



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.

Related fields include Ecology, Geology, Biology, Law, Economics, Business, Urban Planning, Public Policy, Public Health, Psychology, Engineering, History, American Culture, Communications, Anthropology, and Museum Studies.

SKILLS AND ABILITIES

<p>Technical/Research Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<p>Analytical/ Problem-Solving Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading critically Synthesizing information/ concepts Understanding socio/ political/economic factors Understanding demographics Analyzing risks and cost-benefits Dealing with error Understanding correlations between factors 	<p>Project Development/ Team Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<p>Communication Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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
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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,

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  

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.

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

 = Further Study Required
 = Green Jobs

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 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
lsa.umich.edu/pite

Newnan 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

The Career Guide series was developed by the University of Michigan Career Center, Division of Student Affairs, in cooperation with the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. ©2011 Regents of the University of Michigan

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