

EES Choose Your Own Adventure: INTRODUCTION

Environment, Energy, and Sustainability.

3 very different, yet closely related topics. You probably chose this community because you are interested in part or all of the above. Interests are great and are what drive us to register in certain classes and pursue different degrees.

But what happens next? What do you do after you get your degree?

Never fear - we are here to answer just that. This is the first in a series of resources that will be released throughout the year to help you Choose Your Own Adventure in the EES nexus.

O'Neill students lead for the greater good - we know you are concerned about climate change, environmental justice, the transition to green energy, nature conservation, and beyond. We are here to help guide you through the industries that might be of interest to you. You have the interest and we have the knowledge.

Well, there are 3 degree paths that folks who like the environment can go for:

- Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science (shared with College of Arts & Sciences)
 - [Class Examples/Requirements](#)
- Bachelor of Arts in Environmental and Sustainability Studies (shared with College of Arts & Sciences)
 - [Class Examples/Requirements](#)
- Bachelor of Science in Public Affairs
 - Major: Environmental Management
 - [Class Examples/Requirements](#)

It's like a continuum from science-focused to management-focused degrees. The BSES program is heavy into the hard sciences (chemistry, physics, ecology, biology). The BAES degree program mixes science lab courses with management and policy decisions surrounding sustainability. Meanwhile, the Environmental Management major within the BSPA program focuses on environmental policy and decision-making. While you will need some science knowledge in all three programs (see the Class Examples/Requirements link to find out what specifically is needed for each degree), the level of science proficiency versus policy and management-focused classes varies along the spectrum.

What do you want to do when you graduate? Do you like getting your hands dirty in a soil testing lab? How about measuring the impacts of climate change on the heat index of Indiana? Or is your ideal job a project management position that provides oversight and guidance on cleanup of hazardous sites? Let this resource serve as your guide as we dive deeper into the EES land of possibilities.

Interested in the Environment? Continue to Page 2.

Interested in Energy? Continue to Page 3.

Interested in Sustainability? Continue to Page 4.

EES Choose Your Own Adventure: ENVIRONMENT

Have you thought about the “what” and “how” questions of career exploration recently? *What* you want to do and then *how* you want to engage with that subject matter are important questions to grapple with. Working for [Sierra Club](#) (a grassroots organization working for environmental conservation) and working for the [Environmental Law & Policy Center](#) (a nonprofit working in policy arena) are similar in that they both work for the environment, but how they engage with their environmental advocacy are different. How do you want to engage with the environment?

Do you want to work in environmental consulting? This type of job generally is in firms that ensure that the client maintains compliance with environmental regulations. It can involve testing soil samples in a lab or collecting other field samples and ensuring compliance. A knowledge of environmental laws and regulations is used. See this resource on [What is an Environmental Consultant?](#) to learn more about what an environmental consultant might need as qualifications.

Do you care about conservation? Check out this [job board](#) to see what is happening in the conservation landscape. What about environmental education? This growing field can be followed [here](#). Both conservation and environmental education typically require a bachelor's degree and have many entry-level jobs to gain experience. Don't let the salary range get you down - some even offer onsite housing for the duration of your employment!

How about working for the EPA or another government agency looking at land use? These jobs generally work in compliance with governmental regulations and setting policy standards. People in government work with administrative goals and a little bit of paper pushing. Here are some examples of what you might find in the field of [environmental policy and/or planning](#).

*Some of these degrees may require a graduate degree or JD.
Continue to Graduate School on Page 5 or Law School on Page 6.*

EES Choose Your Own Adventure: ENERGY

Are you interested in what powers the world we live in?

Consider a career in the energy sector. This industry is widely expanding to include electricity, oil, gas, nuclear energy, and renewables such as solar and wind energy. In this field, it is common for employees to have a graduate degree to propel them into the field. Technical experience is a plus, so try getting an internship or entry-level job in the field! Check out this [Graduate Internship Spotlight: Forrest Levy \(Solar Energy Industries Association\)](#) to hear what an internship in the field looks like! Similar to the environment and sustainability sectors, there are several ways to get involved in energy.

The energy sector is a fast growing industry and [now is an important moment for energy](#) as we try to switch over to renewables. It is important to fully understand and explore the areas involved - from construction to finance to law enforcement in the energy sphere. Check out this [Indeed article](#) for more information and expert advice about getting involved on the private side.

In addition to the private sector, there are plenty of [government jobs](#) available in energy. The US Department of Energy has been hiring for their [Clean Energy Corps](#) since the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law came about. The [Federal Energy Regulatory Commission \(FERC\)](#) regularly takes pathways interns and transfers them into full-time positions post-graduation.

Interested in Sustainability? Continue to Page 4

Some careers in this field may require an advanced degree. Continue to Page 5 for Graduate School or Page 6 for Law School.

EES Choose Your Own Adventure: SUSTAINABILITY

What is sustainability?

Sustainability as an industry has many different definitions. Commonly, it has to do with the avoidance of depletion of natural resources in order for humans and ecosystems to safely co-exist on the planet for years to come.

With climate change, careers in sustainability are not going away anytime soon. In the workforce, sustainability managers are getting jobs in traditional environmental companies like Green Corps as well as nontraditional companies, such as department stores or packaging companies in their sustainability department. It will take sustainability specialists' work to move society toward a more sustainable future.

How do you get into the industry, though? How do you start? Take a look at this article from LinkedIn: [6 Steps to a Career in Sustainability](#). In the meantime, get involved right here at Indiana University with Sustain IU! Sustain IU has focus areas in Food, Waste, Energy, and Internships. How will you make a difference? See your options [here](#). Additionally, IU is a Gold STARS institution. STARS is an assessment program put out by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). AASHE has a [job board](#) where you can get involved with sustainability at the collegiate level.

Lastly, try not to limit your job search to “sustainability.” Many sustainability jobs do not have the word “sustainability” in their titles. [Environmental Managers](#) and [ESG Analysts](#), as well as [Sustainability Consultants](#) all work with environmental sustainability in their day-to-day roles. Take a look at the above job descriptions and see if this might be an industry for you!

Want to go back and explore the Environment? Continue to Page 2.

Think that Energy is more your style? Continue to Page 3.

Some careers in this field may require an advanced degree. Continue to Page 5 for Graduate School.

EES Choose Your Own Adventure: GRADUATE SCHOOL

Thinking about whether graduate school is right for you? Start by checking out [this resource](#) to help guide your questions and decision making. You might consider how experience in the field you're interested in may be necessary to inform your graduate learning. Alternatively, going straight from undergrad might help keep your academic momentum going. Both options have pros and cons that are important to consider.

As far as an EES career, there are some industries that do require a graduate degree. For the [sustainability and environmental arenas](#), if you want to pursue policy or education, a graduate degree is standard to pursue after a few years of experience. How do you know what type of graduate program to apply for? Internship and other real-world experiences can help point the way of where you want to go. A graduate degree in [environmental policy](#) or [environmental science](#) can lead to jobs like an environmental policy analyst, conservation scientist, environmental engineer, or a sustainability consultant. They can also lead to advanced roles in Environmental Management and Senior Consultant positions.

At O'Neill, we offer several graduate programs appropriate for the EES sector. We have a [Master of Public Affairs \(MPA\)](#) degree, [Master of Science in Environmental Science \(MSES\)](#) degree, a [dual degree with the two programs](#), and a [Master of Environmental Sustainability \(MES\)](#) degree. Within the degrees, there are several options for [concentrations](#) in the environmental sector.

Is a graduate degree right for you? As you apply, keep in mind these key tips from [Patrick Lewis](#) in O'Neill's Masters Programs Office:

- Your resume for applying for graduate school does not need to be one page - it can be longer to include all of the great experiences you have had in the field and throughout your academic career
- Be wary of the type of degree program you are applying for - is it a research program or a professional program? O'Neill's is a professional master's program that pushes students into the field and has a lot of practical experience built into it.
- Tailor your personal statement for each school. Most of the time there is a prompt and word-limit that is school-specific. O'Neill's prompt is about leading for the greater good. Compelling personal statements talk about your background and personal experiences. Those that shine through are those that can tie in resume past-experiences that have informed their decision to come to graduate school and continue their career in public service.

Think Law School might better serve your purpose? Go to Page 6.

EES Choose Your Own Adventure: LAW SCHOOL

So you have a degree in environmental management, science, or sustainability. Is law school the right next step for you?

Environmental law is a diverse, relatively new combination of laws on all levels of jurisdiction - from federal regulations to state and local laws. These laws and policies can change quickly as the research and science of the environment and climate change evolves. Environmental lawyers take an active stance in the policy arena and can fight for the environment against pollution.

Indiana University's own Maurer School of Law is one of the top programs in the country, and there's a possibility to get a joint JD/MPA or JD/MSES degree between Maurer and O'Neill! Check out [this video](#) about how Maurer prepares students to take on environmental challenges.

Law schools are looking for bright students with drive to succeed and help others. Once you complete your degree, you have to sit for the bar exam. After you are admitted to the bar you can provide legal advice and work for organizations as an [environmental lawyer](#). Job titles include staff attorney, policy advisor, and/or attorney - climate change specialty. You can [work as an environmental lawyer](#) at a multitude of places - including a municipality, energy producer, manufacturer, law firm, or advocacy group.

Thinking Graduate School might be a better fit? Continue to Page 5.
Interested in going back to the beginning? Continue to Page 1.