The comprehensive major in ecology and environmental biology involves the study of ecological systems from the individual to the ecosystem-level, and explores the effects of humans and human society on these systems. Ecologists and environmental biologists frequently play pivotal roles in dealing with various challenges that face society.

**Typical interests and skills of ecology and environmental biology majors:**
- Interest in care of environment and people
- Desire to improve community
- Enjoys variety of work settings
- Working with governmental agencies
- Desire for intellectual growth
- Interest in living organisms
- Precision and attention to detail

**Knowledge and skills gained from studying ecology and environmental biology:**

**Knowledge:**
Ecologists and environmental biologists will be prepared to enter graduate studies in behavioral, population, community, or ecosystem ecology and/or environmental science. Practical technical skills achieved will strengthen the ability to problem solve, do data analysis, use statistics and computational science, and communicate new information.

**Skills:**
- Ability to work independently and on a team
- Ability to operate scientific equipment
- Ability to research, analyze, and organize information
- Works with accuracy and precision
- Critical observation skills
- Problem-solving skills
- Oral and written communication skills
- Defining needs and identifying resources
- Implementing decisions
- Developing evaluation strategies
- Extracting important information
- Attending to details and coordinating tasks

**Related student and professional organizations:**

**Student:**
- Tri-Beta/Biology Club
- Conservationists
- Molecular Movement
- Pre-Chiropractic Club
- Pre-PA Club
- Pre-Med Club

**Professional:**
- American Association for the Advancement of Science
- Society for Conservation Biology
- American Institute of Biological Sciences
- American Zoo and Aquarium Association

**Career fields related to ecology and environmental biology:**

**Potential Employers:**
Knowledge of ecology and environmental biology can be applied to important societal concerns in management of wildlife and fisheries, protection and restoration of habitats, environmental law and policy, and environmental education.

**Potential Job Titles:**
- Geographer
- Horticulturist
- Marine Biologist
- Naval Architect
- Oceanographer
- Paramedic
- Biologist
- Park Naturalist/Ranger
- Pharmacy Tech/Sales
- Water Quality Tech
- Physician
- Public Health Worker
- Animal Scientist
- Aquatic Biologist
- Bio-Engineer
- Botanist
- Chiropractor
- Conservation
- Wildlife Biologist
- Fish Hatchery Tech
- Zoologist
- Dietitian/Nutritionist
- Ecologist
- Forester
Science Lab Tech | Coastal Resources
Manager | Systems Analyst
Science Teacher | Veterinarian
Soil Conservationist | Toxicologist

Jobs You Might Also Consider...
Agricultural Technician | Agronomist
Environmental Engineer | Technical Writer
Invasive Species Specialist
Hazardous Materials Specialist
Environmental Health Specialist
Natural Sciences Manager
Public Health Educator

Sample entry level jobs held by UW–Eau Claire ecology and environmental biology majors:
- Clinical Technician-Cytogenetics, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN
- Environmental Scientist, Cooper Engineering Co., Rice Lake, WI
- Genotyping Technician, Marshfield Clinic, Marshfield, WI
- Wildlife Biologist, Department of Natural Resources, Balsam Lake, WI

Learn more about ecology and environmental biology:

Department:
- Contact UW–Eau Claire’s Department of Biology, Phillips 330, 836-4166

Getting started at Career Services:
- Meet with a career counselor
- Take interest inventory and self-assessment tests
- Utilize Blugold Career Success Network, a database of UW–Eau Claire alumni & friends available for informational interviewing
- Utilize Blugold CareerLink, an online job search database specifically for UWEC students and alum

Resources at Career Services:
- Yellow Section:
  - Sigi3 handouts:
    - Biology
    - Botany
    - Environmental Health Specialist
    - Health Care
- Orange Section:
  - Search the Internship Center Database and Blugold CareerLink for job/internship opportunities

- Blue Section: Resume, cover letter, interviewing, networking, and job search worksheets, books, and other resources

Opportunities to enhance skills in ecology and environmental biology:

Internships
Internships are a way to gain hands-on experience in a position that you may be considering as a potential career. To find an internship in biology, visit Career Services (Schofield 230), and speak with a career associate or contact your advisor or the Department of Biology chair.

Research
There are many opportunities for students to participate in Research Experience for Undergraduates (REUs) to enhance the breadth of knowledge learned in the classroom. For additional information about REU’s, speak to a career associate in Career Services or contact the Department of Biology.

Directed Studies or Independent Study Class
By participating in a directed studies or independent study class, students will be able to research an area that they find particularly interesting. Speak with your advisor about enrolling in BIOL 395, 399, or 499.

What you can do now:
- Get a part-time job as a technician in a lab or at a local hospital or pharmacy
- Gain research experience by teaming with a biology (or related field) professor and conducting research
- Get a summer job as an assistant park ranger, a zookeeper, or at a summer camp to work outdoors with wildlife and animals
- Get an internship at a conservatory, the DNR, the National Park Service, or the Bureau of Land Management
- If animals interest you, get a job at an animal hospital, a kennel, or a humane society
- Job shadow a professional in your area of interest or conduct informational interviews