

CWU ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES ALUMNI SURVEY

Seventy-six alums of Environmental Studies who graduated from 2008 through 2015 were surveyed during the late summer and fall of 2015. Evidently seven alums responded to an online survey that was emailed to them and eleven alums responded when the CWU call center telephoned them. There were 18 responses for a 24% response rate.

1. What year did you receive your Environmental Studies degree from CWU?

Answer	Response	%
2015	0	0%
2014	5	28%
2013	5	28%
2012	4	22%
2011	3	17%
2010	1	6%
2009	0	0%
2008	0	0%
Earlier than 2008	0	0%
Total	18	100%

2. Which degree program/s did you complete at CWU? Please check all that apply.

Answer	Response	%
B.S. – ENST with Biology Specialization	5	28%
B.S. – ENST with Chemistry Specialization	0	0%
B.S. – ENST with Geography Specialization	7	39%
B.S. – ENST with Geology Specialization	4	22%
B.S. – ENST with Policy Specialization	2	11%
Other major(s)? Please list.	2	11%
Other minor(s)? Please list.	4	22%

Other major(s)? Please list.	Other minor(s)? Please list.
Spanish	Energy Studies
BA In Geography	Economics
	Energy studies
	Geology, GIS Cert.

3. What industry do you work in or, if you are not working, which option below describes your status?

Answer Please check all that apply.	Response	%
Resource Management	1	6%
Environmental Outreach and Education	1	6%
Environmental Policy	2	11%
Environmental Lab	1	6%
Consulting	1	6%
NGO	0	0%
Federal/State Agency	6	33%
K-12 Teaching	1	6%
Attending graduate school, if so, where and what degree?	1	6%
Unemployed	1	6%
Other	7	39%
Other	Attending graduate school, if so, where and what degree?	
online travel-booking business		
Customer service rep for trash company	Apus, environmental studies sustainability	
Pharmaceutical		
Travel		
Construction		
Golf Course		
Resturant		

4. If you are employed, please tell us your job title and the organization you work for.

Text Response
Aquatic Propagation Lab Manager, Freshwater Mussel/Pacific Lamprey Biologist
Geospatial Analyst (Geographer) at Expedia
Customer service rep for Yakima Waste Systems
Pharmacy Assistant at Consonus Pharmacy
Currently hiking PCT. Will teach in S. Korea next year.
Geo Spacial Analysis, Originally a geographer for Expedia.
Sustainability Coordinator- Gonzaga University
Scientific Technician 2- Department of Fish and Wildlife
Commercial Construction- Auburn Commercial Properties.
Project Manager- Artisan Electric
Scientific Technician 2- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.
Commodity Inspector, Department of Agriculture: Fruit and Vegetable
Customer Response Technician- City of Mercer Island
Irrigation Technician- Tumblr Creek Gold Club
Environmental Soecialist- Recology Cleanscape
Purchaser- Dubs Catering
Seasonal Park Ranger, Department of Interior

5. How important are each of the following competencies/skills to you personally and professionally?

Question	5 Very important	4 Important	3 Neither important nor unimportant	2 Not important	1 Not at all important	Total Replies	Mean
a. Critical Thinking - evaluate assumptions; consider multiple perspectives from various sources, etc.	13	5	0	0	0	18	4.4
b. Written Communications – purpose, organization, development, mechanics	10	6	2	0	0	18	4.8
c. Oral communications – vocal delivery, gestures, eye contact, good listening	15	3	0	0	0	18	4.4
d. Quantitative reasoning - apply quantitative tools and computer skills to solve problems; comprehend symbolic representations	8	7	2	0	0	17	4.2
e. Environmental literacy – possess fundamental understanding of current environmental issues, critically evaluate information sources	7	9	1	1	0	18	4.5
f. Interdisciplinary understanding – conversant in techniques and vocabularies of diverse environmental disciplines	10	7	1	0	0	18	4.3
g. Environmental advocacy – make informed environmental decisions, e.g., voting and life choices	11	3	3	0	1	18	4.1
h. Depth of knowledge in an area of specialization	9	4	3	1	1	18	4.4

6. How well did Environmental Studies prepare you for each of these competencies?

Question	5 Very prepared	4 Prepared	3 Neither prepared or unprepared	2 Not prepared	1 Not prepared at all	Total Replies	Mean
a. Critical thinking - evaluate assumptions; consider multiple perspectives from various sources, etc.	4	14	0	0	0	18	4.2
b. Written communications – purpose, organization, development, mechanics	5	9	2	1	1	18	3.9
c. Oral communications – vocal delivery, gestures, eye contact, good listening	9	7	0	0	2	18	4.2
d. Quantitative reasoning - apply quantitative tools and computer skills to solve problems; comprehend symbolic representations	5	12	1	0	0	18	4.2
e. Environmental literacy – possess fundamental understanding of current environmental issues, critically evaluate information sources	7	10	1	0	0	18	4.3
f. Interdisciplinary understanding – conversant in techniques and vocabularies of diverse environmental disciplines	4	12	2	0	0	18	4.1
g. Environmental advocacy – make informed environmental decisions, e.g., voting and life choices	5	11	1	0	1	18	4.1
h. Depth of knowledge in an area of specialization	6	8	1	1	2	18	3.8

	----- Medians -----			----- Averages -----		
	How Important? Median	How well prepared? Median	Prepared less Importance? (-2 to +2)	How Important? Average	How well prepared? Average	Prepared less Importance? (-2 to +2)
a. Critical thinking - evaluate assumptions; consider multiple perspectives from various sources, etc.	5.0	4.0		4.4	4.2	
b. Written communications - purpose, organization, development, mechanics	5.0	4.0		4.8	3.9	
c. Oral communications - vocal delivery, gestures, eye contact, good listening	5.0	4.5		4.4	4.2	
d. Quantitative reasoning - apply quantitative tools and computer skills to solve problems; comprehend symbolic representations	4.0	4.0		4.2	4.2	
e. Environmental literacy - possess fundamental understanding of current environmental issues, critically evaluate information sources	4.0	4.0		4.5	4.3	
f. Interdisciplinary understanding - conversant in techniques and vocabularies of diverse environmental disciplines	5.0	4.0		4.3	4.1	
g. Environmental advocacy - make informed environmental decisions, e.g., voting and life choices	5.0	4.0		4.1	4.1	
h. Depth of knowledge in an area of specialization	4.5	4.0		4.4	3.8	

7. What did you like best about the Environmental Studies program at CWU?

Text Response
Diversity of courses, instructors from varying backgrounds, emphasis on policy issues
A lot of the classes had a lab component, which gave me hands on experience and understanding of environmental issues. I also like that the professors are easy to talk to and are helpful.
I loved how interdisciplinary the degree program was.
Field time and labs. Practical application of our studies.
The teachers
It was diverse with classes. A well rounded package of knowledge.
Variety of specializations. Good and well-rounded education.
The professors were excellent.
It prepared me for life and was a challenge.
Professors were great.
Well-Rounded. Learned a lot about different subjects and environmental problems, locally and globally.
Learning about climate systems, different environmental options, and how to advocate for them.
It was a good mix of various things that related to environment. Good knowledge nationally and regionally environmental problems.
All classes had a good diversity of people. Classes were in seminar form, so lots of opinions were explored. Good conversation, respect between students. Everyone was very helpful (students to students).
Gave a broad understanding of all sciences.
The teachers, it was new so the teachers had small classrooms, one-on-one, just a few professors to switch between.
Instructors were very hands-on and encouraged real world applications.

8. What aspect of the Environmental Studies program needs the most improvement?

Text Response
Work experience and internship opportunities need to be emphasized and available. Without a graduate degree or significant work/internship experience, students graduating from this program will have a hard time finding a satisfying job in the field.
I felt like I graduated with the passion to work in an environmental field but not the tools for the real world. I wish I took more communication classes or did more projects where I was required to present. I sometimes lead meetings and don't have the confidence to speak in front of an audience. I am currently part of my company's Toastmasters organization. Some of the courses were rudimentary and not challenging. Students don't know what kind of environmental positions are available. If we brought in professionals in various fields, the students would have a better understanding of what kinds of jobs are available, what they like/don't like, and what classes they would need to attain a position.
I can only come up with adding a few more classes or suggestions for minors to complement a student's degree.
More gis and use of field techniques
Post-grad assistance
Grant writing
Preparing students to public speak and present. Give students more opportunities for internships.
The specializations need more hands on specific taining for each part of the department.
Focusing on specific environmental jobs. It is taught in a very broad sense and not specific enough for their major.
Class availability and lack of advising.
Internship resources and availability.
More internships where you are place into the field you want to be in.
More on environmental law education. Applying regulations and policies to work.
Some classes were professors had free reign and went into more social issues that were more one-sided. This was important but not objective.
Could have been more field activites. Labs were good but field research would be helpful.
Improve on getting first hand opportuniies- internships and field work because job industry requires experience. A better understanding of environmental permitting.
The political science, you have to be in that for policy, and there was only one time to take it. It should be offered more.
Some updated course materials would be nice. More current event application.

9. Please select the response that best describes your opinion about your Environmental Studies education at CWU.

Question	5 Strongly agree	4 Agree	3 Neither agree or disagree	2 Disagree	1 Strongly disagree	Total Replies	Mean
a. I am satisfied with my education from Environmental Studies at Central Washington University.	7	11	0	0	0	18	4.4
b. The Environmental Studies curriculum provided useful perspectives on critical issues facing the profession.	10	6	2	0	0	18	4.4
c. Environmental Studies prepared me well for my career.	2	8	4	3	1	18	3.4

10. Have you pursued any degrees after graduating from Environmental Studies at CWU? Please select all that apply.

Answer	Response	%
No	15	83%
Bachelor degree. What field?	0	0%
Masters (MS or MA). What field?	2	11%
Professional (e.g. JD). What field?	1	6%
Doctorate. What field?	0	0%

Bachelor degree. What field?	Masters (MS or MA). What field?	Professional (e.g. JD). What field?	Doctorate. What field?
	Natural Resource Management	Cert. Emergency Medical Tech.	
	Environmental sustainability		

11. These next few questions relate to CWU's Mission and General Education goals. How strongly do you agree that your education from CWU helped you...?

Question	5 Strongly agree	4 Agree	3 Neither agree or disagree	2 Disagree	1 Strongly disagree	Total Replies	Mean
a. Become a responsible citizen	9	7	2	0	0	18	4.4
b. Become a responsible steward of the earth	13	4	1	0	0	18	4.7
c. Become a productive and enlightened (informed, good learner, insightful) individual	10	7	1	0	0	18	4.5
d. Value different perspectives	12	5	1	0	0	18	4.6
e. Appreciate the breadth and depth of scientific and human knowledge	10	6	2	0	0	18	4.4
f. Increase your sense of the interconnectedness of knowledge	7	9	2	0	0	18	4.3
g. Integrate knowledge from diverse fields to solve problems	8	9	1	0	0	18	4.4
h. Increase your awareness of the many ways that knowledge evolves	10	5	2	0	0	17	4.5
i. Ask incisive and insightful questions	10	8	0	0	0	18	4.6

12. What is your approximate annual (gross) personal (not household) income?

Answer		Response	%
Less than \$20,000		1	6%
\$20,001 to \$40,000		11	61%
\$40,001 to \$60,000		4	22%
\$60,001 to \$80,000		2	11%
\$80,001 to \$100,000		0	0%
\$100,001 to \$120,000		0	0%
more than \$120,000		0	0%
Total		18	100%

The estimated, average income of the 17 respondents based on the midpoints of the above scale is: \$38,020.

13. What is your gender identity?

Woman/Female		6	33%
Man/Male		12	67%
Other		0	0%
I prefer not to answer		0	0%
Total		18	100%

14. What is your racial or ethnic identification? Please select all that apply.

Answer	Response	%
American Indian or Alaska native	0	0%
Asian	3	17%
Black or African American	0	0%
Hispanic or Latino	0	0%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0	0%
White	14	78%
Other	2	11%
I prefer not to respond	0	0%
Other		
Arabic		
Philipino		







15. Any other comments for Environmental Studies at CWU?

Text Response
The environmental literature class was interesting, but I don't think it was helpful. My favorite and most helpful classes were the hands-on lab component classes. If there's ever a job fair, you should get Earth Corps, Nature Consortium, and IslandWood to present their organizations and positions.
I really enjoyed my time at CWU and would recommend this program and the university to anyone.
I know it's a fairly new program, but I feel the specialization could use a little looking at to make it more narrow. I feel like the knowledge I have is very vague making it hard to narrow down a career post graduation. Also doing more to assist with post grad obstacles like resume building, where to look for jobs, etc.
We need more guest speakers for the specific departments within Environmental Studies.
Clay Arango, Elvin Delgado, Holly English are all very good professors.
Be more flexible. offer more classes to fulfill requirements.
It is an amazing program, the advisement could use some work. Overall, enjoyed time here.
providing lecurrency or showing students how to do that would be helpful.
Enjoyed time here and the instructors.
It was a good time and kept in contact with friends and professors made here.
Really hope the program expands!

APPENDIX

SURVEY STATISTICS

SURVEY START TIME (note: start times were probably affected by when the CWU call center called 11 of the 18 alums)








Time	Replies	Data Bars 1 to 10
9:00	1	
10:00		
11:00	1	
12:00		
1:00	8	
2:00	5	
3:00	3	
4:00		
5:00		
6:00		
7:00		
8:00		
9:00	1	

SURVEY DURATION

Minutes	Count
4	10
5	
6	2
7	
8	2
9	
10	2
~	
16	1
~	
40	1

Average time to complete the survey (excluding the 40 minute outlier): 6.1 minutes

SURVEY START DATE - evidently the CWU call center called alums on 11/4/15 and they generated 11 responses

DATE	COUNT	DATA BARS (0 TO 12)
8/10/15	1	
8/12/15	1	
8/13/15	1	
8/18/15	1	
8/26/15	2	
11/4/15	11	
12/8/15	1	

SURVEY COMPLETION RATES

Complete Rates	Number of alums	Number of Questions Answered
80%	2	12 of 15
90%	5	13 or 14 of 15
100%	11	15 of 15