are They Now?

Courtesy of the UC Berkeley Career Center: <http://career.berkeley.edu/Major/major.stm>

Alameda County Water District, Groundwater Resources Division Intern

AmeriCorps, Teacher

Brown, Vence & Associates, Planner

Center for Environmental Health, Program Associate

East Bay Conservation Corps, Health and Garden Instructor

Environmental Defense, Program Assistant

Golden Gate National Parks Association, Environmental Technology Specialist

Green Corps, Intern

International Rivers Network, Campaigns Assistant

John Gardner Fellowship, Public Service Fellow

Kirkpatrick & Lockhart, Legal Clerk

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Technical Writer

San Joaquin County Agricultural Commissioner's Office, Agricultural Pest Surveyor

Sycamore Associates LLP, Marketing/Project Analyst

U.S. National Park Service, Biology Technician

University of California, Berkeley, Marketing Assistant

Washington State Conservation Corps, Assistant Supervisor

City & Regional Planning, Masters, University of California, Berkeley

Ecology, PhD, Duke University

Education, Masters, University of California, Los Angeles

Geography, Masters, University of California, Los Angeles

Law, LLB/JD, Ohio State University

Public Health, Masters, Harvard University

Internship & Career Resources

- **CNR Newslines:** The College of Natural Resources Newslines is a moderated listserv that will keep you in the loop about research opportunities, internships, job opportunities, and more. To subscribe to *CNR Newslines*, send an email from your primary email account to **majordomo@listlink.berkeley.edu**. Leave the subject heading blank. In the body of the message, type the following command: **subscribe cnr_newsline**
- **CareerMail:** These Career Center mailing lists target specific career fields and topics, so you can choose whichever ones are ideal for you.
<http://career.berkeley.edu/MailList/MailList.asp>
- **What Can I Do With a Major In...Conservation and Resource Studies?**
<http://career.berkeley.edu/Major/ConsRes.stm>
- **CalJobs:** Search this comprehensive database for full-time, part-time, internship, and summer jobs, both on and off campus.
<http://career.berkeley.edu/Jobs/CalJobs.stm>
- **UC Berkeley Career Center**
<http://career.berkeley.edu>