Sustainability Science, BS

Career Advancement

In Iowa, challenges associated with water quality, habitat diversity, air quality, a changing climate, and struggling rural communities have been recognized for many years. At the same time, there are significant opportunities to have a positive impact on social, economic, and environmental goals through renewable energy, reconnection of the farm with the community, and the development of more sustainable urban infrastructure, among other ways. A knowledgeable workforce is needed to address such challenges as well as to capitalize on these related opportunities.

Sustainability science provides a solid foundation for careers in fields related to sustainability while giving students the needed preparation to continue their studies in professional or graduate programs. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of environmental scientists and specialists is projected to grow 6% from 2022 to 2032, faster than the average for all occupations. Sustainability science provides entry into these and related careers, such as planning and public affairs (projected growth of 4%, as fast as average); conservation (projected growth of 4%, as fast as average); and data science (projected growth of 35%, much faster than the national average).