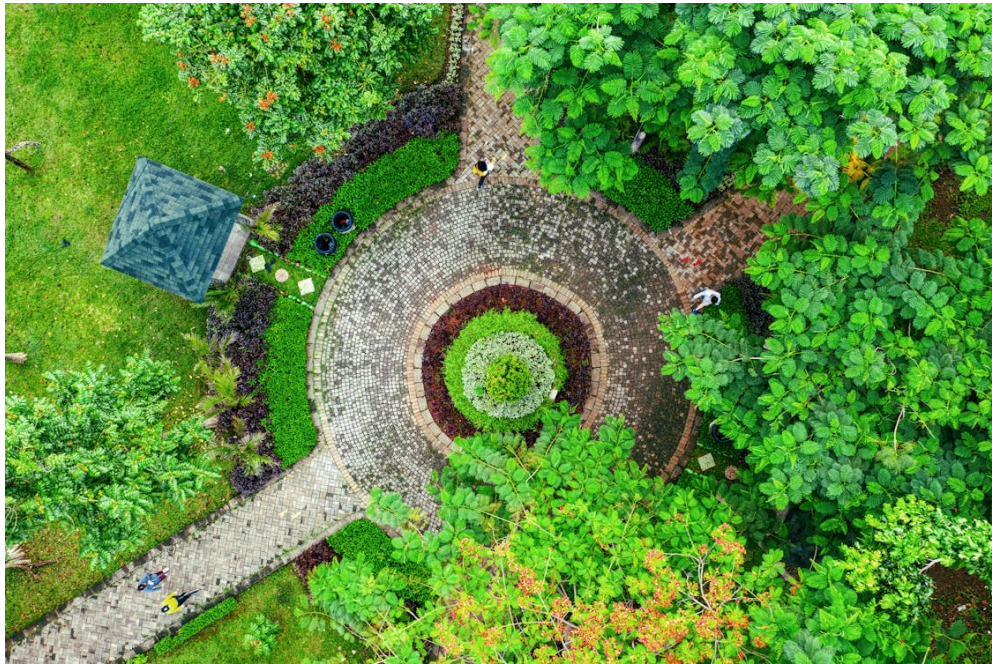


I developed this long-form higher education content piece developed for the University of Idaho as an AEO- and SEO-forward digital article. My goals were organic discoverability, aligning with search intent and conversational queries, and driving prospective student engagement.

8 Careers You Can Get With an Environmental Design Degree



If you're an outdoor enthusiast, love to plan and fancy yourself a creative type, an environmental design degree could lead you to the meaningful career you've been dreaming of. [Environmental design](#) programs introduce you to coursework like ecology, soil ecosystem studies and landscape architecture to prepare you for a rewarding career in construction, conservation, the government or consulting. You can make a big difference in your town or state while doing work you love, and it all starts with an environmental design degree from the University of Idaho.

What Can You Do With an Environmental Design Degree?

You could see a bright future in an environmental design career as a landscape architect, graphic designer, water resources engineer and more. No matter if you're a planner, a hands-on worker, a strategist or a designer, the Gem State can benefit from your skills and the knowledge you'll be gaining.

By tailoring your program with [suggested environmental design courses](#) relevant to what you're actually passionate about, your degree path and career can be truly unique to you.

1. Landscape Architect

Landscape architects draw up plans for outdoor spaces that are aesthetically pleasing and highly functional, making careful decisions about where to place greenery, walking paths and hardscaping. Specializations include historic renovation or preservation, public spaces (like parks and greenways) and conservation.

Annual landscape architect salary: \$73,000

Courses you might take: History of Landscape Architecture, Landscape Architecture Studio

2. Urban Planner

Urban planners create large-scale, long-term strategies for land usage, often encompassing areas as large as entire cities and focusing planning efforts on biological components of the planning area (think rivers, lakes and conservation sites). These professionals are also involved in public policy and zoning, making this career an analytical and strategic one.

Annual urban planner salary: \$92,000

Courses you might take: Bioregional Planning, Physical Geology

3. Construction Manager

Construction managers are planners extraordinaire—they oversee all aspects of a construction project from start to finish. These professionals are involved in budgeting and on-site supervision to ensure the work is carried out safely and according to local building codes. A career as a construction manager involves widespread knowledge in many unique areas of environmental design.

Annual construction manager salary: \$100,000

Courses you might take: Grading, Drainage and Stormwater Management, Construction Materials, Detailing and Documentation

4. Sustainability Analyst

Sustainable environmental design is at the core of a sustainability analyst's job. Sustainability analysts often do consulting work where they evaluate or audit a business's proposed or existing design policies and analyze them for eco-friendly practices. This is the career for anyone who values sustainability and doesn't mind looking at a lot of data on spreadsheets (and presenting a bit of that data, themselves).

Annual sustainability analyst salary: \$86,000

Courses you might take: The Resilient Landscape, Resilience and Sustainability Principles in Environmental Design

5. Water Resources Engineer

Water resources engineers design residential water and sewage supply systems as well as water treatment plants, reservoirs and canals. They also research and evaluate the impacts of these systems and conduct soil safety tests to ensure local water sources won't be contaminated. A water resources engineer is the best of both technical, hands-on work and sustainability practices.

Annual water resources engineer salary: \$90,000

Courses you might take: The Soil Ecosystem, Bioregional Planning

6. Community Development Specialist

Social activists who get an environmental design degree often become community development specialists. These professionals uplift their communities by planning projects related to affordable housing and social services as well as promoting culture initiatives and local sustainability practices. Community development specialists drive meaningful action at home and collaborate with community members to make their town a better place.

Annual community development specialist salary: \$78,000

Courses you might take: Design Communication, Biology and Society

7. Interior Designer

Interior designers, specifically those who specialize in commercial and government buildings, often have [environmental design degrees](#). In this career, you'll focus on sustainable design choices and create spaces with both humans and the natural environment in mind. This career is perfect for anyone with a strong interest in both art and the environment.

Annual interior designer salary: \$68,000

Courses you might take: Plant Materials & Design, Problem Solving and Applied Design Research

8. Graphic Designer

Environmental design is a popular field for graphic designers to enter into. Graphic designers with this degree create visual mock-ups for the interiors and exteriors of buildings (like museums and community centers) as well as signage and branding for use in a wide range of spaces that mesh with the surrounding environment or building design.

Annual graphic designer salary: \$61,000

Courses you might take: Theory in Environmental Design, Integrated Design Process

**Salary data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)*