Liberal Studies—Environmental Studies programs focus on environment-related issues using scientific, social scientific, and humanistic approaches. Students will learn to apply biological, chemical, and physical principles to the physical environment, and subjects such as pollution control, the interactions of human beings and nature, and natural resources management. Courses will teach the basic principles of ecology and environmental science and related subjects such as policy, politics, law, economics, social aspects, planning, pollution control, and natural resources. Additionally, they will learn the systematic analysis of public policy issues regarding the environment, and social policy issues such as housing and urban development, and industry. Students will be introduced to a multitude of disciplines, such as economics, history, political science, geography, and sociology as they relate to public decision-making and creation of the policies which affect public life.

Programs at Montana State University provide students with an understanding of environmental issues, drawing on scientific and public policy perspectives. The courses involve the application of a wide range of natural and social sciences to problems of natural resource and environmental management. The required curriculum is structured to allow students to take advantage of the unique diversity of departments at MSU, to accommodate varying interests and career aspirations, and to ensure professional competence.

Characteristics associated with success include an interest in our environment and a desire to improve it, a strong desire to improve the lives of the general public and an interest in politics.

You should:
- Be intrigued by new ideas and ways of thinking
- Be interested in improving the balance between natural resources, humankind and the environment
- Be a leader who enjoys bringing people together to work toward a common goal
- Enjoy solving complex problems in new and creative ways
- Enjoy reading and writing
- Be skilled in the powers of persuasion
- Be poised and independent
- Enjoy interaction with people of different cultures and values, and be able to get along well with others
- Be sensitive to the feelings of others
- Have good oral and written communication skills
- Be a logical thinker who can collect, organize, analyze, and interpret scientific data

Occupations in this field require the ability to: be creative, patient, tactful, and persuasive and be willing to solve problems to help mankind.

Related occupations include:
- Legislator
- College/University Faculty
- Journalist
- Park Ranger
- Mediator
- Teacher
- Project Manager
- Diplomat
- Writer/Author
- Lobbyist
- Foreign Service Officer
- Public Administrator
- Environmental Educator
- Urban Planner
- Non-Profit Administrator
- Range Manager
- Soil Conservationist
- City Manager
- Political Scientist
- Director of Sustainability
- Fisheries Technician
MSU graduates (Bachelor’s degree) were hired in the following selected fields:

- Engineering Consultant Assistant - IBA Consultants West, LLC
- Intern - National Wildlife Federation
- Project Assistant and Doctorate Control Administrator - GEA Power Cooling, INC.
- Paleoecology Lab Manager and Research Assistant - MSU
- Fisheries Technician - Joseph Urbany and Associates
- Copper Mountain Ski Patrol - Copper Mountain
- Field Crew Leader - Montana Conservation Corps
- Retail Sales Associate - Schnee’s Boots and Shoes
- Instructional Assistant - Three Rivers Charter School
- Lab Assistant - MSU-Bozeman
- Secretary - Disability Specialists Incorporated
- Microbiologist/Lab Technician - Bioscience Laboratories, Inc.
- Invasive Species Inspector - Montana Department of Agriculture

Salary averages of survey respondents (# of respondents in parentheses):

- 2010: MT: $22,968 (2)  Out of State: Insufficient Data
- 2009: MT: $15,530 (2)  Out of State: $25,480 (2)
- 2008: MT: Insufficient Data  Out of State: Insufficient Data
- 2007: MT: Insufficient Data  Out of State: $36,347 (3)

Graduates from this program entered programs of further education at these institutions:

No graduates are known to have entered programs of further education at this time.

Please note: The Liberal Studies program began in 2004 and to date has graduated 7 classes. Therefore, information and data is admittedly limited.

*Insufficient Data: Each year the Career, Internship & Student Employment Services Office at Montana State University conducts a survey to determine placement rates and salary survey information from recent MSU graduates. Graduates were requested to participate in the survey to provide relevant information regarding the transition from college to career/graduate school. At times, there are limited or no respondents. Statistics, therefore, are not always based upon the response of the total sample group and are sometimes listed as “Insufficient Data”.

For more information contact:

Montana State University
177 Strand Union Building
Bozeman, MT 59717
(406) 994-4353
www.montana.edu/careers

2Montana State University College of University College
3Montana State University Career & Internship Services
Number of graduates/number of respondents: 2007: 6/3; 2008: 5/1; 2009: 17/7; 2010: 14/4