

2021 ENSP Career Survey

In February of 2021, we surveyed our ENSP major and minor graduates about their career paths and received 83 responses. Respondents graduated between 2002 and 2020.

85% of respondents were ENSP majors covering 20 different primary majors; 15% were ENSP minors covering 10 primary majors. **ENSP truly is an interdisciplinary field!** Roughly 40% of respondents were science majors (largely biology and geology); the other 60% were spread amongst the social sciences and humanities.

41 of the surveyed ENSP majors chose the Science track; 30 chose the Policy track.

55 of 83 respondents went on to graduate school, some more than one. ENSP grads have gone on to at least 54 different graduate programs, including law, environmental, forestry, marine science and veterinary schools. In-state grad schools included ODU, University of Richmond, UVA, VCU, Virginia Tech, W&M Arts and Sciences, W&M Law, W&M Education and VIMS.

We asked our graduates to tell us their favorite ENSP memories. Here's a snippet of what they said:

"I loved canoeing out on the lake, and going on Conservation Bio field trips."

"My senior year Hydrology class all used to get pies on the way back from groundwater testing at the Jamestown settlement"

"We definitely had the best graduation ceremony, with a picnic by the dock and kayaking and personalized commentary about each student!"

"I loved the capstone class I took in organic farming - going to visit our professor's home was a real highlight and he was an incredible person. I still remember much of what I read in that class."

Our survey respondents had primary majors in:

Biology

Geology

Economics

Anthropology

English

Kinesiology

Government

History

Global Health and Nutrition

Public Policy

Latin American Studies

International Relations

African Studies

Music

Psychology

Chemistry

Finance

Neuroscience

Self-designed major

“Relaxing afternoons on the Lack Matoaka dock outside the Keck Lab”

“Farm trips and picnics with the Sustainability and Agriculture Senior Capstone”

“I had my Ecology and Ethics class in the Wren Building - so that is always very special!”

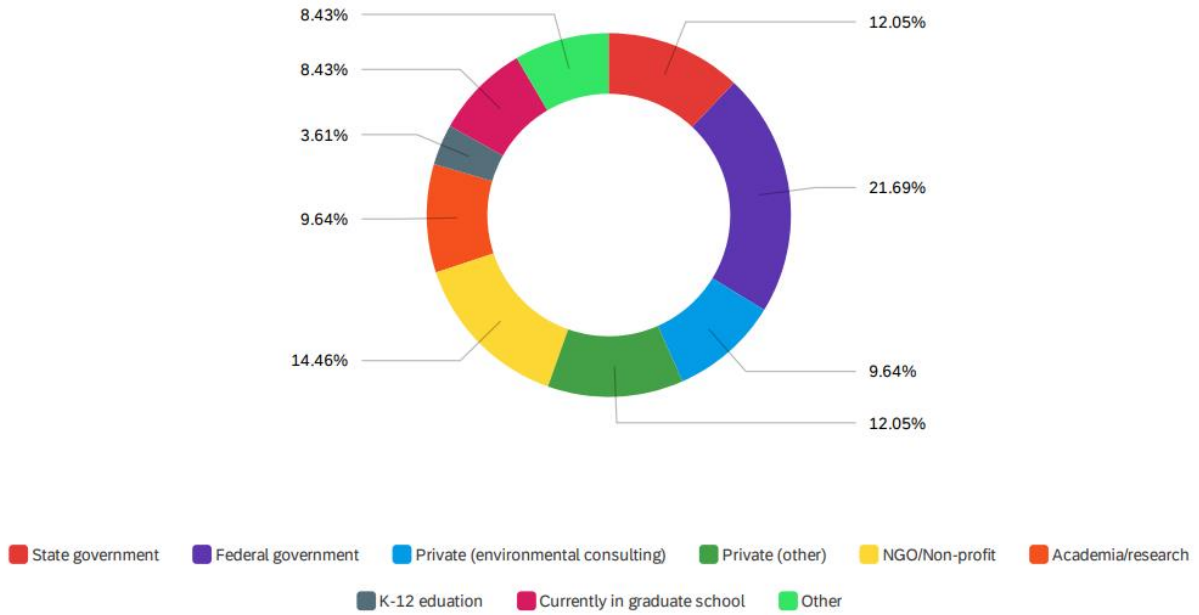
“Spending time at Keck with fellow ENSP folks”

“Long walks through the Matoaka trails while birding”

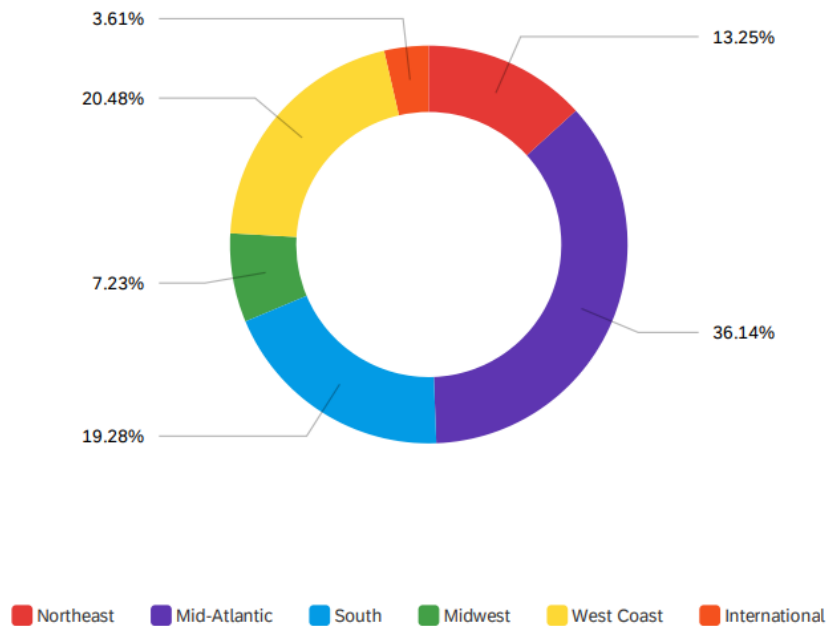
“Field work! Being out in the field with colleagues was so much fun, and so intellectually engaging. I miss it in my “real life” now!”

“Walking through the woods in various classes!”

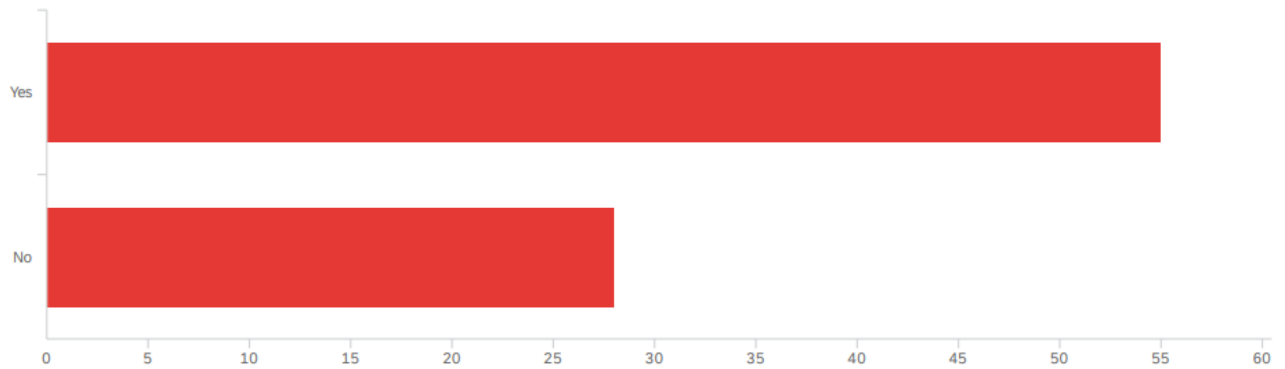
Our graduates are employed in a variety of sectors:



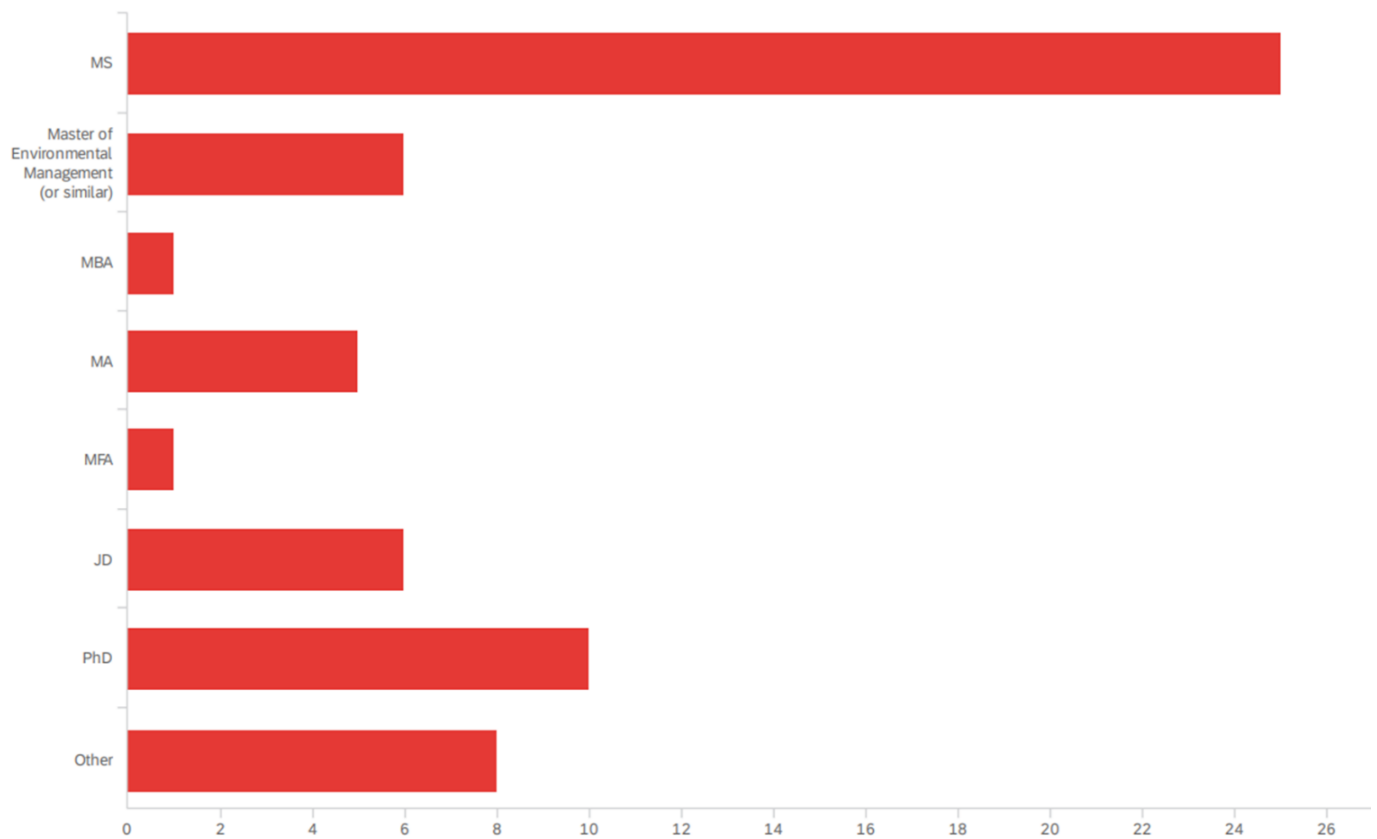
Our graduates live around the country and around the world:



The majority of our survey respondents went to graduate school:



They also earned a variety of degrees, though most of them went on to earn a Master of Science:



Our graduates went on to a variety of first jobs or graduate school positions, including:

Development Assistant, Island Press

AmeriCorps Cape Cod Member - Fire Management Placement with the Cape Cod National Seashore

Student Volunteer, US Department of Energy

Graduate Student, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

Staff Assistant, House of Representatives

Utah Conservation Corps, Americorps

Apprentice at the Center for Environmental Farming Systems

Natural Resources Management Intern, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park

Green Corps, Field Organizer

Graduate Student, Botany, Washington State University

Programs and Marketing Intern, Global Research Institute

Summer Research Fellow, GRI and Scrim Intern, VIMS

Socioeconomic Intern, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

Sales Associate, Kohl's

Middle School Science Teacher, Teach For America, Todd County School District

Presidential Intern, the American University in Cairo

Industrial Hygienist, Aerosol Monitoring and Analysis

Wildland Firefighter, U.S. Forest Service

Zoo Keeper, Reston Zoo

US Student Fulbright Scholar (Panama), Fulbright Association

Planning Intern, Maser Consulting

Technology Analyst, Accenture Federal Services

After school care counselor, YMCA

Conference and Events Coordinator, William & Mary

Instructor, The Outdoor School

Marine Ecology Intern, Dauphin Island Sea Lab

Graphic Design Intern, United Way - Thomas Jefferson Area
Lab Technician, Tar River Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant

Renewable Energy Intern, Oak Ridge National Lab

Research Intern, The Ocean Foundation

Chesapeake Conservation Corps

Research Specialist, Virginia Institute of Marine Science

We also asked our graduates to tell us some of their advice for future students:

"If you're going the science route and opportunities for field work come up, TAKE THEM. If you don't think you have time for it, make time for it. That experience is valuable, and you won't always have the chance later."

"Think creatively about what you want to do. Talk with policy students about where they're looking for careers, if you're a science major, and vice versa. Grad school is not the only option!"

"Gain hard science skills and practice communicating with non-scientific audience as much as possible"

"Don't be afraid to take seasonal jobs and build field experience after graduation; there will be plenty of time later in your career to sit behind desks."

Intern, National Science Foundation

Sea Level Rise Intern, Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Associate, Environ Corp.

River Guide, Dave Hansen Whitewater and Scenic River Trips

Front Desk Staff, Nichols Village Hotel

ASPH Fellow, U.S. EPA

Natural Resources Intern, Valley Forge National Historical Park

Conservation Fellow, Montana Conservation Corps

Trailcrew Member, SCA

Clean Energy Associate, Environment North Carolina

Graduate Assistant, Old Dominion University

Geoscientist-in-the-Parks Intern, National Park Service

Educator, Sea World

Environmental Educator, Chesapeake Bay Foundation

GIS Contractor, US EPA

Business Process Development Analyst, Accenture Federal Services

Wildlife Biologist, VHB

Program Manager, Riverside Outfitters

Graduate Fellow, Michigan State University

Environmental Consultant, Ramboll

Graduate Research Assistant, NC State University

North American Language and Culture Assistant, Community of Madrid, Spain

Outdoor trip leader, Overland Summers

PhD Student, University of California Riverside

Volunteer Program Coordinator, MEDLIFE NGO (Lima, Peru)

Communications intern, Alaska Conservation Foundation

Graduate student, University of Virginia

Visiting Lecturer, Pomona College

Office Administrator, ShoeCrew Water Projects

Spatial Analyst, Trout Unlimited

MPhil Student, Development Studies, University of Oxford

Apprentice, Local Food Development Certification Program, Center for Environmental Farming Systems

Co-founder & Project Manager, Back Porch Energy Initiative

Environmental Education Volunteer, Peace Corps Nicaragua

Field Ranger, Student Conservation Association, US Forest Service

“Ask more questions! Don't be afraid. Utilize the small classes and faculty mentorship to your full advantage”

“Seek out research opportunities”

“For double-majors also majoring in another science - don't underestimate the value of learning about policy or sustainability-related topics to your future endeavors”

“Think about how you can combine your ENSP degree with another field into a career (e.g., engineering, law, materials science, public health)”

“Do undergraduate research as many summers as you can afford! Go to the Charles Center and make friends with the staff, get your summer research funded!”

“Get involved in environmental work outside the classroom - whether through research, activism, or campus policy you'll learn so much that can translate to any future career”

Environmental Science Consultant, Tetra Tech

Intern, junya.ishigami+associates

Legal Intern, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Employee, private summer camp

Wildlife Educator, Outer Banks Center for Wildlife Education, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

AmeriCorps Garden Coordinator, Montezuma School to Farm Project

Legislative Intern, U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources

Intern, South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium

Horticulture Research Intern, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

Graduate Student, W&M School of Education

Field Technician, Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute

Research Associate, National Academy of Sciences

Our alumni have attended a variety of graduate schools, including:

American University

Clark University

Colorado State University

Cornell University, College of Veterinary Medicine

Duke University

Duke University, Nicolas School of the Environment

Emory University

Florida Atlantic University

Georgia Tech

Johns Hopkins University, Bloomberg School of Public Health

Johns Hopkins University

Michigan State University

Morgan State University

North Carolina State University

Northern Arizona University

Old Dominion University

Oregon State University, College of Forestry

Pennsylvania State University

Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey

School of the Art Institute of Chicago

“Absorb it all! Such a great field!”

“Try many things. Trying something new, only to find out you don't like it is just as important as trying something new and finding out you do like it.”

“A hard skill that others didn't have (GIS) helped me get almost every job I've had.”

“You won't regret doing things, even if they feel intimidating at first.”

“Your grades and your undergraduate major don't matter nearly as much as you think they do once you're in the working world!”

“Get lots of field experience during college and after. Internships with the SCA and Americorps are great ways to build your resume and explore your options.”

“Soak it all in - take advantage of every opportunity presented.”

Stanford

The College of Charleston

Trinity College, Dublin

University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, School for Marine
Science and Technology

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

University of California, Davis

University of California, Riverside

University of California, Santa Barbara

University of Colorado, Boulder

University of Exeter

University of Georgia

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

University of New Mexico

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

University of North Carolina School of Law

University of Oxford

University of Richmond

University of Wisconsin, Madison

Utah State University

University of Virginia, Department of Environmental Sciences

Virginia Tech

Washington and Lee School of Law

Washington State University

West Virginia University College of Law

William & Mary Law School

William & Mary School of Education

William & Mary

William & Mary Virginia Institute of Marine Science

Yale

Yeshiva University, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law
