



**PROGRAM IN THE  
ENVIRONMENT**  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

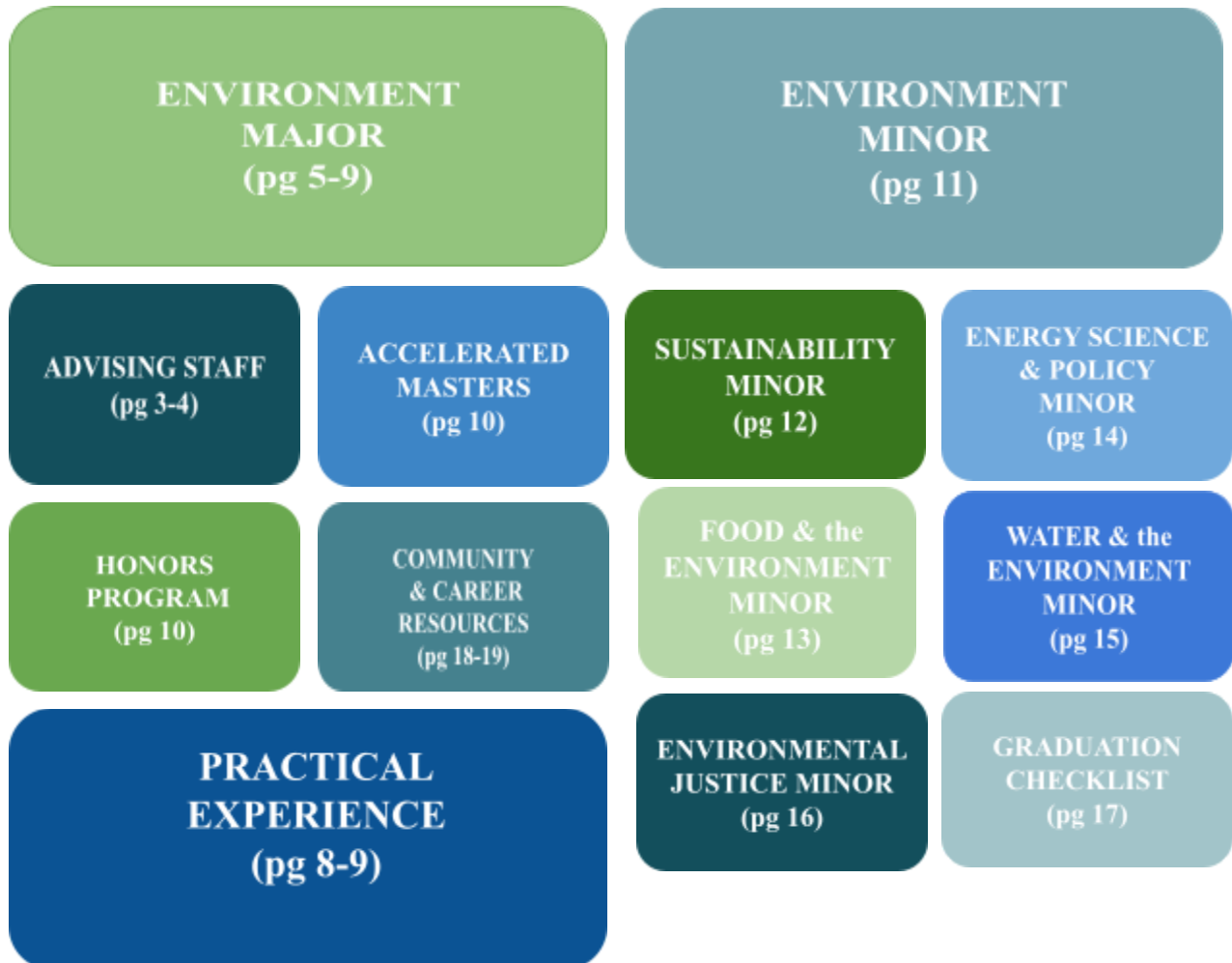
# **STUDENT HANDBOOK**



## Mission Statement

*“The Program in the Environment’s 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.”*

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## Visit the PitE Office

Our offices are located at 1520 Dana Bldg. Our office hours are 8:30am-4:30pm, Monday-Friday. You may also reach us at (734) 764-6453 or [environment.program@umich.edu](mailto:environment.program@umich.edu).

### PitE Advising:

For in-person or virtual PitE Peer advising, see the schedule on the [advising webpage](#). To make an appointment with an advisor, please visit the online scheduling system on the same website. *Note: You MUST attend an information session before making an appointment with an advisor. See the website to register and for more information.*

In addition, for some quick assistance at any time or after hours, please use our **PitE Advising Maizey** [here](#)!

### Meet our advisors!



**Jaime Langdon**  
*Assistant Director of Advising & Student Life*



**Chris Pozza**  
*Academic Advisor & Student Services*





**Brianna Marble**  
*Academic Advisor & Student Services*



**Hillary Streit**  
*Academic Advisor & Student Services*



**Isabella Lause**  
*Academic Advisor & Student Engagement*

# The Environment Major



## Pre-Requisites

| <u>Requirement</u>                             | <u>Course Options</u>                                                                                                           |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Introductory Interdisciplinary Course</b>   | <i>Choose ONE of the following courses:</i><br>ENVIRON 101, 109, 110, 111, 139, 167, 201, 229, 270; or<br>AP Credit (EARTH 219) |
| <b>Introduction to Biology</b>                 | BIOLOGY 171 <u>or</u> AP Credit (BIOLOGY 195)                                                                                   |
| <b>Introduction to Geology and Geology Lab</b> | EARTH 118 <u>and</u> EARTH 119 <u>or</u> EARTH 120 <u>or</u> EARTH 116 (Camp Davis)                                             |
| <b>Introductory Social Science Course</b>      | <i>Choose ONE of the following courses:</i><br>ECON 101; ENVIRON 207, 208, 209, 211, 222, 235, 237, 270, 290                    |

### Things to Note:

You do NOT have to complete all prerequisites before declaring a major or taking core courses; however, students **MUST** take Introduction to Biology before taking General Ecology (see page 5).

AP credits can be counted toward prerequisites, however you must have scored a 4 or 5 on the exam, depending on the course.

All prerequisites may be taken pass/fail; however, it is important to keep in mind that the fewer pass/fail classes, the better.



## Core Courses

| <b><u>Requirement</u></b>                | <b><u>Course Options</u></b>                                                                              |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>General Ecology</b>                   | ENVIRON 281 <u>and</u> 372 <u>or</u> ENVIRON 282 <u>and</u> 373 (Biological Station)                      |
| <b>Analytics Course</b>                  | Choose <u>one</u> of the following courses:<br>STATS 206, 250, 280; SOC 210; QMSS 201                     |
| <b>Culture and Environment Course</b>    | Choose <u>one</u> course from approved list or advisor-approved                                           |
| <b>Natural Science Course</b>            | Choose <u>one</u> course from approved list or advisor-approved<br>(ENVIRON 201 & 229 do NOT count)       |
| <b><u>Two</u> Social Science Courses</b> | Choose <u>two</u> courses from approved list or advisor-approved ( <u>one</u> must be 300-level or above) |
| <b>Senior Capstone</b>                   | Choose <u>one</u> course from approved list or advisor-approved                                           |

### Things to Note:

All core courses must be 200-level or above. These courses are meant to provide a background on the variety of environmental topics available for study.

#### *General Ecology*

ENVIRON 281 (lecture) & ENVIRON 372 (lab) are both offered on campus. The lab and lecture are both offered in both semesters. Students can also take ENVIRON 282 (lecture) & ENVIRON 373 (lab) at the University of Michigan Biological Station in spring or summer semesters. There are also some study abroad field research programs that provide equivalent courses as well. See a PitE advisor for details!

#### *Culture & Environment, Natural Science, Social Science*

The courses that fulfill these requirements change every semester. There is a list of pre-approved courses for each requirement that are generally offered every semester. If you are unsure whether a course fulfills one of these requirements, check with an advisor.

#### *Senior Capstone*

This is an interdisciplinary course studying environmental issues holistically, looking at issues from the perspective of the various stakeholders involved. This course is often ULWR, skill-based (ArcGIS), and/or project-based in nature. Students can take this class at any time--it does not need to be fulfilled during their senior year.



## Specialization

The specialization requirement is intended to help students define their special interests by encouraging them to delve deeper into a particular area of study. This requirement includes **three courses, 300-level or above**, that coincide to create a meaningful vision. Students may elect a commonly approved specialization, or they may craft their own (see below). Regardless of what the topic is, **students must get specializations approved**.

Specializations MUST be submitted by the end of **junior year** via the [online form](#).

Courses listed for a specialization do not have to be completed by the end of junior year; however, they must be identified and planned as to when they will be completed.

### Commonly Approved Specializations:

#### ***Environmental Business & Economics***

ENVIRON/EARTH 380: Natural Resources, Econ & Environ  
ENVIRON 391: Sustainability and the Campus  
ENVIRON 419: Business, Sust, and Justice  
BE 401: Economics of Sustainability  
STRAT 400: Strategy for Sustainable Development

#### ***Environmental Psychology/Education***

ENVIRON 360: Behavior and Environment  
ENVIRON 361: The Psych of Environmental Stewardship  
ENVIRON 382: Intro to Environmental Education  
ENVIRON/COMM 413: Environmental Communication  
AAS/RCSSCI 330: Urban and Community Studies I

#### ***Environmental Law & Policy***

ENVIRON 306: Global Water  
ENVIRON 340: Climate Policy & Justice  
ENVIRON 335: Intro to Environ Politics:Race/Class/Gender  
ENVIRON 408: Land Use Law & Policy  
ENVIRON 462: (Topic) Food Policy  
ENVIRON 475: Environmental Law

#### ***Natural Resources Management***

ENVIRON 317: Conservation Biology  
ENVIRON 321: Climate Change & Adaptation  
ENVIRON 367: Sustainability Issues in the Gr Lks Region  
ENVIRON/EARTH 380: Natural Resources, Econ & Environ  
ENVIRON 408: Land Use Law & Policy

#### ***Urban Planning***

ENVIRON 350: The Built Environment  
ENVIRON 420/URP 423: Intro to Urban Planning  
ENVIRON 406: Sustainable Towns  
ENVIRON 407: Sustainable Cities  
ENVIRON 408: Land Use Law & Policy

#### ***Conservation Biology***

ENVIRON 317: Conservation of Biological Diversity  
ENVIRON 421: Restoration Ecology  
ENVIRON 438: Wildlife Ecology  
ENVIRON 453: Tropical Conservation & Ecology  
EEB 476: Ecosystem Ecology

#### ***Sust Food Systems/Agriculture***

ENVIRON 425: Campus Farm Practicum  
ENVIRON 462: (Topic) Food Policy  
ENVIRON 462: (Topic) Sustainable Food Systems  
EEB 498: The Ecology of Agroecosystems  
ALA 370: Measure of Our Meals  
ANTHRBIO 364: Nutrition and Evolution  
CLARCH/CLCIV 382: Food in the Ancient World

#### ***Environmental & Public Health***

ENVIRON 308: Sustainability & Health  
ENVIRON 310: Toxicol: Environ Chemicals & Disease  
EEB 315: Ecology & Evol of Infectious Diseases  
PUBHLTH 305: Environ & Human Health  
PUBHLTH 350: Global Public Health  
PUBHLTH 360: Community, Culture & Soc Justice

## Practical Experience

The practical experience seeks to cover a broad set of material and ideas in a setting where much of the learning is experiential. All practical experiences must be at least 3-credits and include a research component. There are three different ways to complete a practical experience.

### Things to Note:

All credit hours earned through practical experience may be used toward another requirement in the major.



### 1. Approved Residential Field Course

- a) The [University of Michigan Biological Station \(UMBS\)](#) in northern Michigan offers various biological science and humanities courses during the spring and summer terms, including EEB 381: General Ecology (lecture and lab).
- b) The [Camp Davis Field Station](#) in Jackson Hole, Wyoming offers geology and various environmental science and humanities courses during the summer term, including EARTH 116: Introduction to Geology (lecture and lab).
- c) The [New England Literature Program \(NELP\)](#) in New Hampshire offers several environmental humanities courses during the spring term.
- d) [Semester in Detroit \(SiD\)](#) administered by the Residential College provides a semester-long experience in Detroit, either in the fall or winter.
- e) [Michigan in Washington](#) provides a semester-long experience in Washington, DC, either in the fall or winter.

### 2. Study Abroad Programs

There are several programs offered through the U-M [Center for Global and Intercultural Study \(CGIS\)](#). Students must apply through their application portals for the following programs:

- a) [Environmental and Sustainable Development](#) in Costa Rica
- b) [Frontier's Abroad](#) and [EcoQuest](#) in New Zealand
- c) [Development and Globalization](#) in Thailand
- d) [Environmental and Sustainability Studies](#) in Denmark
- e) [Environment and British Landscape](#) at Oxford in England
- f) [School for Field Studies](#) in Tanzania, Cambodia, Panama, Chile, Turks & Caicos, Bhutan

Other non-U-M study abroad programs in various locations include:

- a) [CIEE](#)

- b) [School for International Training \(SIT\)](#)
- c) [Wildlands Studies](#)
- d) [Center for Food & Sustainability Studies](#) in Perugia, Italy
- e) and more!

Other study abroad programs **must be pre-approved** by a PitE advisor before attending the program.

### 3. Internship

Acceptable internships involve applying ideas and knowledge from coursework into an experience in which active, experiential learning occurs by working directly on an environmental issue. Internships may include working with a governmental agency, a non-governmental organization, or a private business, where there are predominant environmental aspects to your work.



In order to receive credit for these experiences, students must complete an internship **research project** and engage in a series of reflective activities before, during, and after the internship experience through the **Michigan Internship Learning Environment (MILE)**. All required assignments and activities are outlined and submitted through [MILE](#): an online program designed to help orient students to the internship process and make the most of their experience.

### 4. Other Options for Practical Experience

In some cases, students may do independent research or work with a faculty member that is environmentally related and that may count toward Practical Experience, **but needs to be discussed with a PitE advisor first for pre-approval**. Check out our [Other Opportunities](#) portion of the Practical Experience page for further information.

## Honors Program

The Honors Program entails a two-year, 9-credit-hour sequence starting in the winter term of the student's junior year with ENVIRON 399 (3 credits) and culminating in the completion of a senior honors thesis with ENVIRON 499 (6 credits) at the end of senior year. This is a substantial scholarly research project carried out with the supervision of a faculty advisor. Successful completion of an honors thesis is recognized by an honors designation (either Highest Honors, High Honors, or Honors) on the diploma and transcript. Decisions about the designation are based on faculty evaluation of the student's thesis.

The Honors Program is open to all students who have achieved an overall cumulative grade point average of 3.50/4.00 or better. Students on the cusp of a 3.50 may request admission to the Honors Program by meeting with an advisor to discuss the program. The Honors Program is not open to students who will be studying abroad during the winter semester of their junior year.

Participation in the Honors Program will fulfill the Practical Experience requirement.

## PitE/SEAS Accelerated Master's Degree Program (AMDP)

PitE/SEAS introduced an accelerated master's degree program in 2020. It is a 5-6 year program, depending on which masters area you would like to pursue with SEAS (MS takes 4+1=5 years total and MLA takes 4+2=6 years total). The AMD program is open to all JUNIOR majors who have an overall cumulative grade point average of 3.50/4.00 or better. The application deadline for this program is always January 15, in the winter semester of your junior year. Please see the [AMD website](#) and the [AMD handbook](#) for further information.

# The Environment Minor



*Minimum of 17 credits*

*Two courses must be taken at the 300-level or above*

*10 of the 17 credits must be taken in residence*

| <b><u>Requirement</u></b>                          | <b><u>Course Options</u></b>                                                                                                                       |
|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Introductory Interdisciplinary Course</b>       | <i>Choose <u>one</u> of the following courses:<br/>ENVIRON 101, 110, 111, 139, 167, 201, 229, 270; EARTH 219</i>                                   |
| <b>Natural Science Course</b>                      | <i>Choose <u>one</u> course from approved list or advisor approved (not 201 or 229)</i>                                                            |
| <b>Social Science Course</b>                       | <i>Choose <u>one</u> course from approved list or advisor approved</i>                                                                             |
| <b>Culture and Environment Course</b>              | <i>Choose <u>one</u> course from approved list or advisor approved</i>                                                                             |
| <b>Analytics Course <u>or</u> Field Experience</b> | <i>Choose <u>one</u> of the following courses <u>or</u> complete a field experience:<br/>STATS 206, 250, 280; SOC 210; QMSS 201; OMS 301(Ross)</i> |

## Things to Note:

All courses except the introductory interdisciplinary course must be 200-level or above.

Students may choose to take an analytics course OR complete a field experience.

LSA policy mandates that a major and a minor may only share one course.

# Minor in Sustainability



*Minimum of 18 credits  
9 credits must be taken at the 300-level or above*

| <b><u>Requirement</u></b>             | <b><u>Course Options</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Introductory Course</b>            | ENVIRON 207 or 208                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Sustainability Capstone Course</b> | Choose <u>one</u> course from approved list                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>9 Core Credits</b>                 | <p>Choose <u>one</u> course from <u>three</u> of the following areas (from approved list or advisor approved):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Society, Culture, Justice, and Activism</li> <li>• Business and Economics</li> <li>• Public Policy, Urban Planning, and Law</li> <li>• Natural Science and Public Health</li> <li>• Technology, Engineering and Design</li> </ul> |
| <b>Practical Experience</b>           | Choose from approved list - Study Abroad in the field, Field Station, or complete and environmentally related internship                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

## Things to Note:

All courses must be 200-level or above.

Students must complete a practical experience.

LSA policy mandates that a major and a minor may only share one course.

# Minor in Food and the Environment



*Minimum of 15 credits*

*Two courses must be taken at the 300-level or above*

| <u>Requirement</u>              | <u>Course Options</u>                                                                                |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Introductory Food Course</b> | Choose <u>one</u> of the following courses:<br>ENVIRON 101, 270, 290; UC 254: Much Depends on Dinner |
| <b>Topical Food Courses</b>     | Choose <u>three</u> courses from approved list or advisor approved                                   |
| <b>Synthesis Food Course</b>    | Choose <u>one</u> course from approved list or advisor approved                                      |

## Things to Note:

A Synthesis course is a course that is 100% about a food subject area. Topical courses may be all food oriented or food adjacent (Woody Plants, Nutrition & Evolution, etc).

LSA policy mandates that a major and a minor may only share one course.

# Minor in Energy Science and Policy



*Minimum of 15 credits*

*Two courses must be taken at the 300-level or above*

| <b><u>Requirement</u></b>                                      | <b><u>Course Options</u></b>                                                                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Introductory Energy Science and Policy Course</b>           | Choose <u>one</u> of the following courses:<br>ENVIRON/PUBPOL 250 <u>or</u> ENVIRON/PHYSICS 210    |
| <b>Topics Courses: Energy Economics &amp; Policy</b>           | Choose <u>two</u> courses from approved list or advisor approved                                   |
| <b>Topics Courses: Energy Production/Extraction/Technology</b> | Choose <u>two</u> courses from approved list or advisor approved                                   |
| <b>Breadth (optional)</b>                                      | Choose one breadth course from approved list to substitute for one of the Topic Area courses above |

## **Things to Note:**

All courses must be 200-level or above.

There are two Topics areas required for a total of at least 12 credits. Students may choose to substitute one Topics course with one Breadth course (from approved list or advisor approved).

LSA policy mandates that a major and a minor may only share one course.

# Minor in Water and the Environment



*Minimum of 18 credits  
9 credits must be taken at the 300-level or above*

| <b><u>Requirement</u></b>                           | <b><u>Course Options</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Introductory Water Courses</b> ( <i>need 2</i> ) | ENVIRON 204 Under Pressure: Water & Society (fall only) <i>and Choose <u>one</u> additional course from the following:</i><br>ENVIRON 110, 111, 206, 232; Biology 109; EARTH 110, 206, 222, 277; or History 240                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>9 Core Credits</b>                               | <i>Choose <u>one</u> course from <u>three</u> of the following areas (from approved list or advisor approved):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Culture</li> <li>• Economics, Policy, and Planning</li> <li>• Natural Sciences and Resource Management</li> <li>• Public Health</li> <li>• Technology, Engineering, and Design</li> </ul> |
| <b>Practical Experience</b>                         | <i>Choose from approved list - Study Abroad in the field, Field Station, or complete and environmentally related internship</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

## Things to Note:

There are two Introductory Water Courses needed, one of which is ENVIRON 204 Under Pressure: Water & Society which is only offered in the fall semesters.

LSA policy mandates that a major and a minor may only share one course.

# Minor in Environmental Justice



*Minimum of 15 credits*

*Two courses must be taken at the 300-level or above*

| <b><u>Requirement</u></b>                                     | <b><u>Course Options</u></b>                                                                                         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Foundational Environmental Justice Course (choose one)</b> | Choose <u>one</u> of the following courses:<br>ENVIRON 222, 244.006 "Community Organizing for Environmental Justice" |
| <b>Interdisciplinary Electives (at least 12 credits)</b>      | Choose <u>four</u> courses from approved list or advisor approved                                                    |

## Things to Note:

All Interdisciplinary Electives must be 200-level or above. The minor requires a minimum of two 300-level courses overall.

LSA policy mandates that a major and a minor may only share one course.

# Graduation Checklist

**Official Degree Audit:** You should arrange an Official Degree Audit during the semester before you graduate (e.g. September 2026 if you are graduating in May 2027).

## **Environment Majors:**

- ☐ Submit your Specialization for approval. If this is not submitted, you won't get your Environment major release for graduation.
- ☐ Make an appointment with your PitE Advisor to check degree progress and obtain a major release.
- ☐ Make appointments with other majors or minors to obtain releases
- ☐ Apply to graduate in Wolverine Access under Student Business.
- ☐ Rent a cap and gown from PitE or purchase graduation regalia at one of the campus bookstores. PitE doesn't rent tassels, so pick one up at the bookstore!

## **All PitE Minors:**

- ☐ Make an appointment with your PitE Advisor for a minor release.
- ☐ Make appointments with other majors or minors to obtain releases.
- ☐ Apply to graduate in Wolverine Access under Student Business.
- ☐ Rent a cap and gown from PitE or purchase graduation regalia at one of the campus bookstores. PitE doesn't rent tassels, so pick one up at the bookstore!

# Community & Career Resources



The Program in the Environment has some resources specifically targeted to the environmental job search. These include:

- Check out the [Careers Page](#) on the PitE Website
- For Job and Internship Postings: [SEAS Career Link](#)
- Job Websites: [Environmental Career Opportunities](#); [Environmental Career Center](#); [Environmental Jobs.com](#)

## SEAS/PitE Career Resources:

- PitE Peer Advisor resume review and feedback (see Peer advising [calendar](#))
- Find jobs and internships just for environ students on [SEAS Career Link](#)
- Green Career Fair in Winter semester

## Career Center Resources:

- [Resume Resources](#) through the Career Center offers guidance.
- Find jobs posted specifically for UM students through [Handshake](#)
- Make an [appointment](#) to discuss your resume and cover letter with a career counselor.

## LSA Opportunity Hub Resources:

- [Numerous resources](#) in one spot for LSA students.
- Check out jobs posted just for LSA students with [LSA Engage](#)



## Graduate Study

Students often go on to pursue a wide range of graduate studies. Graduate programs such as medical school, law school, business school, public health, public policy, and Master's and Doctoral programs. PitE often hosts graduate school panels for students interested in learning more.

## Graduate School Web Resources

- [Environment Graduate Programs](#)
- [Graduate Guide](#)

## Get Connected!

### Email

E-mail is the primary means we use to communicate with PitE students. **You are responsible for the information we give you via email.** All majors and minors are members of the PitE email group, “environ.students”. This allows you to receive messages regarding upcoming PitE events, academic deadlines, course announcements, funding opportunities, and co-curricular activities.

### PitE Events Google Calendar

Find out about upcoming events happening in PitE and around campus that are environmentally related! Click [HERE!](#)

### Social Media

You can also find us on the following social media platforms. Click one of the icons below to take you to our particular page on that platform.



### PitE Club



PitE Club is a group of like-minded individuals who come together weekly to plan events and volunteering opportunities for the greater community.

Find PitE Club at Festifall or Winterfest. Their current meeting time is Tuesdays, 6-7 pm in 1046 Dana Bldg.