

Environmental Economics and Policy Career Snapshot

Environmental Economics and Policy (EEP) focuses on economics and the political institutions that affect the development and management of natural resources and the environment. The program takes a problem-solving approach to issues involving renewable and fixed natural resources, and requires students to create their own area of concentration in natural resource analysis and policy. Based on a foundation in micro-economic theory and the economics of resources and the environment, the major allows for flexibility to combine interests in economics, policy, domestic or international development, and law. Offered by the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ARE):

<http://are.berkeley.edu>

Key Skills

- Acquire solid economics and statistical skills, as they are in great demand. Most employers place greater weight on basic skills courses than on applied courses.
- Develop strong math, accounting, and computer skills. High value is placed on individuals who clearly demonstrate competence in these quantitative and technical areas.
- Enhance your ability to communicate well by developing excellent writing and speaking skills.
- Gain research experience, including writing research papers, to highlight your analytical and critical thinking skills, particularly if you are aiming for a research-oriented career.
- Obtain work experience or internships to prepare for your future job search, especially in businesses.

Career Pathways

Graduates from UC Berkeley are able to find good careers. There is very little salary differential across most fields. However, people with economics, business, math, or computer skills receive a premium.

Some of our graduates go on to graduate school in agricultural and resource economics departments, economics departments, business schools, and law schools. Others take jobs with federal or state government agencies, consulting firms (typically environmental consulting firms or general economic consulting firms), or a wide variety of businesses. Many of these graduates established relationships with their future employers by working for them or interning with them while they were students at Berkeley.

Most research jobs require an advanced degree or experience. Some graduates have found research jobs in the government or private sector right after graduating, but they typically prepare by participating in research as an undergraduate to gain experience. Fortunately the College of Natural Resources has excellent programs for undergraduate research.

Public and Non-Profit Sector Jobs

- **U.S. and California Environmental Protection Agencies:** Work on controlling pollution and analyzing its causes.
- **U.S. Department of Agriculture:** Work on policies that affect agriculture, land use, and resources.
- **Various other federal and state government agencies:** Many hire well-trained economists to work as research assistants, legislative analysts, and in other capacities analyzing proposed legislation, preparing reports (e.g., on resource use), and other duties. Our graduates have worked in many federal and state departments and for state legislators. For example, a college graduate in the California Capital Fellows Programs works as a paid policy assistant to senior executive branch staff, judicial administration officials, members of the California Assembly and Senate, legislative committees, or other top ranking government officials:
http://www.csus.edu/calst/Programs/about_programs.html
- **Non-profit firms and organizations:** Work on administering charitable and other programs, conduct research, and other activities. Our graduates have worked for charities, international organizations, political lobbying groups, and other similar organizations.

Private Sector Jobs

- **Environmental consulting firms:** Work on environmental impact statements and similar analyses.
- **Economic consulting firms:** Work as a research assistant on topics ranging from antitrust and other court cases to cost-benefit or other business analyses. Our graduates who have done this in the past typically move up the ladder within the firm or eventually go to graduate school.
- **Business:** Work in agricultural, environmental, financial, or other types of firms. Our graduates have taken on a wide variety of jobs including management, analysis, and other functions.

Recent Alumni: Where Are They Now?

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

Bain & Company, Associate Consultant
Boalt Hall School of Law, Academic Assistant
Cantor Fitzgerald, Environmental Broker
District Attorney of the City of New York, Policy Coordinator
E. Roberts Alley and Associates Inc, Environmental Technician
EIP Associates, Environmental Professional
Ernst & Young, Auditor
Gap Inc, Financial Analyst
Graniterock Company, Environmental Specialist
Hilliard and Associates, Junior Consultant/Business Management Specialist
Horvath Hospitality Investment Advisors, Research Analyst
IBM Corp, Financial Analyst
Intel Corp, Financial Advisor
Japan Exchange & Teaching Program (JET), Assistant English Instructor
Local school district, Teacher
Luggage America Inc, Accountant

Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, Financial Advisor
National Science Foundation, Science Assistant
Natural Heritage Institute, Paralegal
Salomon Smith Barney Inc, Financial Analyst
Saywitz Company, Marketing Associate
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Postgraduate Researcher
University of California, Berkeley, Programmer/Analyst

Agricultural Economics, PhD, University of California, Berkeley & University of California, Davis
City and Regional Planning, Masters, Harvard
Environmental Law, LLB/JD, Boalt Hall School of Law
Law, LLB/JD, Columbia University
Transportation Engineering, Masters, University of California, Berkeley
Urban Planning and Development, Masters, New York 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...Environmental Economics and Policy?**
<http://career.berkeley.edu/Major/EnvEcon.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>