

COURSES BY CAREER CLUSTER
Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources

Course	CIP	Hours	Equivalency*
AP Environmental Science	030201	210	1.5 Science
BCHS Survey of Enviro Science	030201	140	1.0 Science
Human Impacts	030201	140	1.0 Lab Science (S)
IB Environmental Systems & Society SL	030201	210	1.5 Science
IB Biology SL	261201	210	1.5 Science
NGSS Biology	030201	140	1.0 Lab Science (S)
NGSS Chemistry	011202	140	1.0 Lab Science
Environmental Science NGSS	030104	140	1.0 Science
Worksite Learning, Agriculture Ed	018888	180	None
Worksite Learning, Natural Resources	038888	180	None

Career Choices Spans ALL Career Clusters

Course	CIP	Hours	Equivalency*
IB Personal & Professional Skills	320107	140	None
Pathways to Success	320107	210	None

*(S) denotes equivalency aligned by OSPI framework, otherwise locally determined

POTENTIAL FUTURE PROGRAM GROWTH

- AP Biology
- Ecology/Environmental Studies (science credit recovery)
- Biotechnology
- Veterinary Science

HIGH SCHOOL COURSES TO TAKE NOW

- Biology
- Business
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Economics
- Environmental Health
- Environmental Science
- Health Sciences
- Physical Sciences
- Physics
- Principles of Engineering
- Trigonometry

EMPLOYMENT PROJECTION SKILLS OF FOCUS

- Analytical Skills
- Attention to Detail
- Communication
- Creativity
- Critical Thinking
- Data Analysis
- Decision-Making
- Detail-Oriented
- Interpersonal Skills
- Leadership Skills
- Logical Thinking
- Management Skills
- Mathematics
- Observational Skills
- Organizational Skills
- Perseverance
- Physical Stamina
- Problem-Solving
- Self-Motivation
- Technical Skills
- Technical Writing
- Time Management

LABOR MARKET DATA
High School Diploma or Less, On-the-Job Training

Occupation	SOC	Growth	Annual Salary
Veterinary Assistants and Laboratory Animal Caretakers	31-9096	9%	\$ 37,320
Pest Control Workers	37-2021	5%	\$ 44,730
Animal Care and Service Workers	39-2000	11%	\$ 33,860
Agricultural Equipment Operators	45-2091	8%	\$ 42,580

Short-term Training, Certificate, or Associate of Applied Science

Agriculture Technicians	19-4012	5%	\$ 46,790
Food Science Technicians	19-4013	5%	\$ 49,430
Chemical Technicians	19-4031	4%	\$ 57,790
Environmental Science and Protection Technicians	19-4042	4%	\$ 49,490
Veterinary Technologist and Technicians	29-2056	9%	\$ 45,980

Bachelor's, Graduate, or Experience

Agricultural Engineers	17-2021	6%	\$ 84,630
Animal Scientists	19-1011	6%	\$ 79,120
Food Scientists and Technologists	19-1012	6%	\$ 85,310
Soil and Plant Scientists	19-1013	5%	\$ 71,410
Microbiologists	19-1022	4%	\$ 87,330
Chemists and Materials Scientists	19-2030	5%	\$ 86,620
Environmental Scientists	19-2041	4%	\$ 80,060

Advanced Degrees or Extensive Experience

Natural Sciences Manager	11-9121	4%	\$ 161,180
Biochemists & Biophysicists	19-1021	6%	\$ 103,650
Medical Scientists	19-1042	9%	\$ 100,590
Veterinarians	29-1131	10%	\$ 125,510

MILITARY CAREERS

"Enlisted" roles are hands-on learning jobs students can start immediately after high school.

Career	Role	Branches	Median Salary
Pest Control Specialists	Enlisted	Air Force, Space Force	\$ 77,510
Environmental Health & Safety Specialist	Enlisted	Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard	\$ 76,163
Water and Sewage Treatment Plant Operators	Enlisted	Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Space Force	\$ 73,452
Environmental Health & Safety Officer	Enlisted	Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard	\$ 77,044

Citations: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/>, Last Updated 08.28.2025
CareerOneStop, US Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, <https://www.careeronestop.org>, visited February 2026.
Today's Military, Explore Careers in the Military, <https://www.todaysmilitary.com/careers-benefits/explore-careers>, visited February 2026.

EMPLOYMENT NOTES

- BLS projects faster than average growth in Life, Physical, and Social occupations for 2024 to 2034 with about 144,700 openings each year. The median wage in this group was \$78,980 in May 2024, compared to the median of \$49,500 for all occupations.
- Areas of focus include preserving limited resources such as water, power, and storage as well as development of alternative energies, biofuels, environmentally sound solutions and the equipment to run innovative solutions.
- Animal care projects 81,700 openings each year over the next decade. More households include companion pets, owners are willing to spend more on services, and advancements in veterinary medicine provide care comparable to human healthcare, including oncology and transplant services.

ENTRY-LEVEL CERTIFICATIONS

Core certifications identified for jobs with no or minimal high education requirement

BLS (How to Become One tabs)

- Driver's License | Commercial Driver's License (CDL)
- OSHA HAZWOPER (Hazardous Materials)

CareerOneStop Certification Finder

Core level certification recommendations for jobs requiring associate degree or less for entry

AMSA Food Safety & Science Certification

- Food Scientists and Technologists
- Forensic Science Technicians
- Environmental Science and Protection Technicians, Including Health
- Cooks, Fast Food
- Food Batchmakers

Radon Measurement Field Technician (RMFT)

Radon Mitigation Installer (RMI)

Soil Gas Mitigation Compliance Inspector (SGM-CI)

Radon Measurement Professional (RMP)

Radon Mitigation Specialist (RMS)

Radon Measurement Technician (RMT)

- Environmental Science Technicians

Veterinary Assistant Online National Certification (CVA)

Certified Manager of Animal Resources (CMAR)

Assistant Laboratory Animal Technician (ALAT/RALAT)

- Animal Caretakers
- Animal Scientists
- Animal Trainers
- Veterinary Technologists and Technicians

TOP EMPLOYMENT IMPORTANT QUALITIES

- Synthesize information from a variety of test results and samples
- Methodical in conducting scientific experiments and interpreting data
- Evaluate results of laboratory and field tests
- Use sound reasoning and judgment to reach conclusions
- Follow precise directions in collecting, tracking, and testing samples
- Meticulous documentation of experiments, tests, processes, observations, & results
- Conduct and record observations and measurements with precision and accuracy
- Understand and give clear instructions
- Communicate results to a variety of audiences in oral, written, and presentation formats
- Collaborate with others as part of a team
- Work well with others
- Behave in respectful, professional manner
- Stand for long periods, lift objects, and perform physical labor

SOURCES

US Bureau of Labor and Statistics, Occupational Outlook Handbook (08.28.2025)

<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/>

Below are the most used occupational groups for this report, showing the variety of industries available to students in these course. Individual occupation details Summary, How to Become One, Pay, Job Outlook, and Similar Occupations were used from:

- Life, Physical, and Social Sciences
- Building and Grounds Cleaning
- Farming, Fishing, and Forestry
- Healthcare
- Personal Care and Services

CareerOneStop (2026)

<https://www.careeronestop.org/>

Explore Careers / Career Clusters

- Agriculture
- Energy & Natural Resources

Toolkit

- Certification Finder
- Fastest Growing
- Most Openings

Today's Military (visited February 2026)

<https://www.todaysmilitary.com/careers-benefits/explore-careers>

- Environmental Safety & Food Services