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.

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 aides
- 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

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

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

For more career information, see O*Net at 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 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
lsa.umich.edu/pite

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

NEXT STEPS/RESOURCES

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

To identify more internships or job opportunities, visit Career Center Connector: careercenter.umich.edu/article/c3

To begin connecting to professionals in fields that interest you, create your own LinkedIn account:
careercenter.umich.edu/article/getting-started-linkedin

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

Maize Pages list hundreds of organizations for students to get involved in: maizepages.umich.edu

Connect to Community lists volunteer opportunities in local organizations: connect2community.umich.edu

The Career Center
3200 Student Activities Building
734-764-7460
careercenter.umich.edu
facebook.com/careercenter.umich
twitter.com/careercenter
linkedin.com/company/the-career-center-at-the-university-of-michigan

= Further Study Required
= Green Jobs

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