

Pre-Environmental Health

Career and Major Information

Related Career Titles

Web Sites

Salary Information

The Associate of Science degree in Pre-environmental Health is designed for the student who plans to apply for admission to the environmental health program at ETSU. Two years of course work at Walters State plus two years of study in the environmental health program are required. The link for the Natural Science Division at Walters State is:

<http://www.ws.edu/science/default.asp>

CAREER AND MAJOR INFORMATION

Environmental scientists conduct research to identify and abate or eliminate sources of pollutants or hazards that affect people, wildlife, and their environments. These workers analyze and report measurements or observations of air, food, water, soil and other sources and make recommendations on how best to clean and preserve the environment. Understanding the issues involved in protecting the environment—degradation, conservation, recycling and replenishment—is central to the work of environmental scientists, who often use their skills and knowledge to design and monitor waste disposal sites, preserve water supplies, and reclaim contaminated land and water to comply with Federal environmental regulations.

Environmental health specialists are concerned with the environmental quality of a community and the health and safety of the workers in that community. They are responsible for enforcing local, state and federal regulations that pertain to the sanitation of food and water, handling of hazardous and infectious wastes, and cleanliness and safety of housing and institutional environments. They may also be in charge of collecting and analyzing samples to determine if a hazard to public health exists. Environmental health specialists need to be comfortable with computers and other high-tech devices because they may be called upon to prepare and calibrate the equipment used to collect and analyze the samples. Another major function of these specialists is to consult with and advise physicians and other medical personnel about potential community environmental health hazards. Environmental health specialists may specialize in milk and dairy production, food protection, sewage disposal, pesticide management, air and water pollution, hazardous waste disposal, occupational health, and wildlife health/management. These professionals need to possess good oral and written communication skills because they may have to conduct, analyze, and dispense epidemiologic data regarding disease outbreaks within a community. Individuals must

also have good analytical and problem solving skills, work well with other people, and have a commitment to creating a safe environment.

RELATED CAREER TITLES

Environmental Scientist
Biological Scientist
Occupational Health and Safety Specialists

WEB SITES

www.mshealthcareers.com/careers/environmentalhealthspecialist.htm
Health Careers Center

www.ejobs.org
Environmental Jobs

www.neha.org
National Environmental Health Association

www.neha.org
National Institute of Environmental Health

SALARY INFORMATION

Average annual salary - \$55,800
Salary range - \$39,200 - \$79,300
Salary figures quoted are based on national figures. Local or regional salaries may be lower.

Copyright 2002-2004 MHA Health Careers Center
Health Careers Center is a division of [Mississippi Hospital Association](#).

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2006-07 Edition*, Environmental Scientists and Hydrologists , on the Internet at **<http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos050.htm>**

