

EEB Job and Grad School

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What we'll cover today

- Career Center Services
- Career Paths for EEB Students
- The Graduate School Process

Career Center Services

- Career Coaching
- Career Assessments
- Part-Time Jobs & Work-study (ER System)
- Job & Internship Search
- Graduate School Applications
- Pre-Health Advising- Aaron McPherson (that's me)
- Pre-Law Advising- Autumn Kanne
- Career Fairs
- Slugquest
- Resume & Cover Letter Help
- Interview Preparation

Workshops

- Network Your Way into a Dream Job | 2/21 | 12:00-1:00pm
- Multicultural Career Conference | 2/24 | 9:30am-4:00pm
- Ace Your Interview with Emotional Intelligence | 3/8 | 5:00-6:00pm

Career Fairs

Spring Job & Internship Fair | 4/18 | 3:00-6:00pm

So what can you do with an EEB degree?

and where can you work?



Who hires EEB majors?

- College/Universities
- Research Institutions
- Private Consulting and Industry
- Government (local, state, and federal)
 - National Science Foundation
 - National Institutes of Health
 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 - Food and Drug Administration
 - Environmental Protection Agency
 - Department of Agriculture
 - National Park Service
 - Department of the Interior- National Park Service
- Non-governmental Organization (NGO)
- Schools

What types of jobs are available with a BS?

- College/Universities
 - Field Research Technician
 - Lab Assistant
- Research Institutions
 - Lab/Research Assistant
- Private Consulting and Industry
 - Field/Research Technician
 - Lab/Research Assistant
- Government
 - Intern
 - Park Naturalist
 - Wildlife Specialist
- Non-governmental Organization (NGO)
 - Volunteer Coordinator
 - Program Scientist
- Schools
 - Teaching Assistant
 - Outdoor Educator
 - K-12 Teacher

What types of jobs are available with an MS?

- College/Universities
 - Professor at some 2 year colleges
 - Research Assistant
- Research Institutions
 - Lab/Research Assistant
- Private Consulting and Industry
 - Research Assistant
 - Environmental Consultant
 - Environmental Planner
 - Program Manager
- Government
 - Program Manager
 - Wildlife Biologist
 - Forester
 - Natural Resource Manager
- Non-governmental Organization (NGO)
 - Program Scientist
 - Environmental Analyst
 - Field Ecologist
- Schools
 - K-12 Teacher
 - Science Specialist

What types of jobs are available with a PhD?

- College/Universities
 - Professor
 - Post Doc
- Research Institutions
 - Post Doc
 - Research Manager
- Private Consulting and Industry
 - Research and Development Scientists
 - Research Manager
- Government
 - Program Manager
 - Wildlife Biologist
 - Forester
 - Natural Resource Manager
- Non-governmental Organization (NGO)
 - Program Scientist
 - Environmental Analyst
 - Field Ecologist

How to prepare for a job

- Work for a professor doing lab, library, or field - work.
- Seek out Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) at institutions and field stations funded by the National Science Foundation.
- Work as a teaching or lab assistant for a biology or ecology course.
- Spend a summer at a field station. The Organization of Biological Field Stations is a good place to search for opportunities.
- Get a summer or part time job with a park, government agency, or nature center.
- The Student Conservation Association matches students and volunteer opportunities with government and private agencies.
- Get a work/study experience with any one of a number of federal natural resource agencies (Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service).

Searching for a Job

- **University and Research** - Look in ESA Job Board, Science, BioScience, and the Chronicle of Higher Education for advertised positions
- **Consulting and Industry** - Many jobs in consulting and industry are advertised locally or never advertised. To find these jobs, write to potential employers of interest.
- **Federal Government** - The U.S. Government's official site for jobs and employment information is <http://www.usajobs.gov>
- **State Government** - Vacancies can be obtained through individual state employment websites.
- And don't forget county or city agencies.

Other Resources

Job sites- <http://www.esa.org/nextgencareers/resources/job-sites>

Ecological Society of America- www.esa.org

[International Society of Arboriculture](#)

[Society for Conservation Biology](#)

[Society for Ecological Restoration](#)

[Society of Wetland Scientists](#)

[Ejobs.org](#)

<https://listserv.umd.edu/archives/ecolog-l.html>

<http://evol.mcmaster.ca/evoldir.html>

www.conservationjobboard.com

Graduate School

Things to consider

- Why are you interested?
- What will be your specialized area?
- What will you do with the degree?
- Should you take some time off before grad school?
- Masters or PhD?

What about a Gap Year?

Depends!

- Do you know what you want to do/research?
 - Yes- Great! Go ahead and go to grad school
 - No- That's okay too! Take some time off and work to help clarify interests/career goals
- Do you have the research experience needed to get into grad school?
 - Yes- Yay! Go ahead and apply to grad school
 - No- Maybe take some time off to gain some additional experience in a lab or the field
- Do you have the grades needed to get into grad school?
 - Yes- You're a superstar. Go ahead and apply
 - No- That's okay! Get some research and work experience that'll help your graduate application stand out

Pros and Cons of Grad School

Pros

- Can open up more job opportunities across a variety of different fields
- Gives you greater earning power
- Allows you to advance your career
- Access to more research tools and equipment
- Access to faculty who do research that inspires you

Cons

- Pursuing a PhD may limit the fields you can work in and who will hire you
- Takes time
- Personal/Relationship strains
- Stressful
- Cost (tuition + loss in potential earnings)

Masters or PhD

Masters

- Prepares you for a PhD
- Provides a broader appreciation of research opportunities and areas of expertise available to you
- May help you decide that a PhD is not right for you → Or that it's absolutely the right thing
- Opens plenty of doors job-wise
- May mean it takes you longer to get a PhD

PhD

- Good if you have done extensive research in undergrad
- Required for a degree in academia as a professor (4 year level)
- Finish earlier than if you had gone through MS first
- More competitive than MS programs

Graduate School Preparation

- Letters of Recommendation- 3
- School selection based on your research interests
- Academic Requirements
 - Related degree
- Exam- GRE, LSAT
- Personal Statement
- Financing
 - Financial Aid
 - Funded Programs- Teaching Assistantships and Graduate Research Assistantships

Graduate School Timeline

Prior to Applying

Start at least 1 year in advance of when you want to enter a program

- Identify 3-6 potential advisor at schools you are applying to
 - Write an Intro Letter
- Take the GRE
- Narrow list based on response from faculty
- Visit lab and university of potential schools
- Apply to at least three programs

Fall Application Deadline- January 1

Choosing a Graduate Program

- Apply to a professor rather than a program
 - Your current faculty are a great resource for knowing who is doing what research and where
 - Read literature, search the web for faculty
- It is usually okay to pursue a masters at the same institution you did undergrad
- Best to obtain a PhD from a different institution
- Aim to get the best education you can (lab) even if you don't like the location
- Don't look for the “best” person in your field
 - Look for someone doing exciting research to you
 - Someone who will be an outstanding advisor and will invest time and resources (equipment, money, energy) to your work

Reaching out to Faculty at Potential Schools

- Do not contact via phone
- Mail a letter or send an email

Contents:

- RESEARCH THE FACULTY!
- Indicate you plan on applying for the upcoming term
- Mention what courses and research caught your attention, and express research interests
- Let the professor know if you have experience in their area of expertise (coursework, internship, field, research experience)
- Mention future plans and how studying with that professor fits in
- Ask if the professor is accepting graduate students
- Offer to meet with the professor to provide additional information
- If you're reaching out to multiple faculty in one department, let each know ("I am also reaching out to Profs. X and Y")

All About the GRE

Three Parts:

- **Verbal Reasoning**- analyze and evaluate written material and synthesize information
- **Quantitative Reasoning**- measures problem-solving ability using basic concepts
- **Analytical Writing**- measures critical thinking and analytical writing skills

Length:

- 3 hours 45 minutes

Cost- \$205 + \$27 per score recipient

Testing Centers- nationwide, offered almost daily

ETS offers a number of free GRE prep resources and some that are pretty fairly priced

- Unless you know you are not a good standardized test taker, a prep course is probably not worth it

Financing Graduate School

- Often (good) grad programs will provide a living stipend and a full tuition waiver
 - Graduate Teaching Assistantships
 - Graduate Research Assistantships
- Students are often only responsible for covering general fees
- Financial package should not be your primary motivation for choosing a program

Grants

- If program isn't covering tuition
- To make extra money and help pay for research (equipment, supplies, trips, etc.)
- Certain about of prestigiousness that comes along with grants

Need help?

Appointments:

Schedule through slugquest

Drop-in Advising:

10:00-11:45am and 1:00-2:45pm

Monday-Friday



Thanks for Listening!



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