Conservation Planning (CP) is concerned with societal activities to protect productive ecological systems, conserve native biological diversity and associated ecological and evolutionary processes, and maintain wild species of special interest. Conservation includes a diverse array of policy and management approaches (e.g., zoning, ex-situ and in-situ nature reserves, conservation easements, adaptive ecosystem management) and engages a wide range of disciplinary perspectives. Interdisciplinary research in systematic conservation planning is concerned with theory and techniques to improve the scientific basis of planning and the cost-effectiveness of conservation and management actions.

The Conservation Planning specialization will teach students to assess and develop effective strategies for conserving, managing and restoring wild populations and ecosystems in a landscape and regional context. Conservation Planning students will be well grounded in the fields of population and community ecology, landscape ecology, conservation biology, and conservation planning with training in ecological inventory and monitoring, data analysis, mapping, and modeling. They will also learn about the regulatory and policy framework surrounding issues such as land use planning, endangered species protection and wetlands restoration. Potential employers for these students include domestic and international public agencies, NGOs and private firms involved in environmental planning, natural resource conservation, environmental impact and risk analysis, as well as endangered species recovery and habitat restoration.

To learn more about the Conservation Planning specialization and its requirements, please visit http://www.bren.ucsb.edu/academics/mesm_specialization/conserv_planning.htm

**FACULTY ADVISORS:**
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**ALUMNI PLACEMENT**
Below is a list of some sample initial job placement for MESM 2013, 2012, and 2011 graduates who specialized in Conservation Planning.

**Land Assistant**
Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST)
Palo Alto, CA | Non-Profit

**Environmental Scientist**
RMC Water and Environment Consulting | San Diego, CA

**Sr. Coordinator, Global Sustainability**
Mattel, Inc.
Corporate | El Segundo, CA

**Biologist**
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Government | Ventura, CA

**Environmental Scientist**
CA Department of Fish and Game
Government | Sacramento, CA

**Researcher**
Trust for Public Land
Non-Profit | San Francisco, CA

**Conservation Planner**
Sequoia Riverlands Trust
Non-Profit | San Francisco, CA

**Ecosystem Service Market Specialist**
The Willamette Partnership
Non-Profit | Hillsboro, OR

**ORISE Fellow, Office of Water**
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Government | Washington, DC

**CA Desert Associate**
Defenders of Wildlife
Non-Profit | Los Angeles, CA

**Senior Policy Officer**
Center for Large Landscape Conservation
Non-Profit | Bozeman, MT

**Staff Scientist**
Cardno-ENTRIX
Consulting | Concord, CA

**Natural Resource Specialist/PMF Fellow**
USDA Forest Service
Government | Albuquerque, NM

Please note that these are initial job placements and that some of these alumni may have since changed careers. Visit the Alumni Network or the Bren School Online Community for the most up-to-date information.
## JOB AND INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT STATISTICS: CONSERVATION PLANNING (CP)

### Salaries for Initial Job Placement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MESM Class</th>
<th>Minimum Salary</th>
<th>Average Salary</th>
<th>Maximum Salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class of 2012</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
<td>$47,457</td>
<td>$61,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 2011</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
<td>$44,375</td>
<td>$52,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 2010</td>
<td>$32,000</td>
<td>$48,171</td>
<td>$65,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Over 85% of CP graduates in the MESM Class of 2012 said that they were satisfied with the salary and compensation package of their initial job placement.

### Satisfaction with Initial Job Placement

Graduates from the **MESM Class of 2012** who specialized in CP were successful in finding jobs that were related to their job interests. More than 70% indicated that their initial job placement was their “ideal” job, with the other 29% stating their initial job placement was “closely related” to their interests. 85% of CP graduates were “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with the geographic location of their initial job placements.

The majority (67%) of graduates from the **MESM Class of 2011** who specialized in CP indicated that their initial job placement was an “ideal” job, while the remaining 33% indicated that their initial job placement was “closely related” to what they had hoped to be doing professionally.

### Initial Job Placement Sectors

The majority of graduates from the last three MESM classes (2012, 2011 and 2010) who specialized in CP found placement with non-profits, government agencies, and research/education organizations, with some landing jobs in the consulting and corporate sectors. For the MESM Class of 2012 the percentages were split almost evenly across the government, non-profit, and research/education sectors.

### Internship Placement—MESM 2013

Almost all CP students received compensation for their internships, with the majority receiving hourly pay. Most of these internships were with non-profit organizations, and most CP students found themselves completing full-time internships (either 31-40 hours/week or 40+ hours/week). The majority of CP students’ internships last at least 10-12 weeks in duration, providing them with the opportunity to gain solid experience and knowledge with their respective organizations.

### Sample Internship Placement Organizations—MESM 2014 and MESM 2013

- **American Wind Wildlife Institute** in Washington, DC (Non-Profit)
- **California Association of Resource and Conservation Districts** in Sacramento, CA (Other)
- **California Coastal Commission** in Ventura, CA (Government)
- **Channel Islands Restoration** in Santa Barbara, CA (Non Profit)
- **Colorado State Land Board** in Denver, CO (Government)
- **Conservation International** in Raja Ampat, Indonesia (Non-Profit)
- **Deckers Outdoor Corporation, Corporate Social Responsibility Division** in Goleta, CA (Corporate)
- **Environmental Defense Fund (EDF)** in San Francisco, CA (Non-Profit)
- **Fundacion Runa’s Forest and Watershed Conservation Program** in Tena, Ecuador (Non-Profit)
- **Irvine Ranch Conservancy** in Irvine, CA (Non-Profit)
- **Los Padres ForestWatch** in Santa Barbara, CA (Non-Profit)
- **Noble Environmental Technologies** in San Diego, CA (Corporate)
- **Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History** in Santa Barbara, CA (Non-Profit)
- **Tejon Ranch Conservancy** in Lebec, CA (Non-Profit)
- **The Nature Conservancy (TNC)** in Ventura, CA (Non-Profit)
- **The Sustainability Consortium** in Fayetteville, AR (Research/Education)
- **Universidade Federal Rural de Pernambuco, Fisheries Research** in Recife, Brazil (Research/Education)
- **Watershed Environmental** in Goleta, CA (Consulting)
- **World Wildlife Fund (WWF)’s Forest and Climate Initiative** in Washington, DC (Non-Profit)

Comprehensive internship information, including complete lists of internships completed by past MESM classes, key places to look for internships, and additional internship-related resources, can be found on the Internship Restricted Site.