

Western Albemarle High School

Environmental Studies Academy

The Environmental Studies Academy is a four-year academic program designed to offer various career and college concentration options for all students. This program is offered at Western Albemarle High School, but is available to all ACPs students. Applications are due to guidance counselors by deadline.

ESA Concentrations

- **Agricultural:** Career pathway in Agricultural sciences, Horticulture, green materials, and sustainability. May include industry certifications.
- **Conservation:** Career or educational pathway in resource management including fisheries, wildlife, forestry, land use, natural resources, Ecology, and alternative energy.
- **Research:** Educational pathway preparing students to pursue careers in Environmental Science, Research, Health, Policy, Law, Physical, and Earth Sciences

All Students will develop a comprehensive portfolio including work samples, potential internship, and Independent study based on individual concentration and focus.

Environmental studies is the interdisciplinary academic field which studies human interaction with the natural environment in the interest of solving complex problems.

Mission: Our primary purpose is to effectively prepare all of our students for success in a broad range of environmental options upon graduation. By capitalizing on the unique and varied environmental settings in central Virginia, the Environmental Studies Academy at Western Albemarle High School will provide students with the interdisciplinary academic knowledge and practical experiences necessary for them to successfully address complex environmental issues.

Vision: To foster and prepare an academic community of conscientious, active, and aware students that will become the future stewards of our local, regional, and global ecosystem.

- We will be, the first environmental high school academy in Central Virginia and become the premier high school environmental program in all of Virginia
- We will be, recognized for our effective preparation of all our students for success in environmental careers, environmental education, research, and as participants in our community

Goals: To provide an enriching, interdisciplinary, environmental curriculum for all learners specifically designed to provide students with:

- The ability to understand and apply science concepts and methods in solving environmental problems,
- Practical experience with addressing, collaborating, discussing, researching, and solving environmental issues locally, regionally, nationally, and globally
- Career and college readiness skills that will assist in post high school employment and higher education in environmental fields

**Required ESA Courses
depend on Pathway
Academy student is
following (Agricultural,
Conservation, Research).**

Why Environmental Studies: Environmental Studies allows us to integrate environmental topics and issues throughout more of the students academic experiences than environmental science. We want our students to get a variety of perspectives in a holistic cross disciplinary approach in order to broaden their understandings and develop more well rounded learners. Students will still study and practice research science, just as one part of a larger learning experience.



ESA Portfolio: ESA students will create, develop, and maintain an ongoing digital portfolio. Each academy course they enroll in will present various projects and authentic learning opportunities, where the students will digitally record and write about their experiences. The student will have this portfolio to take with them when they complete the four year curriculum at Western Albemarle High School displaying the various tasks and experiments they have designed, experimented, created, and most importantly reflected upon.

Environmental Jobs: State and National projections show a growth trend in environmental related jobs and careers. According to predictions from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, workers in the field of environmental sciences were expected to see a 28% job growth rate during the decade between 2008 and 2018, open or new positions in conservation would increase 12%, and political science and environmental policy specialists 21% job growth rate (www.bls.gov).



Environmental Careers :

Agriculture	Conservation	Research
Horticulture	Alternative Energy	Air Pollution and Quality
Green landscaping and Design	National Parks, Park Ranger	Water Pollution and Quality
Floriculture	Forestry	Soil Pollution and Quality
Greenhouse Management	Fisheries and Game Management	Environmental Chemistry
Plant Nurseries	Conservation Manager	Environmental Education
Farm Management	Wildlife Management	Environmental Policy and Law
Sustainability	Zookeeper	Geology and Hydrology
Organic Farming	Resource management	Oceanography
Agricultural Products	Ecologist	Mineralogy
Green Construction	G.I.S.	Wastewater Treatment
Green Manufacturing	Nature Photojournalist	Environmental Engineering