Graduates

Chris Stanley, a graduate of MECC's Environmental Science, Forestry, is a Mineral Specialist/Ecologist at the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy.

Teresa Flanary, a graduate of MECC's Environmental Science, Forestry, and Landscape Gardening Programs, is a Watershed Field Coordinator for the Virginia Department of Conservation.

You will find other MECC graduates at:

USDA Forest Service
Pine Mountain Lumber
Gilbert NS Lumber
Cumberland Natl. Park
Natural Tunnel Soil & Water Conservation
Va. Dept. of Forestry
Mullican Lumber & Mfg.
Natural Tunnel State Park
DMME

District Federal & State Depts. of Conservation Recreation Treatment Plants: Clintwood, Coeburn, Pound, Appalachia, Big Stone Gap, Pennington Gap, Jonesville, Abingdon, and Blountville

Forest Science
Environmental Science
Water/Wastewater

Contact MECC's Faculty:

Dr. Chuks Ogbonnaya
276-523-2400, ext. 276
cogbonnaya@mecc.edu

Ms. Rosa-lee Cooke
276-523-2400, ext. 364
rcooke@mecc.edu

Tommy Clements, Dean
276.523.2400 ext. 431
tclements@mecc.edu

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Get Started with a Certificate

Graduates of MECC’s Environmental and Forest Science programs receive Associate in Applied Science degrees.

Employers want personnel who:
- Possess skills in laboratory procedures
- Possess professional ethics and integrity
- Possess good communication skills
- Possess a team-player attitude

Forestry Personnel
work in all phases of forest science — monitoring and protecting forest areas, harvesting timber, and producing primary and secondary wood products.

Environmental Scientists
work in all phases of reclamation, from data gathering and surface mine permitting through environmental monitoring during active mining operation, and reclamation for post-mining use.

Water/Wastewater Personnel
work in municipal and industrial water treatment facilities that provide purification of water for human consumption and protection of water resources.

Certification
Graduates of MECC’s Water/Wastewater program are prepared to take the state certification exam for water or wastewater operator’s license upon completion of six months experience within a treatment plant.

Intern & Apprenticeships
Students acquire on-the-job training through internships and apprenticeships with local agencies.

Employment Outlook
Forest Science students are prepared for employment as forest technicians, lumber graders, timber cruisers, and other technical positions within the forestry and timber industries.

Environmental Science students are prepared for employment as natural resources specialists, land reclamationists, agronomists, extension agents, soil conservationists, and analytical laboratory assistants.

Water/Wastewater students are prepared for entry-level employment in water and sewage treatment plants.

Advancement
With advanced studies and experience –
- Forest Science graduates can advance to positions such as logging foreman, forester, agriculturalist, or lab technologist
- Environmental Science graduates can advance to positions such as reclamation foreman, forester, soil conservation specialist, agriculturalist, or lab technologist
- Water/Wastewater graduates can advance to positions such as water and wastewater operators, site managers, plant supervisors

Professional Organizations
Northwest Partnership for Env. & Tech. Ed.
North American Assoc. for Env. Education
Advanced Technology Env. Ed. Center
Virginia Forestry Association
Rural Water Association & Tech. Ed.
North American Assoc. for Env. Education
Advanced Technology Env. Ed. Center
Virginia Forestry Association
Rural Water Association

Salary
Salaries range between $30,000 - $50,000, depending upon the position, public or private employment, and job location.