

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to the following career areas there are other science and non-science careers requiring quantitative problem-solving skills gained by environmental science students:

- **Governmental Agencies.** Environmental career options exist within all levels of governmental agencies charged with natural resource management and protection. Depending on course work and internship experiences, environmental science graduates are prepared for entry-level government positions in:
  - aquatic/terrestrial toxicology
  - geographical information system (GIS) analysis
  - environmental contaminants
  - disease-vector and weed control
  - water resource management (including waste water treatment)
  - solid waste management
  - natural resource management and research
- **Private Companies.** Focusing on compliance with:
  - environmental regulations
  - environmental toxicology
  - environmental risk assessment
  - ground water contamination and remediation

**Graduate School.** After completion of an undergraduate degree, students may pursue education at the graduate level at UWL's Master's of Science Program in Biology or at another university.

UW-La Crosse's **Career Services** actively assists students in preparing for job searches and in locating positions after graduation. The Center conducts workshops in resume preparation, interview techniques and locating internships.

### STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS AND FACULTY ADVISING

Students are encouraged to join in a student organizations such as Students for Sustainability or Biology Club. Employers often place much emphasis on interpersonal and communication skills. Taking leadership roles in student organizations is one way of demonstrating these skills and an interest in working with people.

Faculty advisers are available for advice and assistance in course schedules, suggesting internship options, composing a resume and searching for job opportunities.



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-LA CROSSE

College of Science and Health



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## BIOLOGY MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE CONCENTRATION

[www.uwlax.edu/biology/undergraduate-majorsminors](http://www.uwlax.edu/biology/undergraduate-majorsminors)

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-LA CROSSE  
College of Science and Health  
**Department of Biology** (Environmental Science)

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Financial Aid Office: [finaid@uwlax.edu](mailto:finaid@uwlax.edu)

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## DO YOU ...

Have a strong curiosity about science?

Enjoy environmentally-oriented hobbies or have outdoor interests?

Have a good aptitude for math and science?

Have strong interests in the conservation and protection of our natural resources?

## BIOLOGY MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE CONCENTRATION

### THE CURRICULUM

A “core” curriculum in biology, chemistry and math courses provides a broad interdisciplinary preparation in these areas. Students then complete their course of study by taking several upper level environmentally-relevant biology courses plus an emphasis in one of three analytical areas — chemical, geospatial or computational.

### ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE PROGRAMS

In addition to the Biology Major, Environmental Science Concentration, several other environmental science programs are available at UW-La Crosse:

- Biology Major, Aquatic Science Concentration
- Chemistry Major, Environmental Science Concentration
- Geography Major, Environmental Science Concentration
- Microbiology Major, Environmental Science Concentration

The Biology Major, Environmental Science Concentration offers an opportunity to pursue a coordinated, focused course of study within the broad field of biology. Some students find a more in-depth study within a biology sub discipline more to their liking because courses taken are more easily related to one another. Course work is less fragmented and more coordinated. An environmental focus provides students with quantitative skills required in the environmental science field.

It also gives a fairly broad preparation in basic biology and therefore keeps other biology-related options open as the student work towards their degree. Most freshman and sophomore-level biology, chemistry, and math courses taken in this concentration overlap with courses also required for a general Biology major and by other concentrations offered within the Biology Department.

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UW-La Crosse's Biology Department has a solid track record in environmental science education and research. Primarily because of its River Studies Center — a regionally and nationally known Mississippi River research center for the past 25 years.

The La Crosse area, adjacent to the Mississippi River and located in the beautiful Coulee Region of southwestern Wisconsin, offers students excellent surroundings in which to pursue their interests in environmental study.

### INTERNSHIPS AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

One of the most helpful aspects of career preparation in the environmental sciences is an off campus internship experience. Not only do internships provide excellent opportunities to experience professional workplaces, they often provide contacts for future jobs and can be used for personal recommendations. And even more importantly, internships provide work and research experiences often required by many employers.

Excellent internships— both volunteer (unpaid) and paid — exist in the La Crosse area. Because of UW-La Crosse's proximity to the Mississippi River, there are several well-funded major state and federal resource management facilities close to campus. Other options are also available in more distant locations that are arranged through cooperative efforts of the sponsoring agency or business, UW-La Crosse Career

Services, and a faculty member adviser. Most of these types of internships occur during summer months and are in other parts of the state or the U.S. Due to their recognized value, internship openings may be competitive, so students are encouraged to prepare carefully and well in advance of their proposed internship experiences.

Though internships may provide students with excellent research experiences, UW-La Crosse also has strong research programs for undergraduates that provide summer fellowships and grants for student research projects.

Consult the following website for more information:

[www.uwlax.edu/urc](http://www.uwlax.edu/urc)