Program in the Environment

FROM STUDY TO SKILLS

All academic programs at UM help students develop valuable transferable skills. The Program in the Environment (PitE) is a collaborative effort overseen by LSA and the School of Natural Resources and Environment (SNRE). Its mission is to develop environmentally informed citizens and leaders through an undergraduate program that balances rigorous environmental studies in many disciplines, hones practical problem-solving skills, and fosters intellectual risk taking.

As a PitE concentrator, you will take courses in the natural and social sciences and the humanities, and gain an interdisciplinary understanding of environmental problems as well as specific social and natural science skills with which to solve them.


SKILLS AND ABILITIES

Technical/Research Skills
Developing questions for research
Creating hypotheses
Designing experiments
Modeling and projecting
Determining correct sample sizes
Collecting data
Determining statistical significance
Using A.R.C./G.I.S.
Examining and quantifying data
Conducting statistical analysis
Correcting for error
Drawing valid, tested conclusions

Analytical/Problem-Solving Skills
Reading critically
Synthesizing information/concepts
Understanding socio/political/economic factors
Understanding demographics
Analyzing risks and cost-benefits
Dealing with error
Understanding correlations between factors

Project Development/Team Skills
Identifying a project
Identifying stakeholders/constituencies
Breaking big projects into smaller pieces
Understanding group dynamics
Understanding cultural differences
Being sensitive to different viewpoints and temperaments
Effective listening
Compromising

Communication Skills
Justifying a position
Writing proposals and research reports
Designing effective visual aids
Explaining complex information to different audiences
Speaking clearly and persuasively
Understanding how to affect environmental change

BUILDING YOUR SKILLS OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Employers seek out individuals who can demonstrate excellent verbal and written communication skills, teamwork and interpersonal skills, initiative, and a strong work ethic. Student organizations and campus employment offer valuable opportunities to add to the skills you are developing in your classes. PitE students participate in the Honors Symposium, the PitE Club, and environmental organizations on campus. Other options include study abroad, off-campus employment or volunteering in the community. Finally, a summer internship may be the best way of all to test out a career field and develop marketable skills.
FROM SKILLS TO CAREER

PitE concentrators develop both general and technical skills applicable to a wide range of careers. For example, rigorous analytical skills will be equally useful whether working as a research scientist, an urban planner, or a watershed management specialist. Many PitE concentrators go on to graduate or professional school. The list below is a sample of careers undertaken by PitE graduates.

### Technical/Research Skills
- Forester
- Park ranger
- Horticultural specialist
- Botanist
- Toxicologist
- Climate change specialist
- Occupational safety analyst
- Lab assistant/research assistant/research scientist
- GIS technician
- Field scientist
- Paralegal
- Legislative staff assistant
- Policy researcher

### Analytical/Problem-Solving Skills
- Environmental consultant
- Architectural project assistant
- Geologist
- Anthropologist
- Biologist
- Epidemiologist
- Physician
- Veterinarian
- Compliance officer
- Corporate social responsibility officer
- Sustainable development manager
- Environmental economist
- Environmental lawyer

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### Project Development/Team Skills
- Environmental engineer
- Non-profit director
- Non-profit fundraiser
- Recycling management coordinator
- Curator
- Event planner
- Eco tour guide
- Farmers’ market manager
- Product purchasing manager
- Landscape architect
- Urban planner

### Communication Skills
- K-12 teacher
- College professor
- Community organizer
- Politician, federal, state, and local government
- Journalist/environmental writer
- Public relations manager
- Nature center outreach coordinator

For more career information, see O*Net at http://online.onetcenter.org/

### CONCENTRATION REQUIREMENTS

Prerequisites include introductory courses in biology, economics, math, geology, and the environment. In addition, 32 credit hours in the core curriculum are required, including courses in ecology, statistics, natural science and social science. Finally, each concentrator will choose a three-course specialization, which can range from Water or Terrestrial Ecology, to Environmental Policy or Economics. Students are encouraged to design their own specialization.

To enhance the theory and concepts learned in the classroom with a real-world experience, practical experience is required of all concentrators — taking a residential field course at UM biological station, an internship with environmental focus, or study abroad.

We also offer a 17-credit minor, open to LSA and non-LSA students alike.

### Program in the Environment (PitE)
1120 Undergraduate Science Building
204 Washtenaw Ave.
734-763-5065
www.lsa.umich.edu/pite

Newnan Advising Center
1255 Angell Hall
734-764-0332
www.lsa.umich.edu/advising

### NEXT STEPS/Resources

For more on internships and career information for PitE students, see:
www.lsa.umich.edu/pite/academics/internshipsandcareers

To identify more internships or job opportunities, visit Career Center Connector: www.careercenter.umich.edu/c3student/

To begin connecting to professionals in fields that interest you, create your own LinkedIn account:
www.careercenter.umich.edu/students/networking/linkedin_intro.html

On-campus jobs (work-study and non work-study jobs) are listed at:
https://studentemployment.umich.edu/JobX_Home.aspx

Maize Pages list hundreds of organizations for students to get involved in: http://studentorgs.umich.edu/maize

Volunteer Connection lists volunteer opportunities in local organizations: http://volunteer-connection.umich.edu/

The Career Center
3200 Student Activities Building
734-764-7460
www.careercenter.umich.edu
www.facebook.com/careercenter.umich
http://twitter.com/careercenter

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