State-Approved (Chapter 74)
Program Overview

Environmental Science

Environmental Science involves preserving, protecting, and restoring the health of natural resources such as air, water, ecosystems and habitats.

What Students Learn & Do

As communities face increasingly urgent environmental challenges, the field of environmental science is experiencing growing demand for skilled and dedicated workers. Through classroom-based learning and projects and supervised field work, Environmental Science students gain practical experience in a range of environmental science and natural resource management careers.

Students build knowledge and experience of the scientific and practical dimensions of maintaining healthy water supplies and protecting the habitats of a variety of marine and land-based wildlife. Specific fields of work include environmental clean-up, wastewater treatment, watershed protection, and energy technologies. Students also learn foundational skills and earn certifications required for working in these fields. Workplace health and safety is emphasized throughout the curriculum. In their Senior year, students have the opportunity to work with professionals in fields such as environmental consulting, construction, and regulatory agencies.

Graduates of Environmental Science programs are required to meet the same high academic standards as their peers in other high school programs. These standards are set by the State of Massachusetts. Often an entry point for college, Environmental Science reinforces concepts from biology, chemistry and social studies, among other academic areas.

Licenses & Certifications

Programs will prepare students to earn industry-recognized credentials, and typically students will be able to complete one or more before they graduate from high school. Examples:

- OSHA: 10-hour General, 10-hour Construction, Confined Space, Hazardous Waste, Disaster Site
- First Aid/CPR/AED
- Depending on program or student focus: MA Drinking-Water Treatment Plant Operator, MA Wastewater Operator, Life Guard, SCUBA, Fisheries and Wildlife Certifications, Pesticide Applicators License, Sustainability 101 Certificate

Options After High School

State-Approved (Chapter 74) programs provide precise training needed for entry-level employment. Here are some possible career opportunities in Environmental Science.

High School Diploma

- Aquaculturist
- Water Treatment Plant Operator
- Wind Power Technician
- LEED Green Associate

Advanced Training or Associate Degree

- Drinking Water Lab Technician
- Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent
- Land Manager
- Fisheries Observer

Bachelor's Degree (4 Years of College)

- Marine or Wildlife Biologist
- Environmental Chemist
- Government Inspector
- Meteorologist

Questions to Ask a Program You Are Considering

1. **What workplace experiences do you offer to students - at school, or with an employer?**
2. **What are some common next steps for graduates of this program and how do you support them to get there?**

Learn about the differences between State-Approved (Chapter 74) and Local programs
http://www.doe.mass.edu/ccte/cvte/cte-families/state-vs-local.html

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

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