

Environmental Engineers

(All information, except UB degree program information, is from the US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics 2004-2005 Occupational Outlook Handbook.)

- **Employment, Job Outlook & Earnings**
- **UB Graduate Programs:**
 - [Civil Engineering](#)
- **UB Undergraduate Programs:**
 - [BS Civil Engineering](#)
 - [BS/MBA Civil Engineering](#)
 - [BS Environmental Engineering](#)
 - [BS Industrial Engineering](#)
 - [BS/MBA Industrial Engineering](#)

Employment

Environmental engineers held about 47,000 jobs in 2002. Almost half worked in professional, scientific, and technical services and about 15,000 were employed in Federal, State, and local government agencies. Most of the rest worked in various manufacturing industries.

Job Outlook

Environmental engineering graduates should have favorable job opportunities. Employment of environmental engineers is expected to increase [much faster than the average](#) for all occupations through 2012. Much of the expected growth will be due to the emergence of this occupation as a widely recognized engineering specialty rather than as an area that other engineering specialties, such as civil engineers, specialize in. More environmental engineers will be needed to comply with environmental regulations and to develop methods of cleaning up existing hazards. A shift in emphasis toward preventing problems rather than controlling those that already exist, as well as increasing public health concerns, also will spur demand for environmental engineers. However, political factors determine the job outlook for environmental engineers more than that for other engineers. Looser environmental regulations would reduce job opportunities; stricter regulations would enhance opportunities.

Even though employment of environmental engineers should be less affected by economic conditions than that of most other types of engineers, a significant economic

downturn could reduce the emphasis on environmental protection, reducing employment opportunities. Environmental engineers need to keep abreast of a range of environmental issues to ensure their steady employment because their area of focus may change frequently—for example, from hazardous waste cleanup to the prevention of water pollution.

Earnings

Median annual earnings of environmental engineers were \$61,410 in 2002. The middle 50 percent earned between \$47,650 and \$77,360. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$38,640, and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$91,510. Median annual earnings in the industries employing the largest numbers of environmental engineers in 2002 were:

Architectural, engineering, and related services	\$58,620
Management, scientific, and technical consulting services	57,800
State government	54,160

According to a 2003 salary survey by the National Association of Colleges and Employers, bachelor's degree candidates in environmental/environmental health engineering received starting offers averaging \$44,702 a year.