Society and Environment Career Snapshot

Society and Environment (S&E) introduces students to the main approaches and theory of environmental social sciences, including how social science tools can be applied to environmental problems and policy analysis, and how social science theories contribute to understanding environmental problems and the development of effective policy and action. At the upper division level there are three major areas of concentration. Students are exposed to all three areas and choose to focus in one: U.S. Environmental Policy and Management, Global Environmental Politics, or Environmental Justice and Development. 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 area of concentration within the major.
- Develop a comprehensive knowledge base in environmental studies that can be applied to a wide range of on the ground social or environmental issues and concerns.
- Enhance critical thinking skills and analytical approaches by integrating social science and other disciplinary lenses through which you assess environmental problems and policies.
- 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 Society and Environment 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; environmental policy and environmental studies; community, urban, or regional planning; and other areas related to environment and society. Employers often are impressed by undergraduates who can demonstrate a clear focus and strong organizational skills, which the Society and Environment program fosters in our graduates.

Public and Non-Profit Sector Jobs
- Environmental and rural development organizations and other non-profits: Partner with communities, private landowners, local land trusts, or public land agencies to develop effective solutions for land, water, and other resources and the communities that depend on them. Provide information about environmental quality, protection of natural resources, and the promotion of environmental health for the general public and environmental justice. Assist in the creation of environmental policies and proposed legislation affecting the environment and society.
- 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 policy, or presenting customized environmental training workshops to clients. Through various education channels, deliver recommendations for compliance strategies and practical implementation, and advance public understanding of environmental issues and how they affect society.
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.

Internship & Career Resources

- **CNR Newsline:** The College of Natural Resources Newsline is a moderated listserv that will keep you in the loop about research opportunities, internships, job opportunities, and more. To subscribe to CNR Newsline, send an email from your primary email account to major-domo@listlink.berkeley.edu. Leave the subject heading blank. In the body of the message, type the following command: subscribe cnr_newssline

- **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

- **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