

## What can you do with a major in Environmental Technology?

**Campus(s) program is offered: North Metro Campus**

**What are the most likely job titles one can expect to qualify for after completing this program?**

- Environmental Engineering Technicians
- Water Treatment Operators
- Wastewater Treatment Operator
- Drinking water and Wastewater Laboratory Analyst
- Wetlands Delineation Specialist

**What do students express as the thing they enjoy the most about this program?**

The variety of information and skills. Everything from field sampling to lab analysis, data analysis and reporting.

**What is the least?** Math

**What are some typical misconceptions about this program of study?**

The typical misconception right now is that the general public is not really aware of the career potential of the Environmental Technology field.

**What are some essential skills a student needs to have to be successful in this program of study?**

Critical Thinking — Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions or approaches to problems.

Active Learning — Understanding the implications of new information for both current and future problem-solving and decision-making.

Monitoring — Monitoring/Assessing performance of yourself, other individuals, or organizations to make improvements or take corrective action.

Science — Using scientific rules and methods to solve problems.

Complex Problem Solving — Identifying complex problems and reviewing related information to develop and evaluate options and implement solutions.

Judgment and Decision Making — Considering the relative costs and benefits of potential actions to choose the most appropriate one.

**What are some essential abilities a student needs to have to be successful in this program of study?**

Problem Sensitivity — The ability to tell when something is wrong or is likely to go wrong. It does not involve solving the problem, only recognizing there is a problem.

Deductive Reasoning — The ability to apply general rules to specific problems to produce answers that make sense.

Information Ordering — The ability to arrange things or actions in a certain order or pattern according to a specific rule or set of rules (e.g., patterns of numbers, letters, words, pictures, mathematical operations).

Near Vision — The ability to see details at close range (within a few feet of the observer).

Category Flexibility — The ability to generate or use different sets of rules for combining or grouping things in different ways.

## **What are typical skills and abilities that a student gains once he/she has completed the program of study?**

Major skills that students gain upon completion are field sampling/research, critical thinking, and technical communication.

## **Typical work activities/occupational functions:**

- Set up, test, operate, and modify equipment for preventing or cleaning up environmental pollution
- Maintain project records and computer program files
- Conduct pollution surveys, collecting and analyzing samples such as air and ground water
- Perform indoor and outdoor environmental quality work
- Work to mitigate sources of environmental pollution
- Review technical documents to ensure completeness and conformance to requirements
- Arrange for the disposal of lead, asbestos, and other hazardous materials

In laboratories, environmental engineering technicians record observations, test results, and document photographs. To keep the laboratory supplied, they also may get product information; identify vendors and suppliers, and order materials and equipment.

Environmental technicians also help environmental engineers develop devices for cleaning up environmental pollution. They also inspect facilities for compliance with the regulations that govern substances such as asbestos, lead, and wastewater.

## **What additional training would you recommend for a student who wants to go to the next level in this field?** Additional training would depend on the specified field of interest and the particular job field in which the graduate is working.

## **Do any of the occupational courses transfer easily?**

The Environmental Technology is a degree program. The occupational courses could be transferrable based on the school a student wishes to attend.

## **What are some common limitations, if any, in this program that students face?**

Because Environmental Technicians help in environmental cleanup, they can be exposed to hazards from equipment, chemicals, or other toxic materials. When they work in wet areas, environmental engineering technicians wear heavy rubber boots to keep their legs and feet dry. They must sometimes work irregular hours to monitor operations.

## **Are there any exams/certifications that a student needs to take after completing the courses? Are these exams/certifications offered on campus?** No.

## **Possible employment settings:**

Local, state or federal government agencies, universities, private corporations, non-profit organizations, Environmental consulting firms, testing laboratories, waste management and remediation services

## **Names of potential employers:**

Universal Engineering Sciences

Ingersoll Rand

Home Depot

Northwind Services

Cobb County

Georgia Environmental Finance Authority

Georgia Dept of Natural Resources

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