

# Environmental Earth Science Program

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## Employability Handbook



Eastern Connecticut State University  
83 Windham Street  
Willimantic, CT 06226

*All EES Students need to consider what they will do when they graduate from Eastern. Your career preparation should include academic achievements, skills development, life experiences, and personal reflection. As you progress through the major, you should think deeply about your interests, strengths and weaknesses, and professional goals, whilst understanding that you will continue to evolve, and it is normal to be uncertain of exactly what you want to do after graduation.*

*You should talk to faculty, friends, relatives, and outside professionals to learn about the potential opportunities that await you as a future EES graduate. As you advance through the degree, you will need to create a strong resumé, be able to articulate your achievements and interests, prepare for professional interviews, and secure letters of recommendation. The EES Department and Center for Internships and Career Development (CICD) are poised to help you, but you must also be pro-active about building your future, and securing graduate employment or entry to graduate school.*

*At the time of writing, projected growth in job sectors related to Environmental Earth Science, Environmental Science and Sustainable Energy Science is strong according to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics. EES graduates are employable in New England, the remainder of North America and beyond.*





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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

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- I. Why have an employability handbook for Environmental Earth Science?
- II. What is employability?
- III. Knowledge and skills you will acquire
- IV. What do EES graduates do?
- V. Where do EES graduates work?
- VI. How can I get additional experience and skills?
- VII. What's next?



# I. Why have an employability handbook for Environmental Earth Science?

To raise your awareness of what employability is

To explain how your employability is enhanced by majoring in Environmental Earth Science

To draw your attention to the many complementary opportunities beyond the major that can help you further enhance your employability

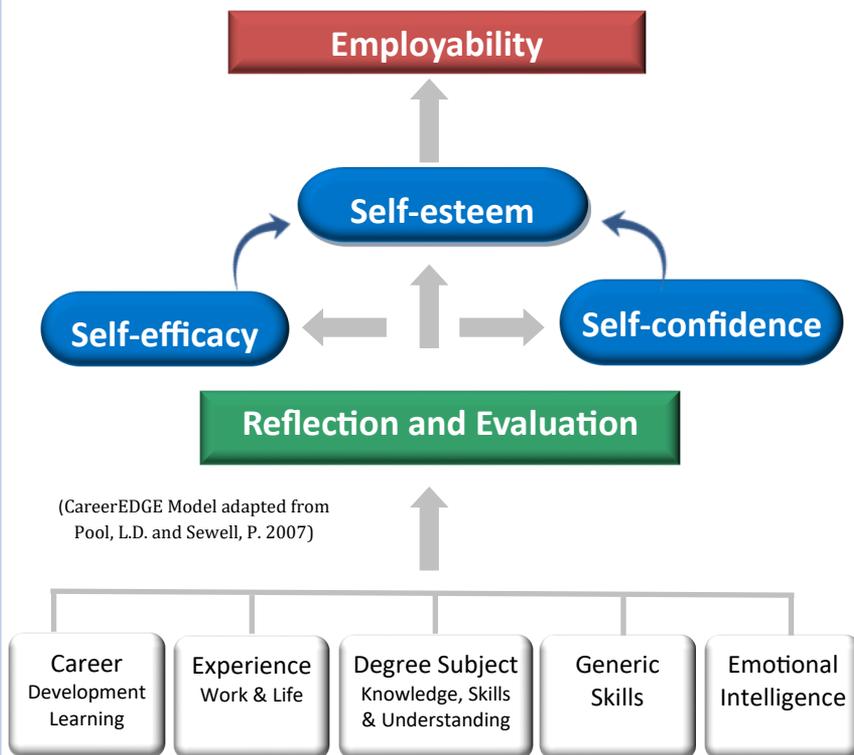
To introduce you to the wide range of employment options for EES graduates



## II. What is employability?

Employability is a set of achievements, skills, understandings and personal attributes that make graduates more likely to gain employment and be successful in their chosen career which benefits themselves, the workforce, the community and the economy.”

Taken from “Pedagogy for Employability’,  
Higher Education Academy, 2012



### EES Program Goals:

1. Develop knowledge of key concepts, scientific principles, and over-arching themes in Environmental Earth Science and Sustainability.
2. Demonstrate techniques and approaches in scientific inquiry and critical thinking.
3. Apply concepts of scientific responsibility.
4. Effectively communicate scientific information.

### III. Knowledge and Major Learning Outcomes

#### KNOWLEDGE:

The Environmental Earth Science Department provides a strong education in geology and principles of environmental analysis and sustainable energy science. Our goal is to provide students with a foundation in environmental geosciences that draws upon classroom, online, laboratory and field-based experiences. Students develop an understanding of the natural world, its materials, Earth history, processes and geologic records of environmental change, associated energy and sustainability issues, and the relevance of these issues to people within the context of Eastern's liberal arts mission.

#### EES LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Identify and analyze pure and applied scientific problems
2. Use scientific approaches to formulate and test multiple working hypotheses
3. Collect, analyze and interpret primary and secondary data
4. Apply quantitative and computer-based techniques
5. Find evidence-based solutions to complex problems by individual means or via collaboration and team work
6. Present findings in written/oral formats, and demonstrate the relevance of applied geosciences to society

#### ECSU LIBERAL ARTS LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Critical thinking
2. Ethical reasoning
3. Communication
4. Creativity
5. Quantitative literacy

## IV. What do EES graduates do?

Eastern's Environmental Earth Science majors graduate with the scientific background and key skills that support entry into various career pathways. These include jobs in geoscience, environmental science, geospatial science, and sustainable energy science. Because an EES graduate has completed a rigorous science degree, he/she is also employable in many other sectors that require individuals with quantitative literacy, data analysis and problem solving skills.



### CAREER OPTIONS

• Consulting Geoscientist	• Geologist
• Energy Specialist	• Geomorphologist
• Engineering Geologist	• GIS Analyst
• Environmental Analyst	• Hazardous Waste Manager
• Environmental Geologist	• Hydrogeologist
• Environmental Scientist	• Park Ranger
• Environmental Technician	• Physical Science Educator
• Exploration Geologist	• Remediation Scientist
• Geological Technician	• Renewable Energy Analyst

#### Nicholas Denegre '14

*"The EES department allowed me to learn skills and theory in scientific fields that are interesting and relevant to the 21st century. I had four fulfilling years as an EES undergraduate and felt that by making the most of every opportunity I had, from class work to internships and conferences, it ultimately placed me in an exciting and advantageous career position."*

## V. Where do EES graduates work?

Graduates are currently employed by such organizations as the United States Geological Survey, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, and environmental and energy consulting firms throughout New England. Others are pursuing careers as K-12 educators.



Engineering,  
Landscape Architecture  
and Environmental Science



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## Environmental Earth Science Student Success

- **Emma Avery**, '19 worked for a personal injury and employment law firm, and then at UConn Law as a Research Assistant in land use, zoning, historic preservation, and energy and environmental law.
- **Jenn Croteau**, '19 works for an environmental consulting company (INSPIRE Environmental, Newport RI) as a Staff Scientist using GIS to create client maps and interpret the benthic ecology/geology of wind farm lease areas.
- **Tara Brooks**, '18 is a Water Quantity Seasonal Intern at the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.
- **Jeffrey Fontaine** '18 is a Sample Login Technician who tests water quality; Samantha Boyle '15 is an Operations Manager testing for unregulated contaminants; and Matt Young '12 works as a Project Manager on private wells in CT, MA, and RI. All are employed at Microbac Labs, Inc in Dayville, CT.
- **Lucas Suchinski** '17 is a Product Specialist at Reflex Lighting Group of CT and contributing to new and retrofit construction projects .
- **Maddie Haynes** '17 is a Geospatial Intern at Travelers Insurance where she is responsible for many GIS projects within the Claims Department.
- **Mark Skaff** '15 works as a Project Coordinator for Ceco Concrete Construction, LLC overseeing material and drafting drawings for use in the field.
- **Jeffrey Olandt** '13 is a GIS Specialist II in the fiber optic industry responsible for data processing, geodatabase management, and project analysis.
- **Erica Tefft** '12 is the GIS Coordinator at Massachusetts Division of Water Supply Protection and works in the field of geospatial data management
- **Eric Lindquist** '12 is an Environmental Analyst for the CT Office of Policy & Management, Comprehensive Planning and Intergovernmental Division.
- **Noah Hallisey** '18 is an Administrative Assistant in the Environmental Laboratory at Dominion Energy's Millstone Power Station in Waterford, CT.
- **Martha Denisky** '17 is an 8th grade science teacher at Enfield Public Schools.
- **Kevin Lacy** '16 is a GIS Analyst with Stantec, a Canadian based engineering firm located in Raleigh, North Carolina.
- **Michael Manzi** '17 is a Client Engagement Professional for EnergySavvy, providing energy efficiency solutions for utility companies across the US.
- **Thomas Zimmerman** '20 is a Field Instructor at the Rocky Mountain Field Institute leading volunteer conservation and ecological programs in CO.
- **Daniel Grondin** '15 is a research technician and earth science, hydrology and GIS instructor at New Mexico Highlands University

*"The EES Department has given me the opportunity to work with a mentor to conduct research that students at larger universities might never get the chance to do. My mentor was not only very helpful with my independent research but also gave me career advice that would benefit me long after graduation."*  
Stephanie Rodgers '15



## VI. How can I get additional skills and experience?

### 1. Volunteer with the Center for Community Engagement



<http://www.easternct.edu/cce/> Volunteer your time in the Windham/Willimantic community. CCE offers semester-long opportunities and one-time events in a variety of fields, including schools and non-profit organizations such as the No Freeze Shelter, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and Jumpstart.

### 2. Get involved with campus leadership activities

<http://www.easternct.edu/studentactivities/clubs-orgs/club-index/>

Join Environmental Club!  
Join Eastern Mappers Club!  
Sigma Gamma Epsilon (EES  
Honor Society)



### 3. Do an Independent Study or Research Practicum

In your sophomore, junior or senior year, you may be provided with the opportunity to work one-on-one with a faculty member or as part of a student team on a research project that can be presented at a professional conference or at the CREATE Conference at Eastern.

### 4. Do an Internship to gain professional experience and possibly course credit

<https://www.internships.com/> Typically, in your junior or senior year, you may choose to do an on- or off-campus internship to develop professional skills. EES students have interned with DEEP, USGS and local energy and environmental firms.

### 5. Study abroad or take a Global Field Course:

<https://www.easternct.edu/global-studies/study-abroad.html>  
<https://www.easternct.edu/global-studies/global-field-courses.html>

EES runs exciting annual field courses to domestic (Arizona, Wyoming) and international destinations (Iceland, Spain)



## VII. What's Next?

Eastern's Center for Internships and Career Development (CICD) is ready to guide and support students on their career journey. Through programs, networking events and direct communication, the staff encourages students to engage in Eastern's services and develop career readiness skills in demand by employers. Whether an internship, graduate school or employment is the next stop for you, the center's staff is here to help.



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[Register Here](#)



Explore hundreds of on-line videos and discover employment opportunities available to you based on your major or industry of choice.

[Click Here to Start](#)

**Explore all the wonderful resources, on-line tools and in-person career support that the CICD provides!**

### *Career Studio*

PEER TO PEER CAREER COACHING

The Career Studio is located in Room 215 of Wood Support services and has several computers and a printer for students to use in their career readiness activities. Additionally, students can receive advice and assistance from our Career Peer Coaches related to resumes, cover letters, internship searches, LinkedIn and all of our on-line tools.



<https://www.easterncet.edu/career/index.html>

## VIII. EES Department In-House Employability Support

The EES Department supports the career readiness of its EES majors in diverse ways.

- 1) EES Majors are provided with individual advisement sessions every semester allowing students the opportunity to discuss their curriculum pathway, evolving interests, and potential career and graduate study destinations.
- 2) During the academic year, EES majors are provided with lunchtime career sessions with the Department Employability Liaison to discuss employability, resume building and interview preparation.
- 3) The EES Honor Society runs an annual visiting speaker program with industry and academic professionals who present lectures and provide professional careers advice to EES Majors.
- 4) EES courses embed professional skills development throughout the curriculum and students are made aware of the skills they are developing so that they are incorporated into the individual's "language of Employability".
- 5) EES liaises with the CICD to ensure that EES majors are aware of career, internship and graduate study fairs, resume and interview workshops and Employer webinars. In addition, students are shown how to produce effective LinkedIn and other social media profiles.





EES Students in Iceland

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<https://www.easternct.edu/environmental-earth-science/index.html>





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