Environmental public health professionals are individuals whose vocational efforts are directed toward controlling environmental health hazards and preserving/improving environmental factors for the achievement of optimum health, safety, comfort, and well-being. At University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire, various courses provide environmental public health students with the educational background necessary for employment in regulatory agencies and industries concerned with environmental quality. The Department of Environmental Public Health offers a comprehensive major in environmental public health.

**Typical interests and values of environmental public health majors:**
- Interest in the environment and people
- Desire to improve the community
- Enjoys a variety of work settings
- Likes working with government agencies
- Likes a breadth of career options

**Knowledge and skills gained from studying environmental public health:**

**Knowledge:**
An environmental public health (ENPH) major’s knowledge draws from many areas including courses in biology, chemistry, and even food sanitation. Because of the diversity of class topics, ENPH majors receive knowledge in many different areas.

**Skills:**
- Proficiency for accuracy
- Mathematical skills
- Ability to analyze, compare, and interpret facts and figures
- Good oral and written communication skills
- Knowledge of environmental equipment
- Comfortable in laboratory settings
- Extracting important information
- Imagining alternatives
- Developing evaluation strategies
- Effectively enforcing policies and regulations
- Accepting responsibility
- Identifying needs and resources

**Related student and professional organizations:**

**Student:**
- Student National Environmental Health Association (SNEHA)
- The Conservationists

**Professional:**
- National Environmental Health Association
- American Public Health Association
- Council on Education for Public Health
- National Safety Council’s Environmental Health Center

**Career fields related to environmental public health:**

**Potential Employers:**
Environmental public health majors can find jobs in a variety of fields. Many times, employers of ENPH graduates are government agencies such as the Food and Drug Administration. Local health agencies, hospitals, schools/universities, local/state/federal governments, non-profit organizations, and private organizations also employ ENPH graduates.

**Potential Job Titles:**
- Soil Tester
- Sanitarian
- Vector Ecologist
- Survey Technician
- Safety Coordinator
- Research Scientist
- Educator
- Transportation Planner
- Drinking Water Specialist
- Noise Exposure Surveyor
- Health and Safety Manager
- Community Health Educator
- Bioterrorism Preparedness Specialist
- Environmental Health Program Manager
- Hospital Laboratory Technician
- Natural Resource Specialist
Jobs You Might Also Consider...
Landscaper/Nursery Manager
Environmental Engineer
Occupational Health and Safety Technician
Fire Prevention and Protection Engineer
Hazardous Materials Specialist
City/Regional Planning Aide
Invasive Species Specialist
Range Manager
Park Naturalist

Sample entry level jobs held by UW-Eau Claire environmental public health graduates:
- Environmental Health Officer, U.S. Public Health Service, Reno, NV
- Industrial Hygienist I, Occupational Services Inc., San Diego, CA
- Environmental Health Sanitarian, Jackson County, WI
- Consumer Safety Office Investigator, USDA, Madison, WI
- Public Health Inspector, Waushara County, Montello, WI
- Environmental Health Specialist, University Health Services, Madison, WI
- Environmental Health Specialist, Eau Claire, County, Eau Claire, WI

Learn more about environmental public health:
Department
- Contact UW–Eau Claire’s Department of Environmental Public Health; Nursing 244, 836-5589

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-
- Sigi 3 bins:
  - Environmental Health
  - Environmental Engineer
  - Forestry
  - Botany
  - Wildlife Management
- Book Sections:
  - Environmental
  - Health Care
  - Government

Orange Section-
- Internship information pertaining to environmental public health

Blue Section-
- Resources on creating resumes and portfolios for a career in the environmental industry

Opportunities to enhance skills in environmental public health:
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 environmental public health, visit Career Services (Schofield 230) and speak with a career associate.

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. Contact your adviser about enrolling in ENPH 399, 495, or 499.

What you can do now:
- Become a teacher assistant for a professor in the Department of Environmental Public Health.
- Become a scout master in the local Boy/Girl Scout troop.
- Volunteer at a local hospital to gain understanding of real world public health.
- Get an internship at a conservatory, the DNR, National Park Service, or the Bureau of Land Management.
- Get a summer job as an assistant park ranger or zookeeper, or at a summer camp.